

International Women's Day Guelph Wellington – #ChooseToChallenge

Guelph, ON - January 18, 2020 - Innovation Guelph, with the partners for International Women's Day, present their ninth annual event (formerly known as *Ignite.Empower.Innovate*) held in collaboration with other Guelph-based business and women's organizations and presented this year in an online virtual event.

This year's International Women's Day Guelph-Wellington (IWDGW) event on March 8, 2021 brings some exciting changes! We've partnered with Women of Distinction, a longstanding local event honouring remarkable women in our community. The 2021 Women of Distinction honourees will be featured! Additionally, attendees can shop from the online marketplace promoting women entrepreneurs.

Keynote speaker, Ms. Kate Beirness, Canadian television sportscaster and host for SportCentre on TSN will provide some background about her career and the challenges she's encountered in a male dominated field. Kate passionately demonstrates the value of women in leadership and their responsibilities. She'll touch on the importance of confidence illustrated by her own experiences from twelve years working for TSN. Kate is proud of a project she's created – Her Mark - that empowers the next generation of women leaders and she will discuss the importance of mentoring our youth.

"I'm proud that this event continues to support and celebrate our community's commitment to advancing women," said Kristel Manes, event co-chair. "We are pleased that proceeds this year will support three YMCA of Three Rivers programs; Safe Sisters, Teenage Parents Program and Encore."

"We've embraced the challenge of taking our event to a virtual format this year," said Diana Train, event co-chair. "We've got a great speaker, a wonderful marketplace, opportunities to network and a means to gather in community to celebrate International Women's Day with an even broader audience."

A virtual vendor marketplace featuring local female entrepreneurs with a variety of unique and innovative products and services begins at 5:30 p.m.

Agenda

5:30 pm Virtual Doors open & Vendor Marketplace open

6 pm Announcements & Welcome

6:30 pm Keynote Speaker

8 pm Closing Remarks

Vendor Marketplace will remain open for 48 hours

To learn more about this event contact Diana Train, event and facility manager, Innovation Guelph 519-265-4495 ext. 101 Diana.Train@innovationguelph.ca.

About Innovation Guelph

Innovation Guelph is building prosperity for community well-being by providing mentorship and business support programs and services to help innovative enterprises start, grow and thrive. Innovation Guelph's business acceleration programs are designed



for high-potential start-ups, small to medium-sized enterprises and women-led businesses across southern Ontario. Innovation Guelph also serves as a one-stop point of access to Ontario Network of Entrepreneurs (ONE) programs and resources. www.innovationguelph.ca

About Innovation Women of Distinction

Women of Distinction is an event that honours and celebrates inspirational women that are making an impact in our community. As a consistent event in Guelph for the past 25 years, we have celebrated remarkable female leaders and contributors to the betterment of our city and its citizens. Women are nominated and selected as honourees in several categories where their leadership, innovation, and community contributions are recognized. Though we are scaling back to celebrate in a virtual capacity in 2021, Women of Distinction is excited to partner with Innovation Guelph on this fabulous International Women's Day celebration. This isn't simply an event – it's a season. A season of reflection, recognition, celebration, and community.