



**Hamilton Chapter WIT Panel presentation: Transforming the
Workplace for Women and the Future of Work
November 29, 2021, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

Moderator:



Jennifer Hazelton, C.Tech.
Project Manager
SCS Consulting Group Ltd.

Jennifer Hazelton, C.Tech. is a senior municipal engineering professional, whose leadership philosophy of 'Listen, Ask, and Collaborate' has driven success for projects that span the province. Her strategic thinking, expertise and well-rounded experience have made her a natural mentor in this industry for 25 years.

Day-to-day, Jennifer is a Project Manager at SCS Consulting Group Ltd., providing guidance to clients, staff, peers and the leadership team. One of her passions is professional growth and development in inclusive and diverse groups. After 20 years as an OACETT member, Jennifer joined the York Chapter Executive team in 2018, and served as an Executive Director for one year. In 2019, Jennifer took on the role of York Chapter Chair, she enjoyed working with an amazing group of individuals. In 2021, she was successful in her bid to take on the role as IETO Central Region Councillor. As a member of OACETT Jennifer has become very involved with many activities within the Central Region community. She volunteered for the York University Science Fair as a judge, is the Chair of the OACETT Discipline committee, was acclaimed into the role as a trustee of the Fletcher Foundation, and was on the York Chapter team of volunteers to plan activities for National Engineering Month.

Jennifer graduated from Seneca College with an Environmental and Civil Engineering Technician diploma and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography from Wilfrid Laurier University. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking, volunteering, and playing virtual board games with friends.

Presenters:



Pina Downey, P.Eng, MBA
Director, Delivery Transformation
Canada Post Corporation

Pina Downey is a Professional Engineer with nearly 25 years of experience spanning Engineering & Operations, Finance, Program Management and Strategy. Pina began her career as an Engineer at DuPont Canada in Kingston, Ontario where she was the process engineer responsible for nylon production. Pina joined Canada Post Corporation in 1993 and has held progressively responsible roles in Finance, Engineering and Strategy. She is currently Director on the Delivery Transformation team where she is National Lead for a multi-million dollar cross-functional strategic project. She is also an active member of Canada Post's Women in STEM program that encourages young girls to consider a career in STEM to ultimately increase the number of women in STEM careers. Pina earned an Engineering degree and Master of Business Administration both from Queen's University. Pina was born and raised in Ottawa and is married with three children. Pina is an avid runner and loves to stay active by enjoying the outdoors.



Cheryl Farrow
Chief Executive Officer
OACETT

Cheryl Farrow joined the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists (OACETT) in September 2020, bringing an extensive background in not-for-profit management, including governance transformation, amalgamation and credentialling. Cheryl's other not-for-profit leadership roles include CEO of the Canadian Bar Association, President and CEO of the Supply Chain Management Association, Executive Director of the Canadian Grocery Human Resource Council, and President of the Ontario Tourism Education Corporation. Cheryl has also served on the other side of the boardroom table as Chair of the Alliance of Sector Councils and President of the International Federation of Purchasing and Supply Management (IFPSM). Cheryl has an MBA from the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management and holds her designation as a Certified Association Executive (CAE).



Kathryn Lerette, C.E.T., Fellow OACETT

Kathy served as Senior Vice President, Business Transformation at Alectra Utilities, the largest municipally-owned electric utility in Canada. She also served as VP Utility Operations for Horizon Utilities, overseeing all aspects of Engineering, Construction & Maintenance, and Supply Chain Management divisions. She retired in October 2021, concluding a 40-year career in the energy sector.

Kathy holds a C.E.T. designation from the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists and was inducted as a Fellow of the Association in 2019. She is Chair of the Electricity Human Resources Canada Board of Directors, and is an influential and leading voice for removing barriers to women in the energy sector.

Kathy holds two Mohawk College diplomas: Electrical Engineering Technician – Power (1994) and Electrical Engineering Technologist - Control (1997). She was named a Distinguished Fellow and Distinguished Alumni of Mohawk College in 2019, and now sits on the Board of Governors of Mohawk College.



Lieutenant Commander Marie-Sonya Sowa
Canadian Armed Forces

Lieutenant Commander (LCdr) Marie-Sonya Sowa enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) in 1998 and graduated from the Royal Military College (RMC) of Canada with a bachelor degree in Mechanical Engineering. Upon graduation from RMC in 2002, she attended Dalhousie University and the Naval Engineering School in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where she completed her engineering certifications. She progressed her training as a Naval Combat Systems Engineer and sailed in HMCS Ville de Quebec and HMCS Fredericton where she gratefully experienced the tail end of a NATO deployment; surprisingly, her most memorable port was not England, Poland or Lithuania – but St. John's Newfoundland. In between her studies and sailing, she was incredibly fortunate to become a Ship's Team Diving Officer, a career highlight that delivered so many notable opportunities.

Her most cherished sea time was in the years leading to her Head of Department Qualification in HMC Ships Ottawa, Calgary, and Vancouver. Highlights included gaining a detailed understanding of all weapons and sensors in our Canadian Patrol Frigates, firing each weapon system on board, some for the first time, and most importantly meeting some amazing sailors. She participated in numerous international exercises, several submarine command courses, task group exercises, Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC), warfare exercises, and several high readiness work-ups. Eager and willing to deploy, she was limited to the Pacific, sailing from Alaska to Mexico and most ports in between!

In 2007, she was posted to Canadian Forces Recruiting Centre (CFRC) Hamilton. She was delighted to introduce so many new members to a career in the CAF as Military Career Counsellor. She was privileged to be appointed the Detachment Commander of CFRC Hamilton and remained so until 2012, when she transferred to the Naval Reserve. While she sought stability for her family, she found love with the Naval Reserves. She served as HMCS Star Deck and Standards Officer before accepting a full-time contract as the Training Officer in 2017. A year later, she was appointed the position of HMCS Star Executive Officer. After her two year commitment as Executive Officer, she was honoured with Command of HMCS Star in June of 2020.

LCdr Sowa is blessed with a fantastic husband, Lieutenant Navy Retired Vincent Sowa who listens and encourages her with a reminiscent understanding of service life. Together they have three wonderful children, her greatest pride: Audrey, Isabelle and Vincent.