

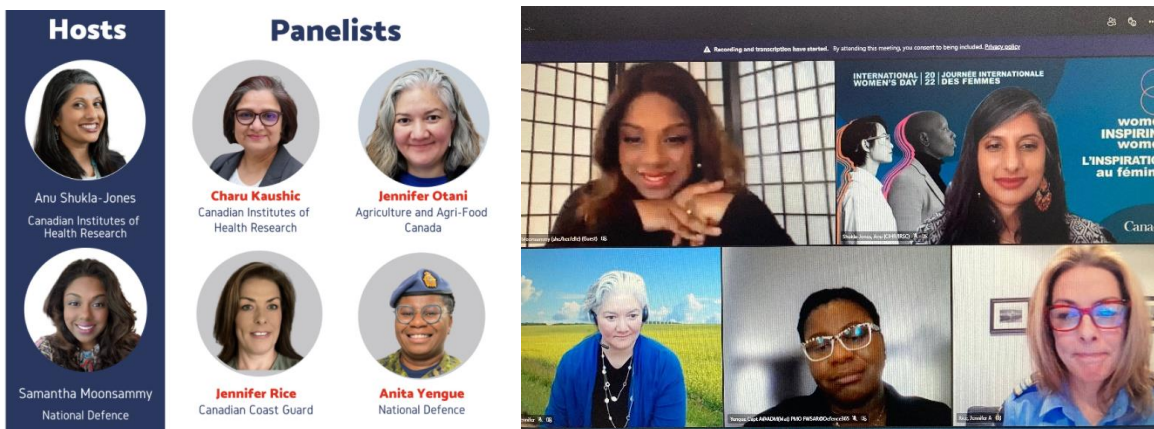
Event Recap - Ask Me Anything: Women in STEM

By: Shelby Racine, Events Management Officer

On Wednesday March 9, in celebration of International Women's Day, we held an interdepartmental Ask Me Anything event: [A courageous conversation with Women in STEM](#), in collaboration with the Department of National Defence and Health Canada.

The event celebrated women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and addressed gender disparities in the field and the importance of increasing representation of women. Among the passionate speakers were:

- Jennifer Otani, Research Scientist, Beaverlodge Research Farm
- Captain Anita Yengue, Aerospace Engineer Officer (AERE), PMO FWSAR (Hull), System Engineering Management, National Defence
- Jennifer Rice, Canadian Coast Guard College, Officer Cadet Training Program



The conversation was co-moderated by Anu Shukla-Jones, Senior Advisor, Research Excellence, Canadian Institutes of Health Research and Samantha Moonsammy, Lead Advisor for Diversity and Inclusion, Materiel Group, National Defence. Dr. Charu Kaushic, Scientific Director at the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, provided inspiring and heartfelt opening remarks for the event.

During the event, the speakers covered many different topics. Along with discussing their individual experiences, they spoke about the specific ways in which the government can better support female employees. Within our everyday routines, we all have the opportunity to practice allyship and advocate for equality in every space. It is

not up to our female colleagues to initiate this change, rather it is up to everyone to push for equality. Conversations like this one help us all to reflect on issues of misogyny, discrimination, stereotypes and why we need to work hard to ensure our workplace environments and practices are safe for everyone.

Thank you to all of our speakers for sharing your sincere thoughts, feelings, and ideas with us, and for ultimately helping public servants keep an active-mindset when it comes to building our female co-workers up and elevating their voices. Thank you also to all who attended the event or watched the recording online for being a part of the change we are creating in government. Together, we're creating space for these important conversations within the Government of Canada.

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 family, friends, and community.

Have ideas for upcoming AMAs, want to share more of yourself with our organization, or share general feedback? Contact the [Internal Communications, Event Management and Publications Team](#)! We are committed to learning more and doing better and hope you join us on this challenge.

To get involved with the Ask Me Anything Community and access documentation from past events, join us on our new [Ask Me Anything site on GC Wiki collab](#). Together, we're creating a safe space for these important conversations within the Government of Canada