



GeoSaskatoon 2023 76th Annual Canadian Geotechnical Society (CGS) Conference

Venue: TCU Place Convention Centre, Saskatoon

Host: Saskatoon Geotechnical Group

Date: October 1–4

500+ geotechnical professional delegates

200 technical presentation

Trade show



Discover ^{Гобс}
saskatoon



Map here.



GeoSaskatoon 2023

BRIDGING THE GAP

The GeoSaskatoon2023 conference was held at the TCU Place Convention Centre in Saskatoon by the Saskatoon Geotechnical Group, the North Saskatchewan Section of the Canadian Geotechnical Society (CGS). It is the longest-running annual geotechnical conference in the world.

Partner Organisations included the International Geosynthetics Society – North America (IGS-NA) and the International Association of Hydrogeologists – Canadian National Chapter (IAH-CNC).

The theme of the conference was 'bridging', which was no coincidence as the event was being held in the 'City of Bridges' in the beautiful valley of the South Saskatchewan River. The event explored bridging research and practice, bridging theory and experience, and most importantly, bridging different areas of practice.

Geotechnical practice is often characterized as being distinct in the separate sectors of Infrastructure and Resources, but many lessons are learned, and experiences shared when focus is placed on the similarities, differences, and synergies in different areas of geotechnical, geosynthetics and hydrogeological practice.

GeoSaskatoon 2023 was a chance for colleagues from across North America to join and share experiences, opportunities, and ideas, to renew old friendships, make exciting new ones—and sample the taste of Saskatoon Berry pie.

YOUR HOST

The Saskatoon Geotechnical Group is an independent, federally incorporated, non-profit learned society which exists to serve and promote the geotechnical and geoscience community in Canada. It encompasses a wide spectrum of scientific and engineering disciplines within the geo field.

Membership to both the national society (CGS) and its Saskatoon Geotechnical Group (SGG) is open to individuals from all sectors including private consulting, universities, industry, contracting, and public service.

The CGS has around 1,400 members across Canada and around the world. It is a driving force in the geotechnical profession by providing opportunities for members to upgrade skills, present research and make connections with other geotechnical professionals.

Saskatchewan is top three province for energy sector competitiveness and top for mining investment attractiveness. The need for the talents and critical skills of SGG members will only grow.





EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

GeoSaskatoon 2023 attendees from industry, government and academia (both students and faculty) were put in touch with the industry leaders who make key purchasing decisions in this globally diverse marketplace.

The Trade Show is an integral component of the CGS Annual Conference. It provided a venue for suppliers, contractors and consultants to show off their products and services geared to the geotechnical industry. Exhibitors included Arctic Foundations of Canada, Canary Systems, Klohn Crippen Berger, Layfield Geosynthetics, Oak Environmental, Solmax, and many more.

Day one included the RM Hardy Address and the RF Legget Award presentations.

Day Two highlights included the Geotechnical Colloquium/Student Graduate Paper and the Annual Business meeting. The CGS Colloquium is an annual commissioned presentation and a journal paper. The honour comes with a \$5,000 honorarium provided by Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique. There was also a Colloquium presentation by DR. Pooneh Maghoul, Ph.D., P.Eng., discussing the strategic importance of Canada's presence on the Moon.

Day Three featured an historical overview of Geotechnical Engineering by Dr. Delwyn G. Fredlund at the Heritage Luncheon.

