

GLOBAL IMPACTS OF CCMPA AND CMDC'S NATIONAL RESEARCH INVESTMENTS

The partnership between Canadian Concrete Masonry Producers Association (CCMPA) and Canada Masonry Design Centre (CMDC) has been formalized for 3 years through the Canadian Masonry Research Council. It is through your members' support that Canada has begun to distinguish itself as a world leader in masonry research. It is often difficult to gauge the return on such research investment since it may take many years for its impacts to be truly felt in industry, especially when related to building codes and design standards. By contrast, it is immediately apparent when an industry lags behind in research because markets once thought untouchable disappear. That is why CCMPA's support for University research is so important, because it fosters a culture of sustained innovation and is the only way to ensure that decision makers of the future have the skills, tools and masonry background needed to keep masonry thriving.

Formalized in 2013, the Canadian Masonry Research Council was an agreement between CCMPA and CMDC to partner in the supervision, coordination and application of masonry research. Over the last 3 years masonry research has been undertaken at 16 Canadian Universities, in 2015 alone brand new connections were made to York University, University of Toronto and University of Waterloo through the NSERC Engage grant program. These are Universities where masonry has never been substantially researched. In addition, preliminary meetings with a new professor at the University of Alberta have also occurred at the start of 2016 with a draft proposal under review to bring masonry research back to the UofA. This strategy of nation-wide coverage and coordination between multiple associations has begun to get Canada noticed on the international stage.

- ! The Masonry Society, an American-based international masonry association, has award 3 of the last 6 student thesis awards to Canadians: Rashid Popal, University of Calgary (2013) and Madeleine Joyal, McMaster University (2014) were both awarded the Best Master's Thesis Award. While Bennett Banting, McMaster University (2015) was awarded the Best Ph.D. Thesis Award.
- ! In the paper entitled "*Bibliometric analyses of the recent scientific literature on structural masonry*" by Ailton, et al. presented at the 9th International Masonry Conference in Guimarães, Portugal in 2014, McMaster University and University of Calgary are globally ranked as #1 and #2 as the universities with the most masonry publications around the world in recent years.
- ! At the 12th North American Masonry Conference (NAMC) held in Denver, Colorado in 2015, Canadian researchers were awarded 5 of the 8 available best paper awards (compared to 1 of 8 at the last NAMC in 2011).

The upcoming year will continue to be busy for Canadian masonry research: planning for the 13th Canadian Masonry Symposium has already begun 2017. Your continued support and sustained collaboration will ensure that these successful research projects are turned into fruitful gains for the industry at large.