



## **Catherine Lalonde Memorial Scholarships Awarded** ***Students Demonstrate Passion for Wood Industry Innovation***

**Ottawa, ON, November 15<sup>th</sup>** – The Canadian Wood Council (CWC) awarded three student recipients as part of the 2019 Catherine Lalonde Memorial Scholarships – **Gabriella Vojtila** (Queen’s University), **Md Abdul Hamid Mirdad** (University of Alberta) and **team of Shawn Dylan Johnston and Siqi Wang** (University of Toronto). The winners demonstrated academic excellence through their research projects that will have positive influences on the structural wood products industry.

Established fourteen years ago, the memorial scholarship is awarded yearly to graduate students whose wood research transcends the same level of passion that Catherine Lalonde championed relentlessly for the wood/wood products industry as a professional engineer and president of the CWC.

- **Gabriella Vojtila**  
Gabriella is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year Master candidate in Applied Science, Civil Engineering at Queen’s University. Her thesis investigates the performance of fully concealed beam-column connectors under seismic loading, including interstorey drifts, that will be used in a 10-storey all wood structure.
- **Md Abdul Hamid Mirdad**  
Md Abdul is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year PhD candidate in Civil Engineering at University of Alberta. His thesis examines the structural performance of Mass Timber Panel-Concrete (MTPC) Composite Floor System with an insulation layer and inclined Self-Tapping Screws, at both 30° and 45°, to facilitate a partial shear transfer and composite action between the components.
- **Team of Shawn Dylan Johnston and Siqi Wang** from University of Toronto, Master of Architecture. Their collaborative project consists of a community center containing an aquatics and fitness program, which leveraged mass timber products in developing innovative structural solutions to create a unique identity for an evolving community in Scarborough’s Golden mile area. The resulting project highlighted the potential for wood construction in applications of structure, sustainability, and building environment, offering an experience that connects the users to nature.

“The winning scholarship recipients’ submissions exemplify the level of enthusiasm and expertise that Catherine Lalonde encouraged and inspired within our industry.” explained Etienne Lalonde, VP Market Development of the CWC. “Her legacy lives on through initiatives such as the memorial scholarship, and we are elated to celebrate and recognize future practitioners that share her passion for wood construction.”

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