Invent the Future
When a child visits the Ontario Science Centre, her eyes light up. An adult thinks, “what does this mean?” A thirteen-year-old says, “wow, that’s cool. Can I do it?”
People of all ages are amazed and delighted by the wonders of science. It is the most powerful tool we have to address the challenges of our world.

At the Ontario Science Centre, visitors become more informed and innovative citizens who are inspired and equipped to create a better future.
Understanding our Changing World

The world around us is constantly changing. Science enables us to perceive our impact, and adapt to the ever-shifting environment in which we live. When we encourage understanding of how things work and foster innovative thinking, people become more capable of finding inventive solutions to complex problems. Our knowledge of human health, energy resources, technology, the environment, and space evolves constantly. We must create a culture of innovation to address the issues that affect our lives, our planet and our future.

Basic science literacy is essential if the world is to move forward in the right direction. Every one of us—no matter how old we are, what we do, or where we come from—must participate in the dialogue and potential responses to pressing issues such as climate change, renewable resources, technology development and healthcare.

Equally important, we must nurture curiosity and inquiry, and support skills of critical thinking, problem solving, exploration and collaboration in our young people. We must provide our children—from toddlers to teenagers—with the tools they need to be innovative problem solvers, informed decision makers, and impactful leaders of the future.

The Ontario Science Centre needs your help to connect more people to science today for a better future tomorrow.

The Ontario Science Centre is the public centre for innovative thinking and provocative dialogue around science and technology. We encourage and inspire visitors to understand and engage with science locally, nationally and globally.

The Ontario Science Centre is one of Canada's most visited cultural attractions, with over one million on-site visitors each year and two million more online and off-site.

We offer the largest museum-based education program in Canada, attracting an average of 200,000 Ontario school students and teachers each year.
Inspire Curiosity, Discovery & Action

A growing body of evidence*, contends that one of the best ways to increase public understanding of science is through free-choice science learning centres, where participants explore science in their own ways and enjoy doing it.

The Ontario Science Centre has been at the forefront of interactive science learning since its inception in 1969 and continues to be a world leader in hands-on inquiry-based experiences for visitors of all ages. We are the major centre in Canada that connects the general public to science, stimulating a lifelong journey of curiosity, discovery and action.

Children are rock stars, doctors and roller coaster engineers in KidSpark. Students experiment with paper airplanes and study aerodynamics in the Weston Family Innovation Centre.

Adults and kids work together to create masterfully built bridges, and first-time filmmakers race against the clock making short videos that show the world science like it’s never been seen before. Visitors are awe-inspired by special exhibitions like BODY WORLDS that increase their understanding of critical health issues, motivating them to make healthier life choices. Experiences like these help people to think about and engage with science of local, national and global relevance.

When they leave the Ontario Science Centre, people not only have a smile on their face—they look at themselves and their world differently.

At the Ontario Science Centre, curiosity is rewarded. Discovery is fun. Action is inspired.

*American Scientist, Volume 98, 2010
“The program for my class was perfect! We’ve just begun to study matter and the Science Centre experience really helped students understand it in a dynamic, memorable, ‘cool’, fascinating and lively way!”

Grade 5 Teacher, Downsvie Public School

“Our family visits the Science Centre because it is fun. It’s a place for all the ‘why’ questions. We explore and discover, and I learn as much as my daughter does. The Science Centre is uniquely important because it inspires and educates children about the value of science—while they play.”

Mark Cohon, Chair of the Ontario Science Centre Board of Trustees (2006–2012) and Chair of the Innovators Circle

In a recent national survey, 94% of Canadian university students said that trips to science centres and museums increased their interest in science and technology.
“Today was the best day of my life.”

Diego, Robot Building Workshop participant
The Ontario Science Centre needs your help to connect more people to science today for a better future tomorrow.
Inventing Our Future & Yours

To achieve our purpose of increasing science literacy through active engagement with science, we must constantly develop new experiences that are highly relevant to current and future issues. We must become the primary resource for teachers and students, linking science and technology to the broader curriculum, and kindling student awareness of the value of science in their daily lives. We must expand community access and outreach to enable more people to visit the Ontario Science Centre.

Donor support will allow us to create impactful science experiences, deliver excellence in science education, and reach more people in our communities.

Our three key priorities are:
· Create New Science Experiences That Explore Today’s Challenges
· Deliver Excellence in Science Education
· Open The Doors to Everyone

“We had to come up with new designs for a paper airplane and mine won! It was so much fun trying to figure out how to build things better.”

Jamie, Grade 7

“We spent the day at the Ontario Science Centre. I love this place, makes me feel like a kid again! Learning is fun!”

