

For Immediate Release

***Women in Resource Development Corporation Receives Feminist Response and Recovery
Funding from Women and Gender Equality Canada***

(St. John's, NL – January 31, 2022) Women in Resource Development Corporation (WRDC) is pleased to announce funding received through Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE)'s Feminist Response and Recovery Fund. The funding is for a multi-year project centered on improving the economic security and prosperity of low-income women by designing and implementing holistic, flexible, and inclusive skills development funding policies and practices to increase accessibility to pathways that lead to secure, meaningful employment.

WAGE's Feminist Response and Recovery Fund is providing a unique opportunity to critically analyze and change policies and practices impeding the progress and advancement of women. The design and implementation of more inclusive skills development funding policies and practices will remove systemic barriers, amplified by COVID-19, that prevent women from fully participating in economic spheres, improving access to educational pathways, increasing women's labour market participation and opportunities, and ultimately improving women's economic security and prosperity. Additional skills development support for underemployed and low-income women in areas where workforce development is prioritized for the province (such as the technology sector) will provide extensive benefits for Newfoundland and Labrador as a whole.

"The impacts of COVID-19 highlighted pre-existing gender inequalities," said Cheri Butt, CEO of WRDC. "Increasing women's economic security by identifying and eliminating institutional barriers is vital for women's progress, recovery, and advancement. Together, we will build a more inclusive and resilient tomorrow by implementing actions and initiatives to help address inequalities."

The purpose of the WAGE Feminist Response and Recovery Fund is to address or remove systemic barriers impeding the progress and advancement of women, in all their diversity, in three priority areas:

- Encouraging women and girls in leadership and decision-making positions
- Improving women's and girls' economic security and prosperity
- Ending gender-based violence

To ensure that progress on gender equality is not rolled back as a result of the pandemic, there is a need to accelerate systemic change for women across economic, social, and political spheres. This funding provides the flexibility for organizations like WRDC to be responsive to the broad and diverse systemic issues that need to be tackled to build back better, support a feminist response and recovery from the pandemic that is inclusive of diverse women, and advance gender equality across Canada.

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Women in Resource Development Corporation (WRDC)

Created in 1997, WRDC is a provincial non-profit organization committed to increasing women's participation in technology and skilled trades. With both private and public funding, WRDC, and its Educational Resource Center (ERC), offer a variety of programs and services to address the challenges surrounding the attraction, recruitment, retention, and advancement of women in these sectors.

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