

## STAFF FEATURE: KATE SMITH

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Kate Smith is the Technical Manager for the NWTCH in the Beaufort Delta district office. Smith previously held the position of Technical Architectural Advisor. She is on a two year developmental transfer to the position of manager which started in the fall of 2012.

“I am currently the only female Technical Manager working for the NWTCH,” Smith points out.

Smith has worked for the NWTCH for seven years, all of it spent in the Beaufort Delta District Office in Inuvik. Her job entails a lot of different responsibilities, including project management of new construction and renovations. She said she gets to deal with clients and with contractors.

“As a manager, I also do reporting,” she said. “I provide information to headquarters.”

“It’s different every day,” Smith said when asked what she enjoys about the job. Adding she likes the fact that she gets to travel to communities for work.

Some of the more difficult aspects of her job include the unique challenges posed by the geography of the region.

“We have three remote marine communities,” she said, referring to the communities of Paulatuk, Ulukhaktok and Sachs Harbour. Smith explains that it can be more difficult to get contractors for those communities as they are not very accessible and a contractor is likely not readily available.

Smith studied Architectural Technology at Sheridan College in Brampton, Ontario.

“The construction industry is very male-dominated. Women who want to be in this field just need to be confident that they are just as qualified to work in this industry as anyone else. More women are getting into this field, which is great.”

“I really love what I do and that’s what most important. You need to love what you are going to do for the rest of your life.”

Smith is originally from Elliot Lake, Ontario. She moved north after finishing her post-secondary studies.

“I moved to the NWT because I thought it would be a great opportunity for me to learn a lot at the beginning of my career,” she said. “When I first moved to Inuvik to work for NEAL (Northern Engineers and Architects Ltd.), I only planned on staying for six months to one year, but I fell in love with Inuvik and it has become my home. I plan on staying in the NWT until I retire.”

