



**ONTARIO
SCIENCE
CENTRE**

An agency of the
Government of Ontario

2022 IMPACT REPORT

**Keeping Curious
Minds Learning**



LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

The Ontario Science Centre is excited to report on the incredible impact we made in 2022. It was a remarkable year with many highlights and milestones, from meaningful new partnerships and initiatives to the successful return of on-site field trips and in-person events. Above all, it was a year of inspiring creativity, connection and innovation.

From January through to December, we welcomed hundreds of thousands of visitors—curious minds of all ages—to enjoy science learning experiences, programs and exhibitions. We brought in several visiting exhibitions from across Canada, the United States and even one from as far as New Zealand. We also designed and fabricated a new exhibition, *Behind Racism: Challenging the Way We Think*, in partnership with the Canadian Race Relations Foundation.

We launched an impressive number of new programs and workshops, hosted several events, including the RBC Innovators Ball, and celebrated 40 years of our Science School along with the graduation of 50 eager students ready to start their STEM careers. And as we watched attendance numbers rise steadily throughout the year as restrictions were lifted, setting one of our best attendance records since the start of the pandemic, we truly felt our impact. What a thrill to see so many happy visitors, excited to explore, discover and be inspired by science.

In 2022, we continued to make the Science Centre a leader for change, and we remained focused on our commitment to advancing and supporting priorities that ensure diversity, inclusion, accessibility and anti-racism. We believe that science is for everyone. This truth informs everything we do, today and tomorrow—and as we look forward to a bold new future.

Together, with the support of the provincial government, we will create a new state-of-the-art Science Centre in another iconic location at Ontario Place. As we begin to imagine the new milestones ahead and the young minds we will inspire for generations to come, we feel excited and grateful for this opportunity.

Thank you to our partners, donors, sponsors, Board of Trustees and volunteers. We could not continue to serve as a vibrant hub of innovative and accessible science education without your steadfast support and belief in the work we do. Thank you for contributing to our vision for a more curious, creative and resilient world.

PAUL KORTENAAR
Chief Executive Officer

JOHN CARMICHAEL
Chair, Board of Trustees

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

603,950

ON-SITE VISITORS

Attendance is recovering rapidly from the challenging years of 2020 and 2021. Our 2022 Winter Break attendance saw a 21% increase from 2018-19 with over 50,000 visitors over a two-week period.



\$630,000+

RAISED AT THE 2022 RBC INNOVATORS BALL

Over 500 guests came together to connect and raise funds for our innovative and accessible educational programs, including Access Science.

Ontario
Science
Centre RBC
INNOVATORS
BALL



— NEIL MCLAUGHLIN
CHAIR, RBC INNOVATORS BALL

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

Almost

2.7 MILLION 

views and more than

12K FOLLOWERS

on our YouTube channel

14,031
MEMBERSHIPS
PURCHASED IN 2022

Visitors bought more than 67,000 film tickets in 2022, with **Dinosaurs of Antarctica** roaring to the finish line as the most-seen film of 2022.



We provided exciting new science learning experiences for our visitors through the creation, development and hosting of 12 different special programs on-site including Toys in Flight, Birds of Prey, Spooky Science, Pride in STEM, Soccer Science, Emett's Whimsical Workshop and more.

EXHIBITIONS

PLANET ICE: MYSTERIES OF THE ICE AGES

Developed by the Canadian Museum of Nature, this interactive exhibition combines environmental science, natural sciences, human history and culture to tell an important story of environmental change and the critical role of ice and cold on our planet.



SPONSORED BY  Polar Knowledge Canada Savoir polaire Canada  ENBRIDGE Life Takes Energy  McMaster University  BRIGHTER WORLD

BEHIND RACISM: CHALLENGING THE WAY WE THINK

Designed and fabricated by the Ontario Science Centre in partnership with the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, this compelling exhibition examines racism in Canada and breaks down the mental processes that contribute to discrimination.



SPONSORED BY  Ontario  Canadian Race Relations Foundation  Fondation canadienne des relations raciales  Canada  MOSAIC INSTITUTE  CANADIAN MUSEUM FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

BUG LAB

This one-of-a-kind exhibition, created by New Zealand's Te Papa Museum and the world-famous Weta Workshop, made its Canadian debut at the Science Centre, bringing surreal set pieces, technological innovation and the fascinating study of entomology to our visitors.



