



Women Building Futures
Work Proud

WOMEN BUILDING FUTURES NEW PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

April 10, 2017

Women Building Futures continues to grow with new Professional Class 1 Driver program sponsors!

Quick Facts

- **Canada is undergoing a professional driver shortage**
- **Only three percent of professional drivers in Canada are women**
- **Women are interested and they can do the job**

Edmonton, AB – Over 300 employers choose Women Building Futures (WBF) to help recruit and train women for the transportation, construction, and maintenance industries. In fact, many WBF programs are entirely driven and funded by industry partners. Each year, WBF has been able to add new programs and capacities on the basis of the generous support of industry leaders who want to see their sectors evolve.

We are pleased to announce that Caron Transportation Systems and RTL-Westcan Group of Companies have provided their support to sponsoring a new Professional Class 1 Driver program, paying the tuition for 12 women to be trained as entry-level professional drivers. Graduates of the program have the potential for full time, permanent year-round employment with our sponsors, and the opportunity to live and work in Edmonton and surrounding areas. This program is officially endorsed by the AMTA.

The Professional Class 1 Driver program starts on July 31, 2017, with an application deadline of May 25, 2017 to allow for the comprehensive WBF screening process which includes fitness to work and D&A testing with SureHire Occupational Testing, a long-time WBF partner.

In partnership with the Alberta Construction Safety Association (ACSA), students of the 10-week program will receive five safety certifications, a value of over \$2,000, along with an Alberta Class 1 certification, tools and engines workshops, job shadowing, ride-a longs, work productivity, and best practices for working in transportation. These students will join the ranks of over 1,000 graduates who have received unrivalled preparedness for the realities of a new career from WBF.

“This new partnership will enable women to take their training with WBF and provide potential employment with our company sponsors,” said Jacqueline Andersen, Director Industry Relations of Women Building Futures. “This is good for women and good for the employers who will hire them.”

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About Women Building Futures

Women Building Futures (WBF) is Alberta’s premier destination for women who want to discover, pursue and advance in a non-traditional career in various industries. A Social Purpose Organization and registered charity, WBF is valued for its uncompromising approach to meeting the needs of women and industry by recruiting the right people, providing them with the right training and matching them with the right employer. WBF is excited to be adding professional class 1 driver to their list of offerings to women..... WBF is well known for pre-trades



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competency-based training in welding, steamfitting/pipefitting, plumbing, sheet metal, carpentry, electrical and heavy equipment operator at their training centre in Edmonton, Alberta. WBF is proud of the unrivaled reputation of workforce preparedness that has made the WBF the go-to place for women interested in a career in the construction trades and now the transportation industry for companies wishing to diversify their skilled-labour workforce. For more information about WBF, visit www.womenbuildingfutures.com

About Caron Transportation Systems

Caron Transportation Systems, a privately-owned fleet, incorporated in 1951, has been a known and trusted name in the transportation industry for more than 65 years. We have established ourselves as one of the largest carriers of bulk commodities in Western Canada. We service western, central, and northern Canada, as well as the northwestern United States. Caron provides safe, dependable service to the construction, manufacturing, mining, oilfield, petro-chemical, pulp, paper, and water treatment industries.

With well over 400 employees and leased operators, our fleet was the first in Western Canada to be certified to ISO standards, and the company continues to be ISO certified at all five facilities and its head office.

We are dedicated to the highest principles of customer service, safe operation, and service excellence. We pride ourselves on being a people-focused company. The personal touch we extend to our customers and employees is reflected in all aspects of our operation.

Caron's equipment is among the most modern and well-maintained in the industry, equipped with state-of-the-art technology and operated by our professionally trained drivers. Our customers benefit from both our past experience and our modern practices. For more information about Caron, visit www.carontransport.ca

About RTL-Westcan Group of Companies

RTL-Westcan is one of Western Canada's largest bulk transportation carriers, with more than 50 years' experience in dry and liquid bulk transportation.

RTL-Westcan proudly serves over 500 customers in the energy, mining, construction, and agriculture industries and operates 20 locations across Western Canada, Ontario and the Western Arctic. The company was named Top Large Fleet for 2016 by Trucking HR Canada's Top Fleet Employers program and Gold Winner in the Transportation category for Canada's Safest Employers 2016.

RTL-Westcan has been recognized by Canada's 10 Most Admired, the Alberta Business Awards and Alberta's Best Workplaces. The company is also a proud supporter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Canada. For more information about RTL-Westcan, please visit www.westcanbulk.ca



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About the Alberta Motor Transport Association (AMTA)

“The AMTA is pleased to endorse this new program,” says AMTA President Lorraine Card. “Mandatory Entry Level Training is integral to promote driving as a profession and is a key issue we have been discussing with Alberta Transportation. WBF is to be commended for taking the first steps in introducing professional training of this kind for a Class 1 designation.

“Women are underrepresented in the industry,” adds Card. “In 2015, 48 per cent of the workers in Canada’s labour force were women, but of that, only three per cent worked in the transportation and warehousing industries. This WBF program will provide quality training for entry-level drivers, and we hope it will also encourage more women to enter the transportation industry.”

To promote women in the industry, the AMTA is hosting a Western Women With Drive Leadership Conference May 10 at the Calgary Airport Marriott In-Terminal Hotel. Visit amta.ca for more details.

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