



**ONTARIO  
SCIENCE  
CENTRE**

An agency of the  
Government of Ontario

# 2023 IMPACT REPORT

**Shaping a  
Bright Future  
with Science**

# LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

For over 55 years, the Ontario Science Centre has been inspiring curiosity and a sense of wonder, sparking a passion for science in millions of people across the province and beyond. Looking ahead to our new home at Ontario Place, we are excited to continue building on the incredible impact we make and deliver even more unforgettable science experiences that foster a lifelong love of learning. Many of our visitors, inspired to explore and contribute to our world, have gone on to become engaged citizens and pursue STEM careers. Learning to think like a scientist from an early age provides a vital foundation for future success across every field. We believe science creates a brighter future for all.

In 2023, we focused our efforts on delivering accessible science learning experiences to our visitors, from longtime Members to tourists from across Ontario and around the globe. Through our Access Science Program, Youth-for-Youth (Y4Y) Innovation Program, STEAM Residency Program and Livestream Learning webinar series, we reached more students, teachers, families and children. We also hosted a new series of community events that celebrate and showcase diversity in science. Many of these programs and events are made possible by the generous support of donors, partners and sponsors who share in our vision to inspire curiosity, wonder and a love of science.

Thank you all for your support. We could not make this tremendous impact on the communities we serve without you.

**PAUL KORTENAAR**  
Chief Executive Officer

**JOHN CARMICHAEL**  
Chair, Board of Trustees

# 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

**786,420**  
ON-SITE VISITORS

**120,000+**  
STUDENTS  
FOR FIELD TRIPS



FREE ACCESS

**15,000+**

VISITORS  
ON CORONATION  
DAY ON MAY 6



## ACCESS SCIENCE PROGRAM

In 2023, we continued to provide students and classes, who might not otherwise be able to visit, a trip to the Science Centre at no cost to their families or schools.



**13,130**  
MEMBER FAMILIES

“

Every time I come to the Science Centre, there's always something fun to do that teaches me new things. Science is infinite! One day we could discover a new black hole, the next day we understand what photosynthesis is... it's like every day something amazing happens.”

— YAPHET

MEMBER, ONTARIO SCIENCE CENTRE

= **52,000+**  
MEMBERS

AND  
**163,000+**  
VISITS



See more highlights from an incredible year at the Science Centre. [Click to watch now.](#)



A special event on October 8, **To the Moon! With CSA Astronaut Jeremy Hansen**, brought in hundreds of visitors and garnered media coverage from CBC, Global and TFO. “You need to set goals and you need to share them with others,” Hansen told the captivated audience. “That’s how you will achieve amazing things.”

# 2023 RBC INNOVATORS BALL

This year's gala brought together community partners and leaders to support science learning and help propel us towards a bold new future. More than \$850,000 was raised this year through generous donations and in-kind gifts.

Title Sponsor: RBC

Pacesetter Sponsors: IBM Canada, McKinsey and Company, Optimus SBR, TELUS

Platinum Tables: Adgar Canada, Blake, Cassels and Brock LLP, Deloitte, EY, HATCH, Imperial Oil, KPMG, Mintz, Nucleo Digital

Media Partners: The Globe and Mail, Toronto Star

Ontario Science Centre **RBC INNOVATORS BALL**



“

RBC is proud to be the Title Sponsor of this outstanding event that champions science learning and increases STEM access for kids across Ontario. Thank you to all of the donors who generously supported the Ontario Science Centre's mission of inspiring the next generation of innovative thinkers.”

— GRAEME HEPWORTH

CHIEF RISK OFFICER, RBC  
CHAIR, 2023 RBC INNOVATORS BALL

**\$850,000+**  
RAISED

“

It is so important that all youth have access to science—to have access to being curious and let that curiosity propel them to new heights, new breakthroughs and new discoveries. The Ontario Science Centre is so important to light that spark.”

— EUGENIA ADDY

CEO, VISIONS OF SCIENCE  
BOARD MEMBER, ONTARIO SCIENCE CENTRE



# EXHIBITIONS

In addition to our permanent exhibit halls, we continue to bring in travelling exhibitions from across the globe, providing our visitors with exciting new content that engages and inspires.

## INDIGENOUS INGENUITY: AN INTERACTIVE ADVENTURE

This visiting exhibition, created by the Montreal Science Centre in collaboration with knowledge holders from First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities, takes visitors on an interactive quest to discover how Indigenous science is timeless.



SPONSORED BY



## REGALIA: INDIGENOUS PRIDE

Portraits, stories and worldviews of children, women and men from 14 different First Nations communities are shared in this powerful photography exhibition.



## VOYAGE TO THE DEEP: UNDERWATER ADVENTURES

Created and developed by the Australian National Maritime Museum, this visiting interactive exhibition brings to life the imaginary adventures of Captain Nemo and the real wonders of ocean exploration.



SPONSORED BY



## DINOS IN MOTION

Art, science and innovation meet in this incredible exhibition, created and produced by Imagine Exhibitions Inc., that features life-sized dinosaur sculptures using recycled materials.



## EXHIBIT DEVELOPMENT

The Ontario Science Centre is a highly skilled exhibit developer, supplier and consultant, serving museums and centres across the globe.



**Behind Racism: Challenging the Way We Think**, created by the Ontario Science Centre, toured three cities in 2023, including Regina, Saskatoon and Thunder Bay, with a combined attendance of over 25,000. Based on this success, our partner, the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, extended the tour until September 2025.



A selection of the Science Centre's special collection of **Emett's Dream Machines** was displayed in the windows of the **CF Toronto Eaton Centre** from November 15, 2023 to January 22, 2024, for millions of passersby to enjoy during the busy holiday season. This partnership with Cadillac Fairview created a unique pop-up opportunity, allowing us to reach new audiences.



With funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada, our teams developed new exhibits and animations about vaccines for our permanent exhibit halls and our website. This critical funding allowed us to continue our work building trust in science and helping to stop the spread of disinformation.

“

Ontario Power Generation is a proud sponsor of the Ontario Science Centre and their many engaging and educational exhibitions, including *Voyage to the Deep*. Together, we are powering positive change by sparking a love of science and fostering the future innovators of this province.”

—ADAM MCCLARE

DIRECTOR, BRAND MANAGEMENT,  
ONTARIO POWER GENERATION

**ONTARIOPOWER**  
GENERATION

## LOOKING AHEAD

We are focused on nurturing climate curiosity, action and optimism as well as fostering a connection with science through the natural world with our 2024 exhibitions, *Our Climate Quest* and *Nature All Around Us*. We are also exploring other ways to leverage our expertise, experiences and innovative partnerships to engage children and youth across the province through digital offerings, community pop-ups and travelling exhibitions.



# CHILDREN & FAMILY PROGRAMS

In 2023, we collaborated with Indigenous partners to deliver programming throughout the year from Métis Craft and Indigenous Beading to Indigenous Astronomy and the Science of Snowshoeing. We developed new maker-style programming, and celebrated special days and observances, such as International Day of Women and Girls in Science. We also launched several new programs, including Science Baby, for our youngest visitors to help spark an interest in STEM from an early age.

DELIVERED

1,000+

PROGRAMS IN TOTAL



“

The Maker Junction, one of our most popular programs in the fall months, saw over 36,000 participants become immersed in the world of making. Visitors of all ages had the opportunity to tinker with tools and build their own creatures inspired by robotics and simple machines.”

— VICTORIA GEE

RESEARCHER-PROGRAMMER



## SCIENCE BABY

A playful program for children aged 6–24 months and their caregivers, designed to meet the unique learning needs of babies and toddlers and supercharge their natural inner scientist.



“

The program offered a combination of individual and group activities, and they were creative with using everyday objects I could use at home. It was amazing to experience that type of open, participatory environment that the Science Centre offers for everyone of all ages. We will definitely be back.”

— CANDICE CHAN

PARENT AND SCIENCE BABY PARTICIPANT

## YOUTH-FOR-YOUTH (Y4Y) INNOVATION PROGRAM

Lead Sponsor

**Scotiabank.**

Provides out-of-school STEM learning for students in grades 7 and 8 from demographic groups that are underrepresented in STEM fields. This two-week summer program is made possible by Scotiabank.

Since launching in 2021, over 200 youth from the Flemingdon Park and Thorncliffe Park communities have completed the Y4Y Program, benefitting from the unique experience it offers.

“

Coming to the Science Centre was the best decision of my life. The Ontario Science Centre has expanded the values of my learning in science.”

— HASHIM

YOUTH-FOR-YOUTH (Y4Y) STUDENT



We are also thankful to the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education for conducting an evaluation of the Y4Y Program in 2023. The results will inform our work as we continue to make learning more equitable and accessible.

# LEARNING PROGRAMS

Our **STEAM Residency Program**, in partnership with the Peel District School Board and supported by the Ministry of Education, is all about teaching and learning in a new and exciting way. We focus on teamwork, creativity, problem-solving and modern learning methods in both the classroom and other informal settings. In 2023, we redesigned the program and delivered it in schools to make it more accessible.

Our **Access Science** program ensures that students in need have the opportunity to participate in unforgettable learning experiences with a visit to the Science Centre at no cost to their schools or families. This important program would not be possible without the support of individual donations.

In October, we successfully launched our new Livestream Learning webinar series with Frightfully Fun Science for Grades 1-4 and Eerie Explorations for Grades 5-8.

Approximately

**31,000** STUDENTS AND TEACHERS tuned in

Teachers could choose from

**30+** ON-SITE SCHOOL PROGRAMS to add on to their Field Trips

Approximately

**60,000** STUDENTS participated in an on-site School Program

“

It's such a great experience. It gets them out of the classroom and into an area where they are surrounded by science. And they're able to use what I've taught them in the classroom in real-life experiences.”

