



## PWABC CHAPTER AWARDS | Nomination Form

The attached information is submitted for the following award (please indicate one):

- Dedicated Service Award
- Professional Dedicated Service Award
- Manager of the Year
- Technical/Management Innovation Award
- Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award
- Emerging Leader of the Year Award
- ☒ Women's Public Works Ambassador Award
- Outstanding Public Works Employee Award
- Project of the Year
- Public Works Week – Community Celebration (under 100,000)
- Public Works Week – Community Celebration (over 100,000)

Candidate's Name Niki Trotter

Title Trades 2 Carpenter

Agency/Organization City of Richmond

Mailing Address (If post office box, include street address) 5599 Lynas Lane

City Richmond Prov. BC PC V7C 5B2

Phone 604 270-8721 Fax 604 244-1248

Email ntrotter@richmond.ca

Nominating Organization/Individual Tom Stewart

Title Acting General Manager, Public Works

Agency/Organization City of Richmond

Mailing Address (If post office box, include street address) 5599 Lynas Lane

City Richmond Prov. BC PC V7C 5B2

Email tstewart@richmond.ca

**Deadline: August 31 (must be received by not postmarked)**

Forward this form along with documentation supporting the purpose of the award and the award's eligibility requirements to:

PWABC  
102-211 Columbia Street



102-211 Columbia Street  
Vancouver, BC V6A 2R5  
1.877.356.0699 | info@pwabc.ca  
www.pwabc.ca





# Nomination for the PWABC Women's Public Works Ambassador Award



# NIKI TROTTER

Trades 2 Carpenter

Submitted by Public Works, City of Richmond





There's one individual who comes to mind when thinking of a woman that is a positive role model and sets a benchmark for public works professionals to strive for: Niki Trotter, Trades 2 Carpenter, City of Richmond.

## Her Story

Niki graduated from the BCIT Joinery (Cabinetmaker) Program in 2002 and completed a four-year Red Seal apprenticeship. After working in the private industry, Niki and a school friend started a local business called HandyGals and successfully ran the popular local business for ten years. HandyGals provided many services including project management, kitchen and bathroom renovations, carpentry, interior painting and colour consultations. The HandyGals were returning guests on the W Network's *The Shopping Bags* where they tested featured products such as cordless drills, tool kits and cuticle creams and provided their opinions.

To the City's great fortune, Niki decided to hang up her small business hat and join the City of Richmond on May 6, 2014, making her the first and only female carpenter in Public Works. Initially there were some concerns about hiring a female into a male-dominated shop, but Niki quickly alleviated such concerns and since then has been an inspirational mentor who makes visions into reality and reminds us every day that "there are no such things as problems, only solutions."

When speaking with Niki's colleagues, the common characteristics that were consistently used to describe her were: dedicated, hardworking, caring, inclusive, encouraging, humble, optimistic and an involved employee who is continually looking at ways to improve the workplace for all.



*Women's change room renovation – personalized locker name plates*

## Her Influence and Involvement

Niki is the voice, the mentor and the representative for women in the Operations Yard. She chairs the women's committee for CUPE 394, a group that meets to discuss issues that may impact the female workforce and has recently campaigned to update the women's change room space. She has actively participated in the long overdue renovation and negotiated the needs brought forward by the other female staff with the facility coordinator. In true Niki fashion, she considers every small detail from the pre-construction to the finishing touches such as personalizing lockers for each female.

Niki has initiated significant changes within the Carpentry Shop as well, including lunchroom and shop improvements, positive change in moral and increased staff engagement. She has done everything from organizing breakfasts, making birthday cakes, and using humour and creativity to motivate one another.

As a carpenter, Niki works closely with all City of Richmond departments. She provides excellent customer service and helps project managers design and plan their spaces, while working within their timelines. Customers appreciate that Niki is very thorough and quick to suggest cost effective solutions or re-purposing alternatives that are less wasteful. Niki works hard on all of her projects and is well liked by everyone she encounters.



*Roads & Construction Services group*



Management recognized Niki's leadership strengths and positive attitude and was selected to be one of five Public Works staff to present at our annual Engineering & Public Works Goals and Accomplishments event in March. She worked collaboratively with the other staff to write and film a short video about Public Works' daily role in the community. She was recently selected this year to participate on the 2019 Goals & Accomplishments organizing committee.



