



Dear Siena,

A new year is often accompanied by a curiosity for what's to come, an appetite for something new, and a resolve for a better future.

While the team at CASC is certainly entering 2025 with a hungry curiosity and excited energy, we'd be remiss if we didn't acknowledge that there are some very real challenges taking up space. From fires raging around the world, to shifting political conversations, to harmful changes from inclusion to exclusion, **we appreciate that this new year might be greeting you with some uncertainty.**

It's our hope that in the face of these challenges, you feel a sense of belonging within the CASC community. The challenges 2025 is presenting are also a reminder of the importance of our work together. **As we kick off the new year**, we promise to continue to provide the best available professional development, community support, and advocacy on behalf of our sector, so that you can continue the important work of cultivating a joy of STEM learning in your communities, across Canada and around the world.

I hope you'll read on and **find an opportunity to join us** - whether at a Community of Practice gathering, at one of our partner events, or at our annual conference. I'll also remind you that GlueUp, our online association platform, is a great way to reach out to one another. If you are experiencing any barriers to accessing what CASC has to offer, please don't hesitate to reach out.

As always, **thank you for being part of this growing and thriving community.** We're so glad you're here.

Thank you,
Dr. Marianne Mader
CEO, CASC

CASC Housekeeping

Renew your CASC memberships! If you are the primary contact for your membership, you should've received emails about membership renewal. If you have not received an email, or it has been sent to the wrong email address, please reach out to us at info@casc-accs.com.



Early Bird Registration NOW OPEN!

Join us in St. John's, Newfoundland for CASC 2025, hosted by Johnson Geo Centre. This year's conference theme is *From Sea to Space: Sustainable Innovation in Action*. At the heart of this year's conference is the recognition that relationships—between disciplines, industries, ecosystems, and communities—are crucial to fostering sustainable innovation.

Early bird rates are available until March 14, 2025. For more information and to register, [visit our website](#).

Bursaries

To encourage a diverse and inclusive conference environment, CASC is once again pleased to provide subsidies for CASC 2025.

These subsidies are available to attendees from equity-deserving groups, including those who identify as Racialized, Black, and/or People of colour; people with disabilities (including invisible and episodic disabilities); 2SLGBTQ+ and/or gender and sexually diverse individuals; and/or First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples.

To apply for subsidy, please [submit this form](#) to confirm you identify with one or more of these groups.

As well, if you are requesting funds to cover the cost of travel and accommodations, you will need to provide a budget estimate. For your reference, CASC has secured a preferred rate with Sheraton Hotel Newfoundland. The **preferred rate is \$249/night** + 15% HST and 4% Tourism levy. For details on these accommodations, [visit our website](#).

The **deadline to submit your application for bursary is Friday, January 31, 2025**. We will review and respond to your request by Friday, February 7, 2025.



CASCADÉ Award Nominations are NOW OPEN!

Nominations are now open for the 2025 CASCADÉ awards! They will take place at this year's CASC Conference in St John's Newfoundland, on June 10-12, 2025. **The deadline to submit nominations is March 31, 2025.**

To learn more about this year's qualifying categories for Individual and Organizational members, [visit our website](#). If you have questions, reach out to info@casc-accs.com.

CASC Communities of Practice

CASC's Communities of Practice are a great way to connect with other CASC members to learn about topics that matter to our community. We invite you to join those that are relevant to you and your work. If you're not sure which community of practice is best for you, reach out to us at info@casc-accs.com.

> Indigenous Practitioners CoP

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 5

The Indigenous Community of Practice with Dr. Melanie Goodchild.

This CoP is open to all CASC colleagues who self-identify as First Nations, Inuit and Metis. To register, please fill out the form below.

Register today

> **Educators and Programmers CoP**
Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 18
Theme: Digital Literacy and AI, Part 2

Hello to our Educators and Programmers! February 18 will be our second presentation around Digital and AI Literacy, following our first part in January. We look forward to seeing you all there once again.

If you'd like to join this CoP, click [here](#) to join the email list, receive monthly meeting invitations, and access shared resources.