@thelemia

“Toronto is a prosperous city, but sadly there are many people who are financially unable to enjoy all the Science Centre has to offer. We are proud to provide support to open up the wonder, excitement and inspiration of science to thousands in our community.”

Joe and Laurissa Canavan
Supporters and Co-Chairs
Ontario Science Centre’s 2011 LG Innovators’ Ball
Create New Science Experiences That Explore Today’s Challenges

The Ontario Science Centre will create original exhibits and experiences that connect people with science that matters today, igniting their curiosity, leading them to discovery, and challenging them to action. New science experiences will be highly relevant, exploring issues of human welfare and the future of our planet. Donors will support exhibitions currently in development including a dynamic exhibition that explores health, fitness, sport, nutrition and the human body, providing insights into the limits and potential of the incredible human machine. Also under consideration are: an exhibition that examines the complex relationship between the energy crisis and our planet’s precarious climate; an exhibition that takes a scientific and compassionate approach to unraveling the mysteries of the diseases that are called cancer; and a redevelopment of our basic science and perception hall to incorporate inventions and ideas from many world cultures.

Each of these exhibitions will be thought-provoking and action-inspiring, and will equip visitors with new knowledge to make informed decisions and active choices in their own lives and our world.

Outside the walls of the Centre could be a new urban nature experience—an extraordinary offering of nature trails, interpretive content and innovative programming providing public access to the Centre’s adjacent woodlands and wetland to increase appreciation for nature.
Deliver Excellence In Science Education

We will connect with students in ways that capture their imagination—linking science and technology to diverse subjects such as mathematics, music, physical education and social studies. The Science Centre will be the first place that teachers and students turn to for extended classroom learning. New science experiences will be geared to today’s learners and educators, bringing greater value, relevance and increased learning opportunities. Donor support will enable us to integrate curriculum linkages into exhibition halls in new ways that connect science to the everyday lives of students and inspire them to pursue further science-related education.

Open The Doors To Everyone

There are people in our community who cannot afford admission to the Ontario Science Centre—adults, children and families. Through our Community Passes and other outreach programs, we currently provide access to 70,000 people annually who otherwise could not visit the Science Centre. But there are many more people who need our help to come here. We cannot reach these people without donor support.

Equally important are children who do not attend the Ontario Science Centre on school field trips due to the cost of transportation and admission. These youth are just as deserving of the benefits of a Science Centre experience and are important to our society’s future capabilities for innovation.

Through our Adopt-a-Class program, we currently reach 30,000 students a year, approximately 40% of the children attending identified schools in underserved Toronto neighbourhoods. But we have the capacity to host 100% of these students, if we had the funding.

Our goal is to provide access annually to as many as 250,000 people who could otherwise not afford to visit the Science Centre. The opportunity to build a better Ontario and to foster social cohesion through increased public engagement with science is tremendous, and we will only be able to achieve this with gifts from donors.
Science for a Better Future

The Ontario Science Centre stimulates curiosity, enables discovery, and inspires action. It enhances the well-being, education, achievement, attitudes and skills of current and future generations. Our goal is to engage more people in science, for the better future of our world. We cannot rely on public funding alone to accomplish this vision—today more than half of our operating resources come from admission and program revenues, memberships and donations, and sales of our exhibits and services around the world. We need donor support now to engage more people and promote the value of science for all.

“The ideas and attitudes that were planted during my semester at Science School slowly germinated in me over the following years. I realized how important science communication is, and I started writing articles for the newspaper and science experiments for kids’ science clubs. I want to help people realize that science infiltrates everyone’s life and that science isn’t just for nerds.”

Abigale Miller, Graduate 2001
Ontario Science Centre Science School (Immersive onsite school for Ontario Grade 12 students)

“As a kid, my visits to the Ontario Science Centre left a big impression. In fact, it sparked my interest in technology and helped me set a course for my career.”

Joe Natale, President, TELUS Consumer Solutions

“We have to be scientifically literate to confront the scientific, technological and ecological challenges of our time. The Ontario Science Centre has played a vital role in informing and educating us.”

David Suzuki
“Visiting the Science Centre makes me think about things I’ve used my whole life. I look at the bus I’m riding and wonder, how was it made? What fuel does it use? Would we be better off with electric buses, or ones with solar cells?”

Perdita, Adult Science Centre Visitor
“As you visit the exhibits of the Ontario Science Centre, you will see that science and technology are everywhere. It shapes and rules our world. It is essential to the progress of our society, and allows us to stay healthier, go farther, fly higher. Indeed, with a bit of rocket science, even the earth can be at our feet. Dare to dream!”

Julie Payette, Canadian Astronaut
Join us. Invent the future.