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Dear Siena,

2026 has arrived and we hope you're all easing into it with a curiosity and excitement for great things to come – for you, for your communities and for our network.

We're eager to connect and re-connect with all of you throughout the year, whether it be in person at events like our **annual conference**, and/or online through our many programs and offerings.

We're also eager for you all to connect with one another – to share successes, to learn from each other's experiences, and to revel in the power and potential of the important work of advancing STEM learning across Canada.

Read on to learn more about opportunities to engage with CASC and with each other, as we kick off what we hope will be a year of tremendous growth and transformation for all of us, and the communities we serve.

Thank you,  
Dr. Marianne Mader  
CEO, CASC

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## CASC Housekeeping

> **CASC Member Benefits:** Calling all CASC Member Administrators! Don't miss out on our webinar to hear from our partners at ADP, Castle Builder Financial, and Sterling Brokers about their preferred benefits programs exclusively for CASC members. Join us on **February 12 at 12:30 PM EST**. Register for the webinar [here](#). If you have any questions on these benefits and how they can be applied to your organization, reach out to [info@casc-accs.com](mailto:info@casc-accs.com).



APRIL 28-30  
SUDBURY  
28-30 AVRIL



Curiosity **Unleashed**  
La curiosité en éveil

> **Get your Early Bird tickets for CASC 2026!**

Join us in Sudbury, ON for CASC 2026, hosted by Science North. Early bird rates are available until February 16, 2026. [Register here.](#)

> **CASC 2026 Conference subsidies**

CASC is once again pleased to provide conference subsidies for CASC members from equity-deserving communities. To apply for a subsidy, please [submit this form](#). The deadline to submit your application for bursary is Friday, January 31, 2026.



> **Nominate your colleagues or organization for the 2026 CASCADE Awards!**

We are still looking for nominations in two categories: Institutional Awards and Individual Awards. We hope you'll take part in celebrating your CASC colleagues! **Nominations close on Tuesday, February 17, 2026.** Submit your nominations [here](#).

## Artemis II + Ask an Astronaut!

We are incredibly excited to bring to you and your community a once in a lifetime opportunity with the Canadian Space Agency (CSA). In a historic first, the **Artemis II** will be launching with astronaut Jeremy Hansen at the helm, marking the first time a Canadian goes on a mission around the moon. It will also be the first crewed mission to the moon since 1972. You can learn more about the launch opportunities [here](#).

In celebration, the CSA is opening the floor to CASC members to field questions directly to Jeremy Hansen throughout the launch's downlink. We would love to see responses from CASC members and/or visitors to your science centres, programs, and museums.

If you and your organization are interested, please send us an email with the question you would like to ask as well as a video recording of the question, the first name and city and province/territory of the person being filmed. \*If the participants are youth from school groups, they can include grade level and the name of their school.

Please note that only 3 questions will be chosen. When sending in your submission, please include **this waiver form**, signed by the filmed party.

Please submit your questions and videos before January 23.

If you have any questions, please reach out to [info@casc-accs.com](mailto:info@casc-accs.com).



## TRC: Calls to Action 10 Years Later

Join us for the third session of our **TRC: Calls to Action 10 Years Later series**.

The goal of these sessions is to remind us all of the importance and impact of these calls to action, and to create a space for us to reflect on what we can do moving forward.

We hope you'll join us again on **Monday, March 2 at 9 am ET and/or 9 am PT** where we'll explore the question: *What is our role in implementing the Calls to Action?*

**Save the date by registering now.**

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## 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.

Below is a brief description of the CoPs we offer. We invite you to join any of our communities of practice that are relevant to you and your work.

Please send us an email at [info@casc-accs.com](mailto:info@casc-accs.com) and let us know which group you'd like to join. If you're not sure which community of practice is best for you, let us know and we'd be happy to help.

### > Educators and Programmers CