

## Promoting Diversity

AMEC continues to find ways to promote and develop a workforce which is representative of the places in which we operate.

### AMEC promotes engineering for Ontario girls

In a bid to interest the younger female generation in an engineering career AMEC took part in the third annual, highly successful Go Eng Girl event which took place on Saturday 13 October 2007 in 11 Universities across Ontario. As in previous years, girls in grades seven to 10 were encouraged to explore, with their parents, the wonders of engineering, and how women can excel in this field. AMEC's Nadine Miller, a Geotechnical Engineer in our Sudbury office, and a member of the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers Board, was the key note speaker at Laurentian University.



Above: Nadine Miller at the Go Girl event

Working with young girls from a reserve on Manitoulin Island, Wikwemikong, locally referred to as Wiky. The girls from Wikwemikong finished an Environmental Challenge: Building a Water Filter. The challenge was to treat a cup of dirty water using available materials. The girls recorded the colour, smell, and pH before each

pass of the filter they had designed. Fifty girls from the Sudbury area were present with their parents, and 15 girls were brought in from Wikwemikong. AMEC was one of three corporate sponsors, sponsorship dollars were used to fund the travel and accommodation for the girls from the reserve who would not normally have access to these types of events.

### AMEC Aboriginal Scholarship Programme 2007

Attracting highly qualified and talented employees is critical to our sustainability as a business and AMEC is taking a lead in promoting education and contributing to graduate education in Canada through the AMEC Aboriginal Scholarship programme.

Particularly aimed at promoting engineering skills development among Canadian women these scholarships are offered by the Canadian Engineering Memorial Foundation in partnership with AMEC. Through this partnership AMEC provides an undergraduate and a Masters engineering scholarship.

The recipients must be Canadian Aboriginals with permanent residence in Canada and applicants were required to make a formal presentation to at least one group of pre-university students to promote engineering to young women, and have demonstrated community leadership and involvement in extra-curricular activities. A written essay also accompanied the application.

Also in conjunction with AMEC, CEMF offers an AMEC Masters Engineering Scholarship. This year's winner was Tyler Ball from Montreal, Quebec.

Noëlle Vialoux, an undergraduate engineering student from Winnipeg, Manitoba was been selected as the inaugural winner of the new CDN\$5,000 AMEC Aboriginal Undergraduate Engineering Scholarship. Noëlle is currently a first year student at the University of Manitoba. She was selected based on her exceptional leadership skills, extracurricular and volunteer activities along with a dedication to mentoring other young Aboriginal women.



Above: Noëlle Vialoux, winner of the AMEC Aboriginal Undergraduate Engineering Scholarship

“Noëlle is a remarkable person – among her numerous achievements she has volunteered at a senior’s home and has worked with special needs children at a non-profit organization. She also works in the After School Program at an elementary school in her community and is actively involved in the University of Manitoba’s Engineering Access Program,” states Suzelle Barrington, CEMF President.

AMEC and the Canadian Engineering Memorial Foundation are proud to present her with this well-deserved scholarship, and we have every confidence that she will continue to succeed in her future endeavours. “We believe that Noëlle is a great role-

model for young, Aboriginal women. As an involved member of her community, she has the potential to inspire many to follow her example, in pursuit of a career in engineering,” Laurie Davidson, Executive Vice President, who was also the AMEC judge for the panel that selected the scholarship recipient.

### **Raising Awareness for immigrant engineers**

On 24 May, AMEC civil engineer, Polly Nahar, spoke at a Vancouver press conference given by the federal government’s Foreign Credentials Referral Office, at which several federal government initiatives to help immigrants were announced, including a Foreign Credentials Recognition Program.

Polly described her four-year struggle to get her credentials and experience recognized in Canada. She received her M.Sc. in civil engineering in Russia in 1987, and spent 16 years working in Bangladesh; obtaining documentation from these countries is a very difficult process.