SPONSORED BY  MUSEUM OF NEW ZEALAND TE PAPA TONGAREWA  WETA WORKSHOP

ABOVE AND BEYOND: AN INTERACTIVE EXHIBITION

From the physics of flight to the history of air and space travel, this exciting exhibition was developed by Boeing and provides hands-on fun and learning about the exciting world of aerospace for people of all ages.



SPONSORED BY  BOEING

EXHIBITIONS

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.



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



“

We are excited that people will learn about many of the crucial contributions, innovations and methods that Indigenous peoples have created and shared with the world. It's an important step to see tourist attractions like the Ontario Science Centre feature exhibitions that highlight Indigenous successes.”

—KEVIN ESHKAWKOGAN

CEO OF INDIGENOUS TOURISM ONTARIO

EDUCATION

2022 saw the return of on-site field trips. For the first time in more than two years, our hallways were once again filled with the buzz of students eager for new learning adventures.

“

Thank you so much to the Ontario Science Centre for facilitating our first ever virtual field trip! The program was interactive, educational & FUN! Virtual school teachers, we HIGHLY recommend!”

— **SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER**

TORONTO DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

53,286

Students visited us for on-site field trips

10,676

Students attended virtual field trips

Most popular School Program: Simple Machines and Forces for students in grades 2 and 3, which brings to life the six basic types of machines with fun and engaging demonstrations.

Most popular OMNIMAX® film with school visitors: Great Bear Rainforest

Science School Celebrated 40 years and the graduation of 50 excited students.



CREATING INCLUSIVE LEARNING SPACES

We are proud to play an important role in helping to create inclusive learning spaces for students, families and educators. In February, we offered two free virtual professional development workshops focused on facilitating inquiry-based learning in an inclusive classroom setting.

The Importance of Indigenous Perspectives in STEM

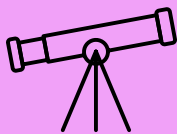
Joseph Pitawanakwat of Creators Garden and Haley Higdon of Natural Curiosity joined us to discuss the value of Indigenous perspectives in STEM.

Black Youth Thriving in STEM: Setting Optimal Conditions for Deep Learning in the Senior Sciences

Tigist Amdemichael from the Toronto District School Board joined us to explore inclusive education practices and how they can benefit Black students.

1,000+
educators registered for the PD workshops

LOOKING AHEAD



Access Science and STEAM Residency programs are both running in 2023, as well as an event supported by ScienceUpFirst to connect youth from priority neighbourhoods to scientists who specialize in BIPOC health education and science misinformation.



“

We know how important it is for kids to see themselves in science. As science communicators and educators, we do our part by helping to create better learning conditions for students that incorporate their communities and cultures, and affirm their identities.”

— MOSES VELASCO

DIRECTOR LEARNING PROGRAMS, ONTARIO SCIENCE CENTRE

BUILDING SCIENCE CAPITAL

To better understand the status of STEM education for learners from marginalized communities—and in anticipation of Ontario’s updated elementary science curriculum—research collaboration was undertaken by the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) along with the Ontario Science Centre, funded by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council. Research included looking at the pedagogies, practices and policies that are or could be happening to improve STEM education for learners in marginalized social groups. This report is helpful as we continue to shape our work in STEM education. We see potential partnerships with STEM-focused community organizations and school boards, which underscores our commitment to building science capital, being a vibrant hub of accessible education and broadening our reach as an organization.

“

I highly recommend artists to work with the Ontario Science Centre. They have been incredibly engaged and supportive. They collaborated in important discussions and activated team building as well as helped to realize the production and dissemination of vital aspects of our shared project.”

— JASON BAERG

AN ARTIST, CURATOR, DESIGNER, EDUCATOR AND REGISTERED MEMBER OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO



2021-22 ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

The Science Centre was honoured to work with the innovative visual artist Jason Baerg on interactive projects, including **Sôhkêpayin** and **Imagine the Year 2161**, which encourage participants to consider Indigenous ways of knowing while imagining what the world will look like in the future.

BUILDING COMMUNITY



Vax the East

In partnership with the City of Toronto, Michael Garron Hospital and East Toronto Health Partners, the Ontario Science Centre hosted a two-day clinic with Thorncliffe Park Community Hub in an effort to raise COVID-19 vaccination rates in our neighbourhood. More than 1,700 people were vaccinated—and more than 1,000 redeemed a voucher to visit the Science Centre. Win, win!



Innovation in Mas' Award

Since 2010, the Ontario Science Centre has awarded the Innovation in Mas' Award to Toronto Caribbean Carnival designers. An example of long-standing community connection, this award recognizes the feats of engineering and material science that go into making the stunning costumes on display each summer. This year's winner, Nevaeh, the Heavenly Queen, was featured at the Science Centre in September.



Community Reef

This exhibit is an immersive experience in community collaboration that embraces the intersection of science and art. Hundreds of crafters across Ontario picked up their crochet hooks to create these colourful corals.

YOUTH-FOR-YOUTH (Y4Y) INNOVATION PROGRAM

For the second summer, the Science Centre welcomed students from the Thorncliffe Park and Flemingdon Park communities. Participants in the Youth-for-Youth (Y4Y) Innovation Program went behind the scenes to meet employees who keep the Science Centre running—carpenters, machinists, animal care experts, animators, scientists, designers and more. These staff helped mentor the participants as they worked together in groups to develop solution-based design projects to address needs they identified in their communities.

Students were exposed to potential career paths as they made connections and sharpened their problem-solving skills in this one-of-a-kind innovation program. They learned how STEM and design thinking play key roles in addressing some of the biggest challenges faced not only in their own communities, but in communities around the globe.

Scotiabank

“

Scotiabank is proud to support the Youth-for-Youth Innovation Program and empower students from underserved areas through STEM learning and mentorship. We believe that together we can create a more inclusive and resilient world by removing barriers to advancement and increasing access to opportunities for everyone.”

With the generous support of Scotiabank, this program was offered free for all participants. Students received a stipend on completion of the program, as well as having transit costs paid, where applicable.

“

What struck me during every session was when Audrey Gabay [of the Toronto Beekeeping Collective] came to talk to us about bees. At first, all of the participants were scared, but then they all loved it—they wanted to pass around the bees and touch the hives.”

—UROOBA SHAIKH

PROGRAM FACILITATOR, Y4Y



BEHIND RACISM: CHALLENGING THE WAY WE THINK

This informative and interactive exhibition was on display at the Ontario Science Centre from February 23 to April 24 with no general admission required. It is in high-demand and has travelled to other venues across Canada including Winnipeg and Halifax.

The exhibition and its tour are presented by the Canadian Race Relations Foundation (CRRF) with the generous support of the Government of Canada and in partnership with Mosaic Institute, the Ontario Science Centre and the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

“

This exhibition serves as a means for individuals to gain a deeper understanding of themselves, how their everyday interactions, behaviours and decisions can impact others, and how to work towards dismantling and dispelling harmful racial stereotypes wherever and whenever they arise in society.”

— **MOHAMMED HASHIM**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CANADIAN RACE RELATIONS FOUNDATION

DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & ANTI-RACISM

Our goal at the Ontario Science Centre has always been to create a space—physical and psychological—that is welcoming to our visitors, staff and partners. We are committed to continue to examine and address systemic racism and bias within our organization, and also to play a role in our community to fight racism and work to bring about real social change.



— **LILIAN MA**

FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CANADIAN RACE RELATIONS FOUNDATION.

INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS

We welcomed **Indigenous Ingenuity: An Interactive Exhibition** in the fall along with **REGALIA: Indigenous Pride**. Both were presented at the Ontario Science Centre in partnership with Lead Sponsor University of Waterloo and Supporting Sponsor Ontario Power Generation.



Gimaa Stacey Laforme, Chief of the Mississaugas of the Credit, spoke at a special event held on November 24 for Indigenous partners, sponsors and friends of the Ontario Science Centre to welcome them to experience Indigenous Ingenuity & REGALIA.

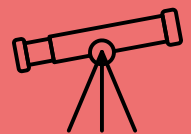


“

Projects like Indigenous Ingenuity are vital in fostering dialogue and bringing awareness to the stories, experiences and immeasurable contributions of Indigenous peoples to our world. This exhibition is just one way we can strengthen knowledge and celebrate Indigenous achievements.”

— **SAVANNAH SLOAT**
MANAGER, SCIENCE INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES,
UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

LOOKING AHEAD



We are working to deepen our relationships with Indigenous communities and create meaningful partnerships with Indigenous organizations and elders. Our commitment to incorporating more Indigenous content throughout the Ontario Science Centre year-round, integrating Indigenous ways of knowing and Indigenous languages into our exhibitions, programs and offerings, remains strong.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.



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