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Finance industry groups #PressforProgress on International Women's Day

On International Women's Day, the Institute of Finance Professionals New Zealand (INFINZ) is thrilled to announce a new partnership with the Auckland-based group Young Women in Finance (YWF).

With more than 1400 members, INFINZ is New Zealand's member-based industry body for professionals working and participating in our financial and capital markets. YWF was established in 2015 as a networking mechanism for young women working in finance-related roles with the wider purpose of strengthening the pipeline of women leaders.

The partnership will allow YWF's 600 members to access all the benefits available to INFINZ's Young Finance Professionals members such as networking and events, in addition to those tailored to their professional development needs. The first event for YWF members will be a fireside chat with entrepreneur Victoria Ransom in April.

The theme for this year's International Women's Day is #PressForProgress – a call to action to motivate and unite friends, colleagues and communities to think, act and be gender inclusive.

INFINZ Executive Director Jim McElwain says partnering with YWF provides INFINZ with an opportunity to take a leadership role in supporting increased diversity in the New Zealand financial and capital markets ecosystem.

"Whilst INFINZ has more than trebled its female membership over the last five years, which now comprises almost a quarter of total membership, much more needs to be done," says McElwain.

"Women continue to be under-represented, particularly in senior finance-related roles. A partnership with YWF enables INFINZ to directly engage with and support future female finance leaders."

YWF is a volunteer-led organisation, and its Executive Director, Caitlin Craigie, says the partnership with INFINZ will bring a number of benefits to YWF members.

"Our group is centred on learning, networking and navigating your way through the business world, so to be able to connect with a broad and established industry group like INFINZ allows us to leverage their knowledge, access a diverse and large calendar of events, and open the doors to other new professional development opportunities," says Craigie.

YWF was also attracted to the commitment INFINZ has shown to the younger demographic, says Craigie, through the development of its Young Finance Professionals (YFP) programme. INFINZ launched the YFP programme in 2013 with the aim of increasing engagement with

young finance industry professionals through a diverse range of activities including networking, and mentoring, and now more than half of all INFINZ members are aged under 40.

To access these partnership benefits, current YWF members will need to join INFINZ and pay subscriptions as either student or YFP members. All current INFINZ female student and YFP members will be automatically enrolled in YWF, and enjoy the additional benefits of YWF's offering.

For more information visit:

[http://infinz.com/tools/clients/new.aspx?SECT=Young Women in Finance](http://infinz.com/tools/clients/new.aspx?SECT=Young_Women_in_Finance)

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