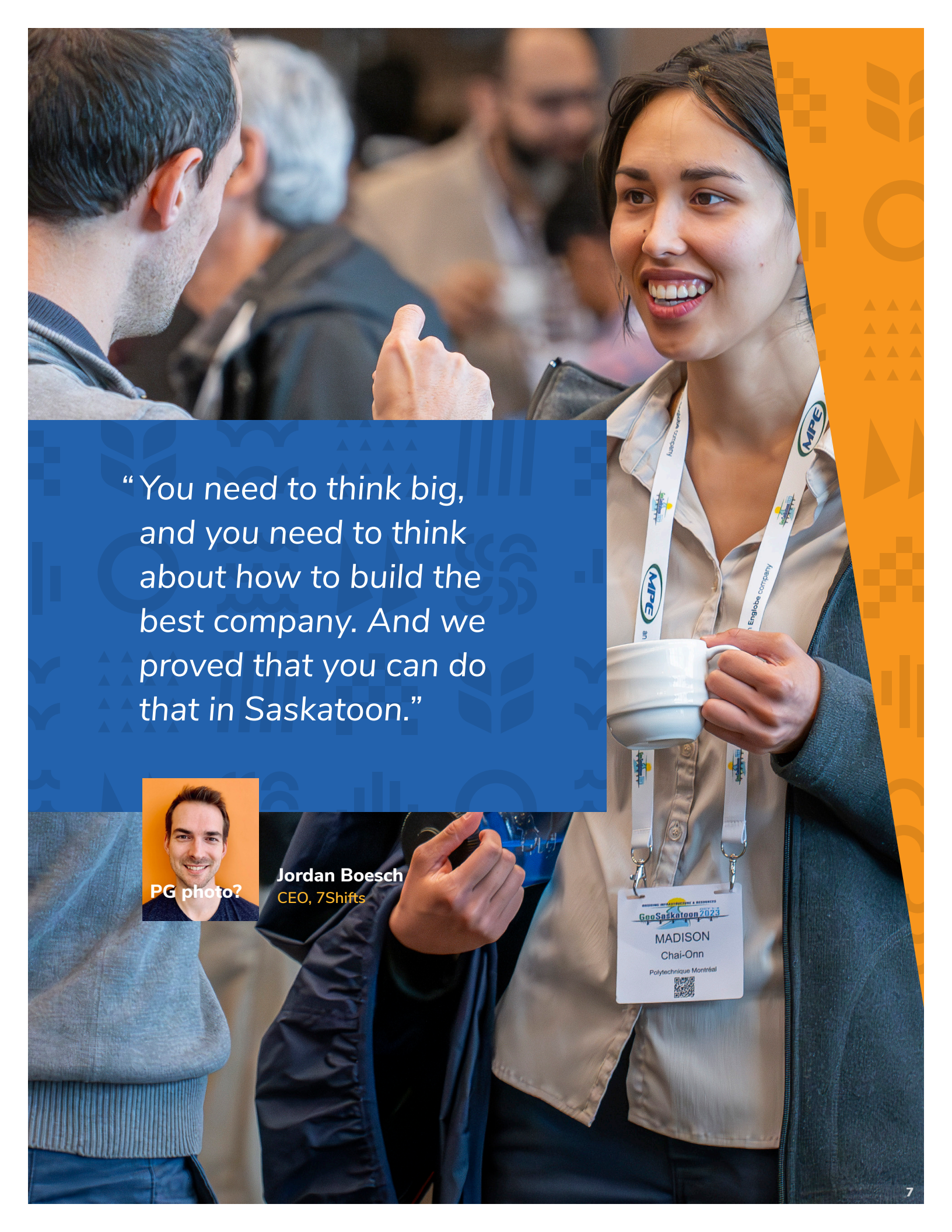


HOW DISCOVER SASKATOON HELPED

Discover Saskatoon played a role in the success of the event, facilitating a smooth organizing process. They provided great hotels and accommodation recommendations, helped arrange activities, suggested must-see sites around town, and helped secure and organize the conference location.

TCU Place was the perfect event location, being Saskatoon's premier event facility, located right in the heart of downtown. The expansive conference was hosted over three levels of generous space; significant amounts being allotted to exhibitors, and spacious venues being dedicated to approximately 200 technical presentations of the Technical Program. A huge banquet room meant everyone had more than adequate elbow room to enjoy lunches, dinners, and social activities.





“You need to think big,
and you need to think
about how to build the
best company. And we
proved that you can do
that in Saskatoon.”



PG photo?

Jordan Boesch
CEO, 7Shifts



EXPERIENCES

Conference hosts worked hard to balance business with pleasure. The day before the conference started, short courses on geosynthetics; stability and deformation analysis; terrain analysis; and pipeline geotechnique were offered for those who wished to attend. A pair of icebreakers were also held; one specifically aimed at young professionals, which included a panel of experienced professionals to learn from.

