

Reflections on the 10th Anniversary of WinSETT
by Margaret-Ann Armour
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In December of 2009, the WinSETT Centre became a registered not-for-profit society. In February of 2010, we celebrated the launch of the Centre in Edmonton and then nationally in May at the CCWESTT Conference in Winnipeg. As I looked at the group of women who were leading this new initiative, I was awed by their commitment over many years to recruiting, retaining and promoting the accomplishments of women in their fields. How fortunate we were, that they were now willing to foster and shape the Canadian Centre for Women in Science, Engineering, Trades and Technology.

The person who had agreed to lead the administration of the Centre was Carolyn Emerson. Carolyn was the greatest gift the Centre could have had. She had been the Executive Assistant to Mary Williams the first NSERC Atlantic Chair for Women in Science and Engineering. She brought dedication, experience, wisdom and vision to the development of the Centre. The book that she and Mary wrote, "Becoming Leaders", was foundational to the workshops that WinSETT Centre had committed to developing and implementing. Not only was Carolyn instrumental to the formation and development of the Centre, but she recruited Susan Hollett, now our superb National Coordinator of the WinSETT Leadership Program, and our highly effective administrator, Jane Robinson.

Among the first leadership group were Hiromi Matsui and Nan Armour who had been in leadership with CCWESTT for many years and continued to provide valued leadership to the WinSETT Centre. Gloria Montano brought her technical expertise, so important in launching a new initiative. Catherine Hammond agreed to take on the Treasurer role, no easy task when starting from scratch. Valerie Davidson was the NSERC Chair for Women in Science and Engineering for Ontario and brought her connections and a wealth of knowledge and experience. The other members of that first leadership team each brought their own gifts, Joy Brown, Susan King, Lorraine Marsolais, Judy Myers, Lianne Lefsrud, Valerie Overend, Elizabeth Theriault, Lorraine Michael, Karen Muggeridge, Catherine Mavriplis, and Kim Andreas.

Everyone had a positive influence on shaping the fledgling Centre. I remember calling it a "Precocious Child", and no wonder it was, with the vision, values and ideas of such a strong leadership team. Now as I look at the 10-year old WinSETT Centre, I see an amazingly mature, ambitious, successful and nationally valued institution infused with the energy of some new Board members, and with a soaring vision for the future. It is with deep gratitude that I thank the early leadership team for their belief in, and their influence on, the development of the Canadian Centre for Women in Science Engineering, Trades and Technology, the WinSETT Centre. They have given us a legacy on which to build a vision of our future, and make it happen.