



Ask Me Anything: Representation Matters Event Recap

By: Shelby Racine, Events Management Officer

Panelists



Julia
Scouten



BGen Jamie
Speiser-Blanchet

Ask Me Anything

International Women's Day
Representation Matters



Michelle
Hunt



Melissa
Talbot

Time: 1:00 pm EST

Date: March 22, 2023

Hosts: Maryse Cétoute and Samantha Moonsammy

On Wednesday, March 22, in honour of [International Women's Day](#), we held our interdepartmental Ask Me Anything event, Representation Matters, in collaboration with the Department of National Defence. Participants tuned in virtually to take part in a conversation on the experience female co-workers go through and what actions need to be taken to help ensure they feel supported and welcomed in each space. The event was opened by Julia Scouten, Director, Joint Defence Cloud Program, Department of National Defence and President of Women in Defence and Security (WiDS) and was followed by a conversation among 6 women from different areas of the federal public service. The panelists were:

- Brigadier-General J.R. Speiser-Blanchet, CD, Commander Cadets and Junior Canadian Rangers, Canadian Armed Forces
- Melissa Talbot (they/them/she/her), Senior Policy Advisor, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Michelle Hunt, Acting Manager, Indigenous Relations and Partnerships, Western Region, Canadian Coast Guard

This event reminded us of the importance of representation and intersectionality within global leadership positions. Fostering a workplace of diversity and inclusion will help create a better world for future generations.

Thank you to Maryse Cétoute, Senior Talent and Performance Management Advisor, Department of Canadian Heritage and Samantha Moonsammy, Section Head Lead Advisor for Diversity and Inclusion, Materiel Group, National Defence who co-moderated the event.



For those who didn't get a chance to tune in live, we invite you to watch the [event recording](#) and to share this event with members of your community. We encourage you to check out the other [International Women's Day initiatives](#) at DFO and CCG!