Following the first night's cocktail reception and delicious banquet, everyone was invited to get down to a free 'Rock Show' sponsored by Geophysics GPR International Inc., held at the Capitol Music Club. The Geophysics GPR "house band" District hosted a live musical evening that had people entertained and rocking out all through the night. It was the third such Rock Show event in recent conference history—which is always a hit!

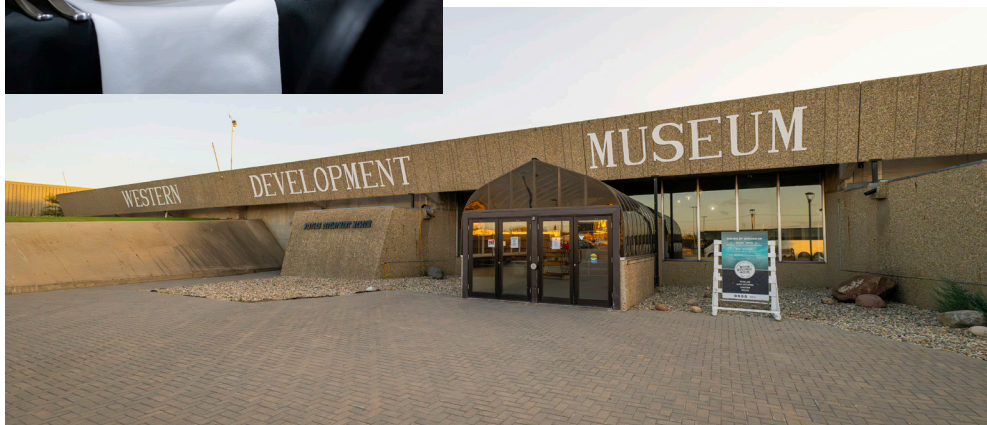
At the end of day two, there was more magic in store. Everyone was invited to attend 'Local Colour Night' held at 'Boomtown' in the Western Development Museum. Here, people were transported back in time to 1905 Boomtown Main Street, a lavish construction of 30 buildings. In this unique setting, there was a surprise around every corner: local food, drinks, entertainment, and a whole lot of fun to be had swaggering the street and bringing the past to life.

The day after the Conference was dedicated to unique Saskatoon experiences. People were given the opportunity to spend the day on Technical Tours, including trips to:

- Gardiner Dam, the third largest embankment dam in Canada.
- Nutrien Cory Potash Mine, to see the operation above and below the ground.
- Canadian Light Source, to learn about Canada's only synchrotron and the history of one of the largest science projects in Canadian history.
- Riverbank Instability Tour along the South Saskatchewan River Valley.

The Partner Program included excursions attendees could purchase. They were specifically designed for people to explore the culture, history, and sightseeing spots in Saskatoon and the surrounding area. It included coffee, sightseeing, lunch, and then a succulent bowl handcrafting experience. There was also a trip to Wanuskewin Heritage Park and Lucky Bastard Distillers, a unique pairing of a potential future UNESCO world heritage site and Saskatchewan's premier Micro Distillery. And finally, an excursion to the Remai Modern, a meal at Hearth Restaurant, and a sample of finest gin or whisky at Black Fox Distillers.

Visitors were also encouraged to explore Saskatoon in their own style. The conference suggesting people check out the wonders of the Remai Modern, Wanuskewin Heritage Park, The Western Development Museum and the Saskatoon Farmer's Market.



AN HONOUR TO HOST

GeoSaskatoon 2023 informed and entertained—it was a great success. It brought geotechnical professionals together, created stronger ties in the community, and provided a series of unique Saskatoon experiences. The days were filled with informative and insightful talks and presentations, and the Trade Show provided the opportunity for attendees to survey the latest technology and ideas from world-leading companies. Saskatoon hospitality shone throughout and everyone left looking forward to GeoSaskatoon 2024.