Join the email list

> **Together Against Misinformation CoP**
Next Meeting: 2025

Our last CoP for the year was October 1, 2024. We will reconvene in the new year to discuss campaign activities. In the meantime, **if you want access to session recordings and supporting materials, please join the CoP (via this [form](#)) and sign up for the Glue Up community.**

I want to join

From ScienceUp First, an initiative of CASC

> **The Freestyle Socials Training Course**

CASC's ScienceUpFirst initiative is pleased to announce our partnership with the Science Everywhere team to offer our members **free early access to the Freestyle Socials Training Course**. The Freestyle Socials Training Course is a **self-paced one-stop-shop** for running Freestyle Socials with your audiences and communities. The **course includes video and written material** that overviews the game's philosophy and scientific underpinnings, demonstrations and commentary of the game in action, how-to guides, pre-packaged game materials, and live support. Additional materials -- including a comprehensive video training series -- will roll out in the weeks following the beta-version launch.

To learn more about the game, **watch a replay** of the Freestyle Socials Live webinar we hosted this past August. The course beta **launches in early 2025** so keep an eye on your inbox for updates.

> **Save The Date: Love Your Brain: A Galentine's Gathering on Women's Brain Health**

February 11, 2025

6:30pm - 8:30pm

The Arrell Family Foundation Auditorium, McCain Complex Care & Recovery Building, 2nd Floor, CAMH, 1025 Queen Street West, Toronto, ON

This event is hosted by **CAMH, in partnership with the Women's Health Research Cluster, CASC's ScienceUpFirst initiative** and womenmindtm.

Pregnancy, menopause, hormonal contraceptive use, and hormone therapy significantly impact women's health and disease risk. However, female-specific health issues and factors are underfunded and understudied. In fact, only ~3% of recent neuroscience and psychiatry studies were conducted exclusively in females.

Join us on International Day of Women and Girls in Science for an empowering and educational evening dedicated to women's brain health. Our panel of experts will dive into the science of how puberty, pregnancy, post-partum, and menopause impact female brain health.

Learn more and RSVP here!

*Please note this in-person panel discussion will be in English. The event will be live-streamed and online tickets will be available in the coming weeks. Live translation through Wordly will be available.

Community Updates

> **Nature Labs: An immersive learning platform for students using nature**

Nature Labs is a **free virtual high school textbook and immersive learning platform** that uses nature as a captivating metaphor to bring the lessons of five high school subjects to life through story, connecting students to Canadian experts and real-world issues. Nature Labs helps make Canadian high school curricula relatable and relevant, allowing students to unleash their curiosity, think more critically, and act more creatively in all that they do. Learn more in their **introductory classroom**.

> **Digitizing the Science Museum Collection – the Power of Technology to Scale up Digitization and Open-up Collections to Online Audiences**

The CASC are delighted to be partnering with Henry Stewart Events for their upcoming conference on February 6 – DAM and Museums 2025! In this virtual event, you'll learn how a Digital Asset Management system is becoming the creative link between technology and art.

The conference program features representatives from the Met, Ingenium – Canada's Museums of Science and Innovation, and the Science Museum Group plus many more. **View the full conference program here.**

> **A Dedicated Spotlight on Smaller Cultural Institutions**

Focused discussions will dive deep into the real-world obstacles of tight budgets, limited staff, and the critical need to implement digital asset management (DAM) and collections management systems with minimal resources.

Never has there been a more vibrant motivation for the museum community to come together, share experiences and celebrate a collective sense of togetherness.

Can't make it on the day? Sessions will be available to view on-demand once you register!

Register here for \$39 (please note additional rates apply for those who do not work in Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums, or for a non-profit, and Consultants)

Opportunities

> **Nominations for The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching are open!**

The **PAEMST** is the highest recognition the United States government bestows upon K–12 STEM teachers, with up to 110 awardees each year. Awardees receive a certificate signed by the President; a trip to Washington, D.C., to attend a series of recognition events and professional development opportunities; a \$10,000 award from NSF; and the chance to join a prestigious cadre of more than 5,200 previous awardees from across the nation. The award can be life-changing for the teachers who receive it. **Please nominate today!** Contact paemst@nsf.gov with any questions.

The Canadian Association of Science
Centres is a registered charity.
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Make a donation

Visit our website

OUR MISSION

CASC empowers a national network of organizations who champion Science and Innovation by making science approachable, relevant, and accessible.

OUR VISION

Canada has a thriving science and innovation culture of engaged citizens.



Powered by Glue Up

All-in-one CRM Software for Growing Communities