*Preparing for the Goals & Accomplishments presentation*



*Engineering and Public Works Goals & Accomplishments event*



*Niki and fellow Carpenter, Scott*



Public Works Open House is an annual event that is hosted by 220 staff volunteers on a Saturday in May and is attended by over 5,000 Richmond residents. This interactive event is an opportunity to publicly acknowledge and showcase the variety of services and talents within the Engineering and Public Works department.

Along with being a lead committee member, Niki coordinates and champions the Roads and Construction Services exhibits, making it the largest departmental contributor at the event. In 2018, Niki introduced a new booth, Kidstruction, that targeted preschool aged children and introduced them to the world of Public Works. Every year, she works with the Sign Shop and oversees the signage installation for the entire event. Since joining the committee, she has contributed many new ideas, introduced new booths, engaged many staff and encouraged them to volunteer at the event, and has been a pinnacle change to the overall success of the event.

Niki participates in the annual nationwide Take Our Kids to Work Day, a program for employee's children in grade 9 to see potential job opportunities at the City or Richmond. Similarly, she leads a section of Works on Wheels (WOW), a one-day Public Works bus tour for elementary aged children. Niki is a natural fit for these two programs as she is able to act as a role model and encourage young women to pursue Public Works as a profession.



*Take Our Kids to Work Day participant*



*Public Works Open House Kidstruction Station 2018*



*Public Works Open House Carpentry Station 2018*



*Public Works Open House Organizing Committee 2018*



*Works On Wheels carpentry work station*



## Her Pastimes

In her free time, Niki, her husband and two dogs enjoy spending time outdoors, participating or watching sporting events, leisurely bicycling around the community and spending time with their families and friends. Her loving involvement in the lives of her nieces and nephews will surely contribute to their future success as they have an incredible role model.

Niki is a long time Richmond resident and is a positive contributor to the community through her volunteer work with local organizations. The following are some of the most recent acts of giving back to the community and building relationships within.

- Distributes meals through the *St. Alban's Anglican Church* community meals program.
- Volunteers with *Sharing Farm*, a community farm that grows food to distribute to Richmond families in need. In addition to gardening, Niki and her husband put their carpentry skills to use and built a stage for the annual Sharing Farm Garlic Festival.
- Loves animals! Niki makes frequent donations to *Richmond Animal Protection Society* and is quick to help any animal in need.
- Takes elderly people without means of transportation, to the grocery store and provides companionship, through *Richmond Cares*, *Richmond Gives*.
- Performs random acts of kindness every day without any recognition or attention.



*Niki caring for animals*



*Niki and Jim spending time with their dogs*



*Niki and Jim enjoying a bike ride*



## Our Nomination

Niki Trotter is most deserving of the Women's Public Works Ambassador Award. Niki is recognized by all, as a Public Works employee who repeatedly has innovative ideas, inspires colleagues, promotes Public Works to the public, and encourages youth to explore Public Works related career options. She is a boots-on-the-ground leader and we could all learn something from Niki's positive outlook, work ethic, generosity and kindness.

Thank you for accepting our nomination for the Women's Public Works Ambassador Award.

Patient  
 Well-prepared  
 Thorough  
 Creative  
 Enthusiastic  
 Handworking  
 Steady  
 Supportive  
 Inspiring  
 Innovative  
 Collaborative  
 Kind  
 Tolerant  
 Mentor  
 Ethical  
 Improvements  
 Respect  
 Female  
 Fun  
 Involved  
 Generous  
 Caring  
 Tactful  
 Representative  
 Professional  
 Liked  
 Design  
 Warm  
 Organizer  
 Initiator  
 Change  
 Bright  
 Amazing  
 Future  
 Cheerful  
 Strong  
 Brilliant  
 Carpentry  
 Engaging  
 Realistic  
 Influential  
 Compassionate  
 Consistent  
 Friendly  
 Volunteer  
 Richmond  
 Community  
 Sustainable  
 Sharing  
 Relaxed



Gardening at the Sharing Farm