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## **2023 Women in Construction: Melissa McGeown, CIL**

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Melissa McGeown  
Senior Real Estate Developer

What made you interested in seeking a career in the AEC industry? As a child, I would often watch my dad who worked as a carpenter. Seeing the creation of a product in front of my eyes was extremely exciting. To this day, I thoroughly enjoy taking something at the conception phase, which is not yet reality, and working to make it real. This tangible end product is something that motivates me. The complexity of tasks, creativity of solutions, and teammates used to achieve meaningful outcomes creates an exciting and engaging work environment.

What tips or advice would you offer to other women who are considering entering the construction industry? The advice I would offer a woman is no different than what I would offer a man. In order to progress in this industry, a curious and inquisitive attitude is essential. Pay attention, engage, and don't be afraid to ask questions! This will allow you to quickly gain relevant knowledge and understanding, while later allowing for critical examination of projects and problems. Clear and transparent communication is also essential, be that between clients, contractors, or teammates. Effectively communicating ideas, solutions, opportunities, and deadlines manages expectations and individual responsibilities.