



Dear Siena,

With the warmer weather and sunshine in our sights, we have much to look forward to.

We're just one month away from our annual conference, and the excitement is really building! The team is working tirelessly to bring you a truly special conference experience including unique ways of connecting with the community and culture of beautiful St. John's. If you haven't yet, **check out the conference website and schedule** for more information.

We are also really excited about the recently announced Accelerator Program – **Niigani Miinigowiziwin (We Give These Gifts to the Future)**. This transformative, collective learning journey will support CASC Members as you grow your relationships with local Indigenous communities and engage more deeply with Indigenous Knowledge Systems. Read on for more details and to submit your application.

We know that CASC members and our growing network of informal science educators are heading into a busy season. We know that summer brings kids and families of all ages through your doors, to your summer camps and out into your communities. As CASC looks to the summer to evaluate and plan support for you and the important work that you do, we hope you'll stay connected with us and your CASC colleagues to share your insights and inspire one another. Reach out on GlueUp or send an email to **info@casc-accs.com**.

As always, thank you for being here.

Dr. Marianne Mader  
CEO, CASC



### > CASCADE Award nominees

🏆 We're excited to share the **nominees for the 2025 CASCADE awards!** 🏆

The 2025 CASCADE Awards take place during this year's CASC Conference in St John's, Newfoundland. We will celebrate this year's nominees and award winners during a **lunch reception on Thursday, June 12, 2025**. Stay tuned for news about this year's winners!

#### **Category 1: \$1M and over | Catégorie 1 : 1M\$ et plus**

- **Cosmodome** - L'exposition Destination: l'espace
- **TakingITGlobal** - Connected North Science Sessions
- **Science North** - Our Climate Quest: Small Steps to Big Change

#### **Category 2: \$250,000 to \$1 million | Catégorie 2 : 250 000 \$ à 1 million de dollars**

- **TELUS Spark** - BLUprint
- **TELUS Spark** - Quantum Sandbox
- **Musee Armand Frappier** - Ça Chauffe! Cool it
- **Ripley's Aquarium** - Dragons
- **Ingenium** - Snootli Hatchery Visitor Centre

#### **Category 3: \$50,000 to \$250,00 | Catégorie 3 : 50 000 \$ à 250 00**

- **Centre des sciences de Montréal** - Fabrik2 – défis créatifs
- **Lotus STEMM** - Multilingual and multicultural science communication
- **Discovery Centre** - ECLIPSE 2024.04.08
- **Ontario Science Centre** - Three Communities, Three Events (Indigenous Celebrations, Celebrating Black Excellence and Pride in STEM)

## Niiganii Miinigowiziiwin (We Give These Gifts to the Future) Accelerator Program



CASC is now accepting applications to **The Niiganii Miinigowiziiwin (We Give These Gifts to the Future) Accelerator Program** – a transformative, collective learning journey to support CASC Members as they grow relationships with local Indigenous communities and engage more deeply with Indigenous Knowledge Systems.

Based on transformative systems change practices, this program is designed for CASC members who are somewhere along their journey of strengthening relationships with local Indigenous communities and have started down the path of braiding Indigenous wisdom into their operations, outreach and education initiatives.

This first-of-its-kind program will be facilitated by Systems Changer in Residence and world-renowned Indigenous Systems Scholar **Dr. Melanie Goodchild**, Vice President of Indigenous Knowledge, Scholarship and Research at Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig and

Founder of the Shingwauk Indigenous Knowledge Systems Lab, in partnership with the globally-recognized **Presencing Institute** and systems change leaders at **Wolf Willow Institute**. Upon completion of the Accelerator Program, participants will be granted a micro credential from **Shingwauk Kinooomaage Gamig**.

All CASC STEM Engagement and Industry members have received an invitation to participate in the program application process. **The deadline to complete the application is Monday, May 26.**

If you have not received your invitation or if you have any questions, please contact Amanda at [amanda.f@casc-accs.com](mailto:amanda.f@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](mailto:info@casc-accs.com).

### > Indigenous CoP

**Next meeting: Monday, June 9, in person at the 2025 CASC Conference**

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

**June 17, 2025**

**THEME: RECAP: Debriefing the 2025 CASC Conference**

Our Educators and Programmers community of practice is an opportunity for our members within these fields to connect and learn from each other. Based on feedback from our CoP, we establish a monthly theme with presenters so that our members can engage and go back to their centres informed and ready to create!

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**

## > National Environmental Learning Leaders CoP: A partnership between CASC and EECOM

**Next Meeting: TO BE CONFIRMED**

Leading ongoing conversations and opportunities from our organizations to learn from each other.

This CoP is designed for members of CASC, EECOM or anyone who is affiliated with an environmental organization and might be interested. Contact us at [info@casc-accs.com](mailto:info@casc-accs.com) for more information.

Learn more about this CoP

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## From ScienceUp First, an initiative of CASC

### > Freestyle Socials Training Course

**The Freestyle Socials Training Course** is now available to CASC members for free from now until March 2026. You can watch our short explainer video to learn about Freestyle Socials, the course and the year-long program in under twenty minutes.

**Watch the explainer video**

Thanks to those who attended our May 6th info session, check out our new FAQ page to learn more about the program. If you have any additional questions, please reach out to [Krishana.S@casc-accs.com](mailto:Krishana.S@casc-accs.com).

