

## From the Desk of Bennett Banting...

It was with some surprise earlier in 2022 to hear that Sasha Kisin was no longer going to be working for CMDC/SMI. Although Sasha's life has taken him in another direction, we are happy to confirm that he will still be active in the industry through his own private consulting. Sasha was an excellent colleague and friend, and his contributions and efforts will be sorely missed.

Nevertheless, CMDC has undertaken the task of finding a suitable replacement for the CMDC/SMI office in close collaboration with SMI members. We began our search over summer 2022 right up to now. After various phone, virtual, and in-person interviews we have selected what we feel is an excellent candidate for the position in Maysoun Ismaiel.

Maysoun is a recent Ph. D. graduate from the University of Alberta in Edmonton, AB. Maysoun has spent her last 4 years at UofA focusing on advanced studies of the thermal performance of masonry wall systems. Maysoun brings an extremely valuable skill set to the CMDC team and her knowledge of cold weather climate performance makes her an excellent fit to address many of the challenges in the Saskatchewan construction market. Her exceptional technical qualifications are matched by her personable demeanor and excellent communication skills. Maysoun worked closely with the Masonry Contrac-

tors Association of Alberta (MCAA) during her time in Edmonton and understands very well what the needs of our industry are. As Maysoun gets settled into Saskatoon later this fall, we will plan a formal announcement to the Saskatchewan masonry community.



Without an engineer physically in the office over the summer, CMDC staff across Canada have stepped up to maintain the level of technical service that you have come to expect from Sasha. Specifically, Monica Guzman from our Calgary, AB office has stepped up to ensure our SMI contractor members and the broader design community are able to get the help they needed. Monica has also been able to ensure the continuation of research support at the University of Saskatchewan. We plan to make Monica a key resource and mentor to Maysoun here in Western Canada.

### **Upcoming Important Dates**

- \* CMCA's Annual Masonry Conference in Nashville, TN - May 21 - 24, 2023

## Saskatchewan Centre for Masonry Design

CMDC staff have worked to ensure the continuity of research support and coordination with the Saskatchewan Centre for Masonry Design (SCMD). In May several UofS students presented their work at the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers (CSCE) annual conference in Whistler, BC. CMDC was a silver sponsor of the conference and CMDC staff were able to meet with the UofS team in attendance. Congratulations to Olga Savkina and Nitesh Chhetri for their papers!

CMDC staff had the opportunity to attend the thesis defenses for Nitesh as well as Thomas Vachon in the early fall. The current work being completed at the University of Saskatchewan will hopefully see adopting within the applicable CSA masonry standards. Nitesh's work looking at reducing prescriptive limits to block web sizes, while Thomas' work will hopefully remove some of the barriers that limit masonry beam and lintel design (especially when we compare to that type of work done in the U.S.).

CMDC staff are currently working with Micah Heide to construct some wall specimens to be tested as our final verification that changing block web geometry is acceptable for the next sets of our standards.



## SMI's Annual Golf Tournament Returns!

After a two-year hiatus, SMI was able to host a golf tournament at Dakota Dunes Golf Links on July 21, 2022. The event consisted of members of the design and contractor community from both Regina and Saskatoon. The tournament was also attended by members of CMDC's Board of Directors as well as members of the Canadian Concrete Masonry Producers Association (CCMPA) who scheduled a series of meetings in Saskatoon to coincide with the tournament. It was an excellent experience for all of our CMDC and CCMPA members who made the trip in to

Saskatoon. For many it was their first time visiting the province. The consensus was that the tournament was a complete success, and everyone spoke very highly of the local hospitality. In conjunction with the combined National association meetings in the city, CMDC staff also offered a free seminar for local designers focused on the design of multi-storey loadbearing masonry. The event was well attended in thanks to the efforts of SMI members and their work to help promote the course despite the relatively short notice.



Following the seminar, golfers made their way to the golf course where a BBQ burger lunch was served followed by a shotgun start. On the 10th hole SMI staff, City Masonry staff as well as Jeffrey Dolovich from Gillis Quarries were handing out refreshments, candy bags and Oakley sunglasses!

After 18 holes, golfers made their way to the Dakota Dunes Hotel where dinner and cocktails were served followed by a few speeches and prizes. Thank you to everyone who generously donated prizes and for helping us make this another successful golf tournament. Below are some photos of the groups. Sorry if anyone was missed. See you next summer!







~~~~~  
**Highlights from our Instagram Account**

[@saskmasonry](https://www.instagram.com/saskmasonry)



## 2022 Masonry Design Awards – People’s Choice Award

As you may know, the 2022 Masonry Design Awards committee made the hard decision to cancel the in-person gala ceremony this past September. This decision was made after reflecting on current world events, economic climate, and the reduced SMI budget due to shrinking masonry wall share.

However, with the success of the initial "People's Choice Award" campaign on the SMI social media channels, the spirit of the Saskatchewan Design Awards will live on as all of the traditional award categories move to an online voting platform! Through

the SMI social media channels, voting for the different categories will be live at various times throughout the year and winners will be honoured at various industry events as well as virtually on social media. Winning design teams and masonry contractors will also receive physical awards to commemorate their achievements.

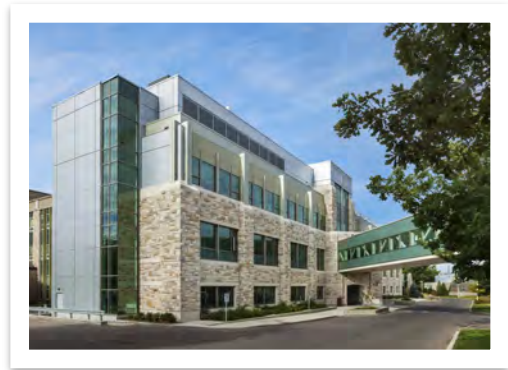
The first edition of the People’s Choice Award ran from January 2022 - April 2022 and the top three contenders were:

Project: Chief Sabitawasis School  
Architect: Wallace Klypak Architects Ltd.  
Structural Engineer: BBK Saskatoon



Project: College Avenue Campus  
Architect: P3 Architecture Partnership  
Structural Engineer: JCK Engineering Inc.

Project: Collaborative Science Building  
Architect: Henry Downing Architects  
Structural Engineer: WSP



***And the winner is.....***



**Project: Collaborative Science Building**  
**Architect: Henry Downing Architects**  
**Structural Engineer: WSP**



Pictured above is Evan Olfert from the University of Saskatchewan and Dominic Iula from City Masonry Group Ltd. receiving a framed photograph of the winning project.

Thank you to [Patricia Holdsworth Photographer](#) for the beautifully framed photo of the winning project.