By the Numbers: Gender Diversity in Canada’s Natural Resource Industries and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)

In 2015, natural resource industries generated nearly 900,000 indirect jobs, 872,000 primary and upstream jobs and accounted for 17% of nominal GDP.

While women account for nearly half the national labour force, women’s share of employment in the forestry, mining, oil and gas industries remains under 20 percent.

Despite some progress since the 1980s, women in STEM are a minority.

Natural Resources Canada faces a similar gender imbalance, notably among science researchers.

With the exception of business, finance and administrative jobs, women are a minority in occupations common to the natural resource industries.

Women’s participation in primary subsectors:
- forestry & logging
- mining & quarrying
- oil & gas extraction

has evolved differently over time.

Sources: Statistics Canada; Natural Resources Canada (10 Key Facts on Canada’s Natural Resources; Key Facts and Figures Supporting Gender-Based Analysis at NRCan; Women in Science and Technology at NRCan [presentation]); Maclean’s, June 2015; Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt, 2016 Diversity Disclosure Practices.