

ATLANTIC MASONRY INSTITUTE

2026 Q1 NEWSLETTER

**Includes events from 2025 Q3 and Q4*



Photo: New AMI/CMDC Office, Modspace Unit 020 - 238A Brownlow Ave, Dartmouth, NS B3B 2B4

INDUSTRY UPDATE

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2025 AMI AGM
Recap

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CMDC Webinars
and NFLD Seminar

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2026 CMCA
Conference
Mar 29-31

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Workforce
Development
Update

2025 AMI AGM



Another year, another great AGM. October 29th and 30th brought the masonry industry from across Atlantic Canada to Halifax for 2 days of education and networking. The AGM kicked off with a series of educational lectures. Michael Richards of McInnes Cooper gave us the inner workings of CCA1 subcontracts and its relationship to the CCDC2 contract, followed by Tom Vacala from the Masonry Contractors Association of America giving an overview of their highly successful foreman training course. The evening transitioned over to the Alexander Keiths Brewery where we took in a guided tour of the brewery before descending into a lively social function.

The next morning we had the AGM and national industry updates where members learned of the masonry initiatives taken by AMI, as well as the initiatives being delivered across the country.

As always, the AGM could not occur without the generous sponsorships provided by our membership. A sincere thank you to all the sponsors for making the event happen. A special thank you to the **Canadian Concrete Masonry Producers Association (CCMPA)** and the **Shaw Group** for their Platinum and Gold sponsorships respectively. Looking forward to next year!



CMDC WEBINARS AND SEMINARS

The educational arm of the Atlantic Masonry Institute is through our partnership with the Canada Masonry Design Centre. Andrew Smith from the Atlantic Office recently held a seminar for the engineering community in St. John's Newfoundland on November 25th titled "Maximizing Concrete Block Partition Walls". The seminar was hosted by the Atlantic Masonry Institute and brought in 25 engineers from the area.



CMDC also hosted their first online webinar for the Engineered Design of Masonry Veneers, hosting 125 engineers with 10 of them coming from Atlantic Canada. This was the first webinar CMDC has conducted and due to its success, they will be continuing to deliver webinars throughout 2026. AMI members are encouraged to promote these webinars and will be welcome to attend as well!

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- **BRICK & STONE RESTORATION**
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- **CONCRETE BLOCK & NEW MASONRY**

ORGANIZED PROCESSES, CAREFUL PLANNING, AND UNCOMPROMISING QUALITY!

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2026 CMCA CONFERENCE

MARCH 29TH TO MARCH 31ST - TOMMY BAHAMA MIRAMONTE RESORT - PALM SPRINGS/INDIAN WELLS

Registration for the 2026 CMCA Conference is live! The CMCA Conference is the only event that brings together the entire *Canadian Masonry Industry*.

The conference will be run from March 29th till March 31st and will feature beautiful scenery, networking opportunities, education and a thoughtful delegate package (bring your partner!).

To learn more or to register for the conference click below:



2026 CMCA Conference

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

High School Program

The AMI High Schools program begins with finding schools who are interested in teaching masonry to their students. From there we assess their classroom to determine if they have the space to safely deliver the curriculum. If everything looks good AMI will conduct a 2-day training course with the Skilled Trades teacher to educate them on the masonry curriculum and build up their hand skills. Every province and every school within the province delivers the masonry curriculum in a different manner and capacity, however we typically see the masonry taught for students in Grade 10, with some schools also delivering masonry to Grade 9 and 11 students.

Since the beginning of the program in 2020, AMI has built the program up to include 43 high schools. We plan to continue growing the program but will slow the expansion as we focus more time and \$\$ on improving our impact in these schools we are already set up in.

Partnerships

There are many great associations that AMI has partnered with to help promote skilled trades to youths and specifically masonry. AMI works with **Skills Canada NB** and **Skills Canada NS** doing try-a-trades at larger events, hosting masonry day camps and sugar shack activities. A particular highlight would be our creation of a high school bricklaying competition with Skills Canada NB. We partner with the **NB Centre of Excellence for Skilled Trades and Manufacturing** to deliver our Sugar Shack activity to over 2000 students a year with a live virtual event for students in grade 3-8.

The plan moving forward is to continue delivering our sugar shack activity to promote bricklaying to youths in Elementary and Jr. High while expanding our presence and partnership with Skills Canada groups. We are making efforts to grow the participation in the high school bricklaying competition in NB, while also starting a provincial competition in Nova Scotia.

Projects

High School Curriculum Videos

Through a grant provided by Skilled Trades NB, AMI has been working to develop education videos to help support teachers in classroom who are introducing students to masonry. This project took our 5 curriculum projects that we developed for our High School Program and created 15-minute videos for each project where a red-seal bricklayer walks through the project step-by-step explaining the techniques as they go. These videos were shot in both French and English. AMI has finished with the final round of edits to the videos and we will be receiving the final product back from the videographers early in the New Year.

UTIP Green Training Grant

AMI has partnered with the Ontario Masonry Contractors Association and the Manitoba Masonry Contractors Association for a federal grant through the Union Training and Innovation Program. This grant will be for the alterations of existing masonry buildings and will result in training programs for the bricklayers in Atlantic. This is a 5-year commitment and will bring significant value to Atlantic Canada and to our membership.



Active Membership



AMI Contractors

Acadia Bricklayers
Ares Masonry
Atlantic Brick and Stone
Atwill-Morin
Beamish Masonry
Brimac Masonry
Capital Caulking
Darim Masonry

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