



WOMEN BUILDING FUTURES®

# Program Impacts

## 2017-2022

- 1** Training that Works  
WBF programs
- 2** WBF Students  
Program reach
- 3** Connecting Women to Jobs  
Employment outcomes
- 4** Key to Success  
Wraparound supports

PolicyWise for Children & Families analyzed data from 2017-2022 to explore the impacts of Women Building Futures' (WBF) programs on women's lives. WBF's programs offer a community-based solution to Closing the Gender Gap in Alberta Employment.



# 1

## Training that Works

**Women Building Futures prepares women for careers that lead to economic security.**

To close the gender gap, women need access to trainings that work for their lives and provide bridges to well-paying jobs.

Through WBF, women access programs and support services to explore, train, and connect to careers that pay above a living wage.

WBF provides pre-apprenticeship training for trades, construction, or transportation roles.

In 2 to 17 weeks, women build the skills to be job-ready.



The decisions that require us to go outside of our comfort zones are the ones that have the best outcomes. **It's a decision that I'll never regret.**

– Cassia, Wind  
Turbine Technician

From 2017 to 2022,  
**90% of students**  
graduated, totaling  
**1442 grads.**



# 2

## WBF Students

Students were  
18 to 66 years old  
The average age was  
34 years old.



It felt like being with WBF would **give me a chance** to get my foot in the door and have an opportunity at a trade when other places weren't giving me that opportunity because I was young and inexperienced.

- Natalie, Welder



It's never too late. It doesn't matter what age, race, or gender you are. If you put your mind to it and follow through, **anything is possible.**

- Iryne, Pipefitter

26%

of students were  
First Nations,  
Métis, or Inuit.

74%

of students  
had children.

# 3

## Connecting Women to Jobs

Students' hourly wages increased by **\$17 per hour** after graduation, on average.

They earned **\$35,000** more per year, assuming a 40-hour work-week.

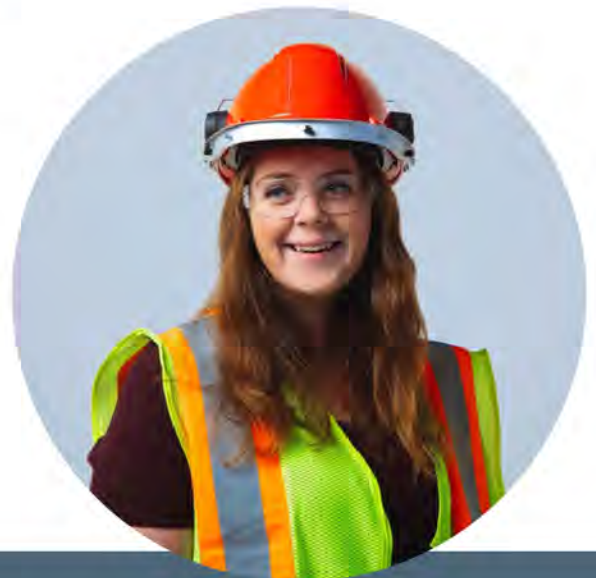
**80%**

of grads found employment.

This position that I'm in has changed my life financially. I built my own house this year. For anyone looking for the Class 1 driving program or WBF for anything, go for it!

**It will change your life.**

- Sierra, Class 1 Driver



Students found employment

**33 days**

after graduation, on average.

Grads from WBF programs sponsored by industry partners earned, on average, **\$43 per hour** or **\$89,000 per year.**



# 4

## Key to Success

WBF provides wraparound supports:

- **Success coaches** help women feel confident in their career planning.
- **Admissions advisors** give students feedback and encouragement on their applications.
- **Student support advisors** provide support and empowerment.
- **Industry relations** connects grads to employment.
- **Alumni advisors** provide ongoing support in new careers.
- WBF helps students find **affordable housing**.



You have a whole community you can lean on.

**They're always there.**

– Annette, Power Engineer Career Accelerator Graduate

WBF offers readiness workshops in Foundational Math, Career Exploration, Personal Development, and Money Solutions.

Students who completed a readiness workshop were **4% more likely** to graduate from a training program.

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PolicyWise is a non-profit organization that supports the development of policies, programs, and services to benefit the well-being of Albertans. We conduct research, evaluation, and data analyses to ensure children, youth, and families can thrive.

For more information about our analysis, contact:

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Women Building Futures is a non-profit organization based in Edmonton, Alberta. We offer programs and support services to help unemployed and underemployed women explore and connect to careers that pay above a living wage.

For more information about our programs, contact:

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