

## Samara Sampson

Tradeswomen Heroes Award  
Winner - March 2024



**Level of Experience:** Journeyworker

**Years in Trade:** 7 years

**Union:** SMART

**Local:** 285

**City:** Toronto, Ontario

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### Bio

Samara Sampson is a Sheet Metal Worker from SMART Local 285, Toronto, Ontario. Her career in the trades began when she enrolled in the Welding and Fabrication Techniques program at Algonquin College, where she graduated in 2015. She joined SMART Local 285 in 2016, where she quickly realized the benefits of joining a union.

During her apprenticeship, Samara actively promoted the union, apprenticeship training, and women in the trades. Her apprenticeship was primarily spent doing HVAC installations in new developments and custom home projects. She completed her apprenticeship in 2021 and was appointed to the SMART International Women's Committee early in 2022. Later that year, she was appointed President of SMART Local 285 Women's Committee.

Off-site, Samara is also a co-founder of Women On Site, a non-profit organization aimed at connecting otherwise isolated women in trades, manufacturing, and STEM industries.

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## Why Samara Was Nominated

I nominate Sister Samara Sampson, a dedicated and accomplished SMART sheet metal worker from Local 285 Toronto, Canada, for the NABTU Tradeswomen Heroes Award. Samara's unwavering commitment to her career, tireless efforts to empower women in the trades, and remarkable contributions to the community make her an exceptional candidate for this prestigious recognition.

Sister Sampson's journey in the sheet metal industry began in 2016 when she completed the Welding and Fabrication Techniques program. She joined SMART Local 285 in Toronto, Ontario, where she embarked on a journey of skill development and expertise. In 2021, she achieved a significant milestone by becoming a Journey person—a momentous achievement that exemplifies her dedication to her craft and her unyielding determination.

What truly sets Sister Sampson apart is her deep-seated commitment to empowering women in the industry. In early 2022, she was appointed to the International SMART Women's Committee, a role she has embraced with passion and enthusiasm. Her commitment to this cause was further acknowledged when she was appointed as the President of SMART Local 285's Women's Committee—an exceptional achievement that reflects her

leadership and dedication to advancing women's representation in the trades.

Sister Sampson's impact extends beyond her union involvement. She has been fortunate to have the support of her Local, which enabled her to speak on behalf of various organizations about her trade and apprenticeship experience. In 2022, Samara co-founded "Women On Site," a non-profit organization with a mission to create a welcoming community for women and underrepresented individuals in the trades, construction, manufacturing, and STEM industries. Through this organization, she provides valuable networking opportunities, fostering connections that contribute to the retention of women in their chosen careers.

Sister Sampson's contributions to her union and her community are immeasurable. Her involvement with the International SMART Women's Committee and her Local Women's Committee demonstrates her commitment to creating an inclusive workplace for all. Her impact is palpable, both on and off-site, as she champions equity and inclusion in the industry.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Sister Sampson is driven by a profound passion for advocating for equity and inclusion, not only within SMART but also on job sites and within the wider community. She envisions a future where the trades are a welcoming



environment for everyone, and she actively works toward this goal. Samara's determination, instilled in her by her trade and mentors, shines through in her commitment to finding solutions and getting the job done. Sister Sampson eagerly anticipates the day when she can pass down her knowledge and expertise to the next generation of tradeswomen. Her dedication to the growth and success of women in the industry is evident in her every action and word.

In conclusion, Sister Sampson embodies the qualities of a true Tradeswomen Hero. Her unwavering commitment, dedication to empowering women, and passionate advocacy for equity and inclusion make her an exceptional candidate for the NABTU Tradeswomen Heroes Award. I nominate and believe that she is not only deserving of this recognition but also an inspiration to all who have the privilege of knowing her.