

KWANTLEN POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY

Empowering Women in Trades: Breaking Barriers, Building Futures

In a world where women continue to break through gender stereotypes and forge their paths in male-dominated industries, women like Laura McDonald are paving the way for a new era of inclusivity and opportunity.

Influenced by her father, a high school industrial education teacher, Laura chose higher education as her starting point. Her journey was anything but ordinary, and ultimately, she climbed the ranks to become the Dean of the Faculty of Trades and Technology at Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU). As a champion of skilled trades workers, Laura offered profound insights into the trades industry.

Why Women Matter in Trades

Currently, women represent 4.5% of skilled trades workers in BC, despite making up roughly 50% of the population. Laura highlights that women are more than capable of excelling in trades. Unfortunately, female participation in trades has remained static for decades. Without an increase in the number of women in trades, there's a looming threat of a shortage that could bring progress to a grinding halt.

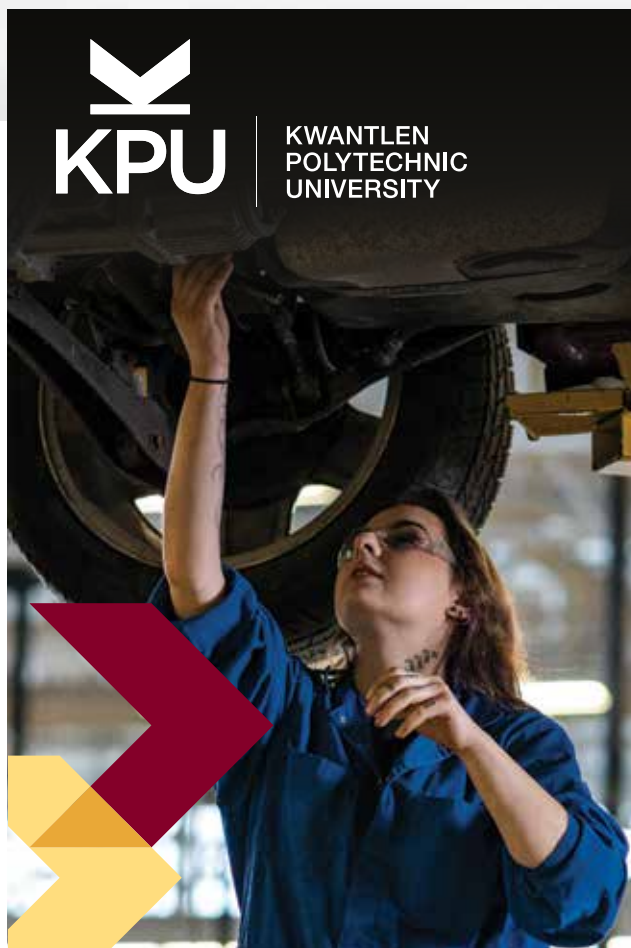
Words of Encouragement for Women Pursuing Trades

Laura has a message for any woman considering a career in trades: "Go for it! The trades offer job security, mobility, flexible working hours, excellent wages from day one, and opportunities to own your business or work for multinational companies. Trades credentials are recognized across provinces, and, most importantly, the industry is transforming into an inclusive, supportive, and respectful environment."

The role of women in the trades is vital for the continued growth and success of the industry. Thanks to trailblazers like Laura McDonald, who are committed to breaking down barriers and challenging stereotypes for skilled trades education, the future of trades is brighter, more diverse, and more inclusive than ever before.



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Build your career

KPU offers Red Seal-certified trades programs that provide students with top-tier training and accreditation. As Canada's only polytechnic university, you'll get the job-ready skills employers want through our hands-on, practical approach to teaching and learning. Start your career in the skilled trades today.

 [kpu.ca](https://www.kpu.ca)

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