— SARAH GREEN

TEACHER, GATEWAY PUBLIC SCHOOL, NORTH YORK  
ACCESS SCIENCE PARTICIPANT

“

My favourite part is actually seeing the looks on their faces, the excitement in their eyes, and all of the questions that we have to answer once we go back into our classroom.”

— EILEEN CARNEVALE

TEACHER, CALICO PUBLIC SCHOOL, NORTH YORK  
ACCESS SCIENCE PARTICIPANT



## ONTARIO SCIENCE CENTRE SCIENCE SCHOOL

This unique learning experience, which emphasizes group collaboration, science communication, lab work and real-world problem-solving, helps prepare Grade 12 students for university and a successful STEM career. To ensure selection is equitable for students and reflects Ontario's diversity, we introduced a new process in 2023 with dedicated spots reserved for qualified students living outside the GTA, and in priority neighbourhoods within the City of Toronto.

“

Science School is a space where we're encouraged to think critically, innovate and to dream big. Every day here is a step closer to a future full of limitless possibilities. Being surrounded by peers who share my passion has been a game changer.”

— FIONA ASHOURI

SCIENCE SCHOOL STUDENT, ONTARIO SCIENCE CENTRE

64 students graduated from the Ontario Science Centre Science School in 2023, adding to a growing total alumni of 2,300.

In 2024, Science School will be celebrating 42 years and over 85 semesters of providing once-in-a-lifetime learning experiences for youth.



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

At the Science Centre, we are committed to amplifying voices, sharing our platform and prioritizing contributions from Black, Indigenous and People of Colour as well as people from the 2SLGBTQI+ communities in our programs, events and exhibits to help increase diversity and representation in STEM. In 2023, we collaborated with many different individuals and organizations to co-create three community-focused events: **Solstice Celebration** on June 21, **Celebrate Black Excellence** on September 16 and **Pride in STEM** on November 18.

“

We are proud to partner with like-minded organizations like Ontario Science Centre, in our commitment to helping make the future friendlier for generations to come. We are honoured to sponsor their annual series of community-focused events that showcase and celebrate diversity in science, helping amplify the voices of individuals and groups that are underrepresented in STEM.”

— **PATRICK BARRON**

VICE-PRESIDENT, CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP & COMMUNITY INVESTMENT, TELUS



**LOOKING  
AHEAD**



TELUS is generously sponsoring these free community events in 2024 and 2025.





On National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21, we hosted a Solstice Celebration at the Ontario Science Centre with Toronto Council Fire and partners, Indigenous Tourism Ontario and Canadian Multicultural Inventors Museum.



We celebrated the contributions of the 2SLGBTQI+ community to STEM on November 18 with a full day of family-friendly activities, presentations and demonstrations, including a sensational storytime by Toronto's own Fay and Fluffy.



# COMMUNITY EVENTS

As we look to broaden our reach and build science capital, we are focused on increasing science programming outside of the Science Centre. In 2023, our Children & Family Programs team facilitated eight workshops for 71 children at the Red Door Family and Violence Against Women's Shelters in our community. Workshop themes were Robotics, Optical Illusions, Structures and Circuits.



The Ontario Science Centre participated in the Indigenous Legacy Gathering at Nathan Phillips Square in September, just one of many community events we attended.

# YOUR IMPACT

**Neil Macklem** is a monthly donor who purchases an annual Cosmic Membership, visiting us every chance he gets. Neil is also one of our longest-standing donors. His generous annual giving goes back well over 20 years—and his connection to the Ontario Science Centre began when our doors first opened in 1969. Neil visited the Science Centre almost every Sunday for most of his childhood. When he was 12, he explored our Hall of Communication for the first time, which sparked his passion for communications and computer science—and inspired his career path.

Neil's impressive career, which has seen him travelling around the globe, spans across electronics, automation and robotics, research and design, terrestrial and space communications systems and the Alert Ready System in Canada.



Thank you, Neil. Your story and your continued generosity are making an impact in the lives of all the young visitors who come through our doors.

“

Everything I do relates to what I learned at the Science Centre. I've had all these opportunities, and I continue to have them, so I want to make sure that as many young people as possible get through the doors of the Science Centre to connect with science and technology. You never know what experience or idea will spark something and lead someone down a great path.”

— NEIL MACKLEM



**HELP INSPIRE CURIOSITY,  
WONDER AND HOPE**

**with every donation  
you make, no matter  
the amount.**

[Click to learn more.](#)



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.



## STAY CONNECTED WITH US!



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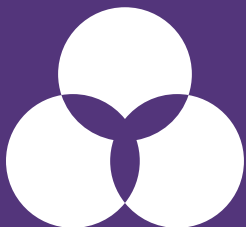


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