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## Members spotlight

### > code Béluga: A collaborative science project on biodiversity in the St. Lawrence

Espace pour la vie and Génome Québec are inviting the public to take part in a collaborative science activity aimed at better understanding the state of biodiversity in the St. Lawrence Estuary by analyzing the environmental DNA contained in a simple water sample. At the heart of this project is the beluga whale, Quebec's emblematic sentinel species.

Following a protocol established by Génome Québec, and with the support of the Biodôme's education team, the public is invited to come and take water samples containing environmental DNA. These samples will then be analyzed at the Centre d'expertise et de services Génome Québec. The results will be available for research and for the public.

### **Learn more about this project.**

#### **> Pacific Museum of Earth awarded national grant for Mineral Journeys digital outreach project**

Pacific Museum of Earth has been awarded a Digital Projects grant from Digital Museums Canada to develop *Mineral Journeys*, an interactive online learning experience for Canadian classrooms. Featuring six minerals from our mineral collection—including critical minerals like lithium, cobalt, and copper—the project will use a choose-your-own-adventure format to follow each mineral’s geologic formation, global movement, and human use across time and place. Users will explore the interconnections between Earth systems and human activity, along with the social and environmental challenges tied to mineral extraction and use. Mineral Journeys was one of only eight projects selected from over 100 applications this year—and the only science-based initiative funded.

### **Learn more about the awarded grant project.**

#### **NASA International Space Apps Challenge 2025 Local Lead Application – Now Open!**

On October 4-5, the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) will be participating in the **NASA International Space Apps Challenge** for the 9th consecutive year! In 2024, we had a record-breaking number of 1,800 participants, thanks to the involvement of devoted people who organized local events in their community.

The **2025 local lead application is now open**. If you are interested in hosting a local event for a specific city, please apply on the NASA Space Apps Challenge webpage by June 1st, 2024.

You want to know more about the Space Apps Challenge? If you have questions regarding the roles and responsibilities of a local lead, please contact the CSA:

[gouvernementouvert-opengovernment@asc-csa.gc.ca](mailto:gouvernementouvert-opengovernment@asc-csa.gc.ca).

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## **Industry Updates**

#### **> 2024 Science Writers and Communicators of Canada Book Awards Entries**

The Science Writers and Communicators of Canada (SWCC) is pleased to share this year’s SWCC Book Awards Full List of Entries, comprised of over 60 titles in science writing for both general and youth audiences published in the past year (2024). The winners will be announced in September, including the *Paradigm Prize for Underrepresented Perspectives in Science Writing*.

#### **View all the entries for this year’s SWCC Book Awards!**

#### **> NB Lung: Let’s Make Clean Air Day 2025 a Success**

Clean Air Day is an opportunity to engage with communities, promote healthier lifestyles, and take meaningful steps toward improving the air we all share. This initiative highlights the role of public transit in creating cleaner air but also provides an accessible way for people to participate in the movement.

This year, NB Lung invites you to **host a Clean Air Day event** to celebrate and educate your community about the importance of clean air. Whether it's a walking or cycling event, an educational workshop, or a virtual panel discussion, your efforts can make a lasting impact.

### Why participate?

- **Improve air quality:** Transportation is one of Canada's largest contributors to air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. By promoting sustainable transportation, we can reduce harmful pollutants and protect public health.
- **Engage your community:** Clean Air Day events foster community spirit, raise awareness, and empower individuals to take action for cleaner air.
- **Support a healthier future:** Cleaner air means fewer health risks, reduced hospital visits, and a better quality of life for everyone.

To make your Clean Air Day celebration a success, they've created a **suite of resources** to support your efforts. Reach out to [andrew.holloway@nblung.ca](mailto:andrew.holloway@nblung.ca) to share your event details or request assistance with transit coordination.

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## Opportunities

### > Learning for a Sustainable Future: Lecture on climate solutions and education

Learning for a Sustainable Future (LSF) invites you to join us for the 6th annual **Dr. David V.J. Bell Memorial Lecture** taking place virtually on Wednesday, June 18th, 2025 from 7-8pm (ET).

The featured speaker this year is Dr. Jonathan Foley, Executive Director of **Project Drawdown**, the world's leading resource for climate solutions. The lecture will also feature the exclusive release of LSF's 3rd climate change and education survey report ***From Awareness to Action: Canadians on Climate Change and Education***. The session will explore trends in what Canadians think about climate change, the role of education, what climate change education is currently happening in classrooms, and how schools can move from awareness to meaningful action. There is no charge to attend.

Please register by visiting [LSF-LST.ca/lecture](https://www.lsf-lst.ca/lecture)

### > Canadian Sciences Speakers Network: A new network opportunity for science speakers

The **Canadian Sciences Speakers Network** provides a registry of researchers, across all disciplines, which will facilitate a more robust and effective means of building collaborations and filling grant panels (for example) than the traditional "word of mouth"

approaches. Innovation flourishes in diverse environments and thus, this platform is aimed at leveraging the incredible diversity in our highly active research community.

This is a not-for-profit initiative that was founded by researchers, for researchers and with research who are keen to enhance our scientific potential through the generation of a new network to promote collaboration and leverage our diversity as Canadians.

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**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.



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