



# GEM Digest of the Month for February 1, 2017

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*Inuit woman's and children's traditional caribou fur clothing from Arctic Canada on display at Winnipeg Art Gallery. Photo courtesy of D. Ceplis.*

The Gender Equality Mainstreaming (GEM) Digest provides a compilation of information and articles gathered on an ongoing basis on gender equality mainstreaming within agriculture, scientific research, rural development, climate change, organizational development and international development. Information is shared with members, colleagues, scientific societies and diverse organizations.

The views and opinions presented are not necessarily representative of AIC.

If you have information to share, please send it to [dinah.ceplis@gmail.com](mailto:dinah.ceplis@gmail.com) to compile and re-distribute once a month. Back issues of the GEM Digest are available [here](#).

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 (Volunteer)

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## Opportunities and Upcoming Events

### 1. Advancing Women Conference speakers

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrixhRPpAKS5Mox6IJDBmhQ>

**Each Wednesday, from now until the March 6 & 7, 2017** Calgary conference, the organizers of the Advancing Women conference will upload a new speaker video on their YouTube channel. Learn from wise, powerful and innovative women in agriculture like:

- Egg Producer Margaret Hudson of Burnbrae Farms
- Entrepreneur Jennifer Carlson of Baby Gourmet Foods
- Chef Elysia Vandenhurk of Three Farmers Products

Videos of past conference presenters are also available on the website.

The conference includes four FREE workshops for attendees to dig deeper into a subject, and panel discussions featuring today’s industry leaders and producers. Conference info is available at

<http://www.advancingwomenconference.ca/2017west/registration.html>

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## 2. Women and Youth Empowerment, Entrepreneurship, and Employment in the West Bank and Gaza

<http://international.gc.ca/world-monde/funding-financement/wbg-cbg-2017.aspx?lang=eng>

Global Affairs Canada is testing a new type of call—a call for preliminary proposals. Under this call, your project idea must contribute to the achievement of the following ultimate outcome: *Enhanced economic empowerment and increased prosperity for low-income women and/or female and male youth in the West Bank and Gaza.*

Further, in order to be considered under this call, your proposal must include the following intermediate outcome statement: *Reduced barriers to entrepreneurship, employment and/or employability faced by women and/or youth, in particular female youth.*

You must submit your application package by **February 23, 2017.**

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## 3. Canadian National Fair Trade Conference

<http://cftn.ca/conference>

Canada's 5th National Fair Trade Conference will be held in **Halifax, Nova Scotia from Friday, February 24th to Sunday February 26th, 2017.** Topics include “Fair Trade, Organic Agriculture, and Climate Change”, “The Fair Trade Movement & The Co-op Sector in Canada”, “Food and Beverage Distribution: Breaking Down Walls”, “Trade Policy”, and “Aligning Canada's Overseas Development Assistance with Fair Trade”.

Fair Trade is an example of the active and inclusive partnerships we need in our pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals. For example, SDG #5 (gender equality):

Fair Trade provides opportunities for women in skilled occupations or in leadership positions. Women receive equal pay to men for equivalent work, and fully participate in decisions concerning the use of benefits accruing from production and from Fair Trade relationships.

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## 4. Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Conference – Call for Submissions

[http://kootenays2017.crrf.ca/?page\\_id=2](http://kootenays2017.crrf.ca/?page_id=2)

Annual Conference is being held in Nelson, BC, Canada, September 20-23, 2017. **Deadline for abstracts: March 10, 2017.**

The **Different by Design – Exploring Innovation for Rural Prosperity** conference explores the unique potential and many possibilities that exist in rural places. The *Different by Design* conference has four themes:

Workforces of Tomorrow The economies of tomorrow are unlikely to look like the economies that settled and built rural regions. This raises questions like what job opportunities do we expect in the coming years? How are we addressing changing training, capacity building, and recruitment needs? How do we identify and build necessary skills? We are looking for your innovative approaches to addressing

workforce challenges today, as well as what you are doing to prepare for tomorrow.

Our Changing Environment

We know our environments are changing. These changes range from habitat loss to ecosystem degradation to a changing climate. What are we doing to slow, stop, or reverse these changes? How are we adapting to changing conditions? We want to hear about your approaches or solutions and what you have learned.

Creating Connections

In an era of complex problems and limited resources our most valuable assets can be relationships, partnerships, and collaborations with others. We are looking for examples of collaborative initiatives between organizations – including between municipalities, with different levels of government, public-private partnerships, working with First Nations, and more.

Communities of Opportunity

Development is often synonymous with traditional industry or business, but any rural resident knows the creativity and innovation that goes into making a living in rural places. Development opportunities relating to food, energy, recreation, tourism, arts, culture, and much more can be found across rural places. We are looking for the ideas you have tried or would like to try and what you have learned.

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## 5. USA Scientists Are Planning to Run For Office: 314 Action

[https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2017/01/thanks-to-trump-scientists-are-planning-to-run-for-office/514229/?utm\\_source=atlib](https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2017/01/thanks-to-trump-scientists-are-planning-to-run-for-office/514229/?utm_source=atlib)

<http://www.314action.org/want-to-run/>

For American science, the next four years look to be challenging. The newly inaugurated President Trump, and many of his Cabinet picks, have repeatedly cast doubt upon the reality of human-made climate change, questioned the repeatedly proven safety of vaccines. Since the inauguration, the administration has already frozen grants and contracts by the Environmental Protection Agency and gagged researchers at the US Department of Agriculture. Many scientists are asking themselves: What can I do?

And the answer from a newly formed group called **314 Action** is: Get elected. They are members of the STEM Community, grassroots supporters and political activists committed to bring innovation to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education, aggressively advocate for real solutions to Climate Change and elect more STEM trained candidates to public office.

To start, they are scheduling a **webinar for March 14th**—Pi Day, naturally—to go over the basics of successful campaigning. Following that, they’ll focus on boosting particular strong candidates.

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## 6. Atlantic Connections Conference 2017

<http://atlanticconnections.ca/>

The Atlantic Connections Conference provides an opportunity for women in SETT from Atlantic Canada to share their experiences of studying and working in male-dominated fields, to network with others, and to develop action items with the goal of advancing women in SETT. Women and their male colleagues in SETT from a cross-section of industries,

education, government, and not-for-profit organizations are invited to attend the conference in **Halifax, Nova Scotia on May 3 and 4, 2017 at Mount Saint Vincent University** with optional workshops on May 2.

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## **7. Manitoba Community for Women in Engineering, Science, Trades, and Technology (MCWESTT) Conference**

<http://www.mcwestt.com/>

The Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba’s Committee for Increasing the Participation of Women in Engineering is excited to announce the biannual Manitoba Community for Women in Engineering, Science, Trades, and Technology (MCWESTT) Conference on **May5th, 2017 in Winnipeg, Manitoba at the Fort Garry Hotel.**

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## **8. Global 4-H Network Summit**

<http://global-4-h-network.com/>

The 2017 Global 4-H Network Summit is a summit for 4-H youth, volunteers and professionals from the Americas to Europe to Africa to Asia. Delegates from Canada will be chosen by their representative provincial council. The event will be held **July 11-14, 2017 in Ottawa, Canada.**

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## **This Month’s News**

### **1. Gone in 2016: 10 Notable Women in Science and Technology**

<https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/voices/gone-in-2016-10-notable-women-in-science-and-technology/>

Now in its fourth year, this annual remembrance of notable women in the sciences lost in the past 12 months highlights 10 individuals who made indelible marks on their respective fields. At a time when scientists in general are too often overlooked for their crucial contributions to society, it bears noting that high-achieving women in the STEM fields often go especially underappreciated.

- i. Ann Caracristi, a leading American cryptanalyst—or code-breaker—who served as deputy director of the U.S. National Security Agency, died in January at the age of 94.
- ii. A pioneer in the field of cognitive neuroscience who was best known for her investigation of the famous amnesic patient H.M. (Henry Molaison), Suzanne Corkin died of cancer on May 24 at age 79.
- iii. Known for her groundbreaking work on sickle-cell anemia, Dr. Yvette Fay Francis-McBarnette passed away on March 28 at age 89.
- iv. One of Canada’s brightest lights, Ursula Franklin—a physicist, pacifist, feminist, and expert in the social impact of technology—died on July 22 at age 94.

- v. Katharine Blodgett Gebbie was a leading physicist, with a career that began in astrophysics and culminated with principal roles at the National Bureau of Standards (NBS) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). An expert in stellar spectroscopy and helioseismology, she died on August 17 at age 84.
- vi. A longtime biologist at Harvard University and a renowned feminist critic of science, Ruth Hubbard passed away on September 1 at the age of 92.
- vii. Quantum physicist Deborah Jin, an innovator who broke boundaries within the coldest realms of matter, died of cancer on September 15 at the age of 47.
- viii. A giant in the field of genetics and one of the world's leading experts in protein folding, Susan Lindquist passed away on October 27 at age 67.
- ix. At the time of her passing on August 16, 38-year-old Irish biotechnologist Jemma Redmond had made significant strides in the field of 3-D bioprinting—a seemingly futuristic realm in which functioning tissue-like groupings of cells can be created with a specialized 3-D printer.
- x. On December 25, astronomer and cosmologist Vera Rubin died at the age of 88—but not before she would make revolutionary marks on our understanding of the universe.

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## 2. Prof. Carrie Derick – Birthday Google Doodle

<https://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/women/030001-1403-e.html>

Carrie Matilda Derick (January 14, 1862 – November 10, 1941) was a Canadian botanist and geneticist, the first female professor in a Canadian university, and the founder of McGill University's Genetics Department. Professor Derick retired from McGill in 1929 due to ill health and was honoured at that time by being made the first female professor emeritus in Canada. She was featured as Google's graphic on Saturday January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 on the occasion of her 155<sup>th</sup> birthday.

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## 3. AWN Chair on creating a network for the development of all women

<https://agwomensnetwork.wordpress.com/2017/01/16/awn-chair-jen-christie-on-creating-a-network-for-the-development-of-all-women/?platform=hootsuite>

In 2013 Jen Christie realized there was a gap in the Canadian agriculture sector for women's professional growth and decided to do something about it by helping found the Ag Women's Network. Jen shares about her own career path and lessons she has learned, as well as her hopes for AWN in the future.

*Do you have a piece of advice for young women starting their career in agriculture?*

“Take pride in what you do. Even if you're not passionate about the work, when you take pride in your role and what you're doing, you will be motivated to do the best job you can do. That is how you can prove yourself and earn the opportunity to ask for opportunities better suited to your passion. It also is a good way to check whether your values are aligned to your organization. If you find yourself unable to be proud of what you're doing, then it could be a sign something is wrong and you need to speak up or move onto a new organization that is a better fit for you.”

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## 4. Divine Fair Trade chocolate bar celebrates 'women's empowerment'

<http://www.thegrocer.co.uk/stores/ranging-and-merchandising/divine-chocolate-bar-celebrates-womens-empowerment/546529.article?platform=hootsuite>

<http://www.divinechocolate.com/us/good-stuff/news/2016/3/celebrating-women-cocoa-farming-international-womens-day>

Available from February 2017, the 70% dark chocolate Fair Trade bar will feature stories from female cocoa farmers from Ghana inside the wrapper.

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## 5. 19-year-old B.C. inventor makes 2017 Forbes “30 Under 30” list

[http://www.ctvnews.ca/sci-tech/19-year-old-b-c-inventor-makes-2017-forbes-30-under-30-list-1.3226569#\\_gus&\\_gucid=&\\_gup=Facebook&\\_gsc=AYYtmvP](http://www.ctvnews.ca/sci-tech/19-year-old-b-c-inventor-makes-2017-forbes-30-under-30-list-1.3226569#_gus&_gucid=&_gup=Facebook&_gsc=AYYtmvP)

Ann Makosinski, a second-year student at the University of British Columbia, is a 19-year-old Canadian inventor who has been honored in the Forbes “30 Under 30” list. She created a flashlight powered by the heat of the human hand and a mug that can charge a phone battery via hot coffee.

Makosinski is best known for two inventions. The Hollow Flashlight, a device that converts body heat into electricity to power an LED light bulb, was developed after she learned of a friend living in the Philippines who fell behind in school because she didn’t have light to study at night.

She later developed the e-Drink, a mug that uses thermoelectric generators to harness excess heat from coffee to power a phone or music device.

Other honourees in the “Energy” category include a 14-year-old who created a piezoelectric “leaf” device that harvests energy from sun, wind and rain and a 23-year-old who worked as an electrical engineer on the first airplane to circle the world with solar energy.

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## 6. Minister MacAulay Announces Appointments

<http://www.marketwired.com/press-release/minister-macaulay-announces-appointment-to-the-canadian-grain-commission-2185985.htm>

OTTAWA, ONTARIO--(Marketwired - Jan. 3, 2017) - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay announced today the appointment of Patricia (Patti) Miller as Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC). The appointment is for a six-year term effective February 13, 2017.

<http://www.marketwired.com/press-release/minister-macaulay-announces-appointment-to-the-canadian-dairy-commission-2186238.htm>

OTTAWA, ONTARIO--(Marketwired - Jan. 4, 2017) - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay announced today the appointment of Ms. Jennifer Hayes as Commissioner of the Canadian Dairy Commission (CDC). The appointment is for a three-year term effective January 3, 2017.

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## 7. Asparagus grower wins Ontario fruit and vegetable Industry Award of Merit

<http://www.ofvga.org/article/asparagus-grower-wins-ontario-fruit-and-vegetable-industry-award-of-merit>

Former Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers’ Association (OFVGA) chair Brenda Lammens has been named the 2017 recipient of the organization’s Industry Award of Merit. The announcement was made at the OFVGA annual banquet in Toronto on January 11, 2017.

For more than 30 years, Lammens and her husband Raymond have operated the family asparagus business, Spearit Farms, in Norfolk County. It was during her tenure as chair of Asparagus Farmers of Ontario that she also became OFVGA chair, the first woman to assume the role after the organization’s restructuring in 2003 and the first person to hold the position for three years.

One of her particular passions has always been supporting and mentoring women in agricultural leadership. She is a past winner of the American Agri Women’s Vision Award, and was selected to be on the advisory committee of the Supporting the Advancement of Women in Agriculture initiative by the Canadian Agricultural Human Resources Council.

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## 8. Women Scientists Fight Back Against Climate Change Deniers in D.C.

<https://www.desmogblog.com/2017/01/23/trump-women-scientists-environmental-activists-climate-change-deniers-dc-march>

<https://500womenscientists.org/>

The day after Trump’s inauguration, dozens of female scientists decked out in white lab coats met in front of the National Air and Space Museum for the Women’s March in Washington, DC. They were carrying colorful signs showing support for science.

They are part of **500 Women Scientists**, a group that debuted the day after the election to fight anti-science and anti-women rhetoric. Since then, over 12,000 women scientists from around the world have signed on to the group’s open letter.

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## 9. AgReach Program

<https://agreach.illinois.edu/>

AgReach is now an official program at the University of Illinois, in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES). AgReach houses a \$22M international development portfolio that spans three continents and reaches some of the poorest countries in the world. Please take a moment and click around on the brand new website and catch up on programs around the world: including capacity development in Sierra Leone, Women’s Empowerment in Bangladesh, or extension strengthening in Malawi.

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## 10. Farmer Field Schools Help Women Lead on Climate Change

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2017/01/farmer-field-schools-help-women-lead-on-climate-change/>

KAMPALA, Uganda, Jan 27 2017 (IPS) - Discussions around climate change have largely ignored how men and women are affected by climate change differently, instead choosing to highlight the extreme and unpredictable weather patterns or decreases in agricultural productivity.

Women constitute 56 percent of Ugandan farmers and provide more than 70 percent of agricultural production, nutrition and food security at the household level, according to the Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET). However, despite the fact that women do most of the farm work, they only own 16 percent of the arable land in the country.

Through the Farmer's Field School (FFS) methodology, "commonly known as schools without walls", FAO has enabled both men and women with a common goal to receive training, share ideas, learn from each other through observation and experimentation in their own context. On average the FFS have about 60 percent women farmers participating.

FAO has also utilized the Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS) – a community based tool that enables women and men to plan the future they want and take action against barriers, including societal norms that inhibit gender equality and justice.

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## 11. New law a glimmer of hope for women's land rights in Mali

<http://news.trust.org/item/20170130105205-ni408/?source=spotlight>

In Malian society, men hold primary rights of access to and control over land and decide which parts, if any, women are allowed to farm.

But worsening climate conditions such as unpredictable rainfall and prolonged drought have increased competition for land, leading men to encroach on land traditionally farmed by women.

Change is afoot, however. The government this year could pass a new law that would set aside a share of government-managed land for women to farm, said Siriman Sakho, a rural development specialist who works with a group of Malian farmers' representatives.

"The government is in a drive to fit up farming land throughout the country," Sakho said. "Under the new law, the authorities would give women exclusive access to 10 percent of government-managed land, at a cost of 65,000 CFA francs (\$105) per year." Each woman who accessed land would pay the annual fee, he said.

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## 12. Hidden Figures and the Hope for More Real Science Stories

<https://filmschoolrejects.com/hidden-figures-and-the-hope-for-more-real-science-stories-e0e7c5ce612#.d81wwx9r4>

Theodore Melfi's *Hidden Figures* is a wonderful victory tale, both in the true story it depicts and in how it has, as a film about Black women in STEM, been so warmly received by audiences. A lot of attention has been given to the first half (that is, it being a film centered around three Black women), and rightly so. As a Black woman, Ciara Wardlow left the film with a proud smile only somewhat tempered by the wistful thought that she wished such a film had been around when she was a little girl. But she wants to shine a light on the second part — the part where *Hidden Figures* demonstrates that fact-based films revolving around STEM (short for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) history can have mass appeal.

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### 13. Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves Newsletter

<http://cleancookstoves.org/about/news/>

Articles include:

- Advanced biomass cookstoves demonstrate significant climate and environment benefits in real life settings, despite showing less than expected benefits compared to lab testing
- Partner Spotlight: Clean Cookstoves Association of Kenya
- Benefits of Clean Cookstoves

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### 14. Clean-fuel cookstoves may improve cardiovascular health in pregnant women

[https://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2017-01/ats-ccm011117.php](https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2017-01/ats-ccm011117.php)

Replacing biomass and kerosene cookstoves used throughout the developing world with clean-burning ethanol stoves may reduce hypertension and cardiovascular risk in pregnant women, according to new research published online, ahead of print in the American Thoracic Society’s “American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine”.

In "Randomized Controlled Ethanol Cookstove Intervention and Blood Pressure in Pregnant Nigerian Women," researchers report that the frequency of developing hypertension and diastolic blood pressure (the bottom number) were decreased in pregnant women who cooked with ethanol, rather than with traditional cookstoves fueled by wood or kerosene. Systolic blood pressure (the top number) did not change significantly.

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## Reports, Publications and Resources

### 1. LandWise: Land Tenure Resource

<http://landwise.resourceequity.org/>

LandWise empowers users to strengthen women’s land rights around the world through access to relevant and reliable information. LandWise is a free online resource connecting users to legal materials, information about relevant customary practices, and explanatory materials.

We are excited to share our latest practice guide: *Threats to Women’s Land Tenure Security and Effectiveness of Interventions - Annotated Bibliography*. This annotated bibliography contains 64 resources identified as part of a literature review on existing research on the impact of external and intra-communal threats on women’s land tenure security and the effectiveness of interventions that respond to these threats.

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## 2. Video: Making better shea butter

<http://www.accessagriculture.org/making-better-shea-butter>

Shea butter is used a lot in cooking, traditional medicine and cosmetic products. However traditional extraction of shea butter doesn't follow required hygiene rules. This results in unsafe butter that can cause illness in consumers. In this video, we will learn how women in the South of Mali have improved the production of shea butter.

The video creates awareness about further challenges:

- The need for more fuel-efficient cooking method other than the three stones [one that uses less wood fuel).
- The amount of labour needed to churn the butter by hand (is there any appropriate technology that could do this).
- The danger to the women in burning themselves in moving the large pots from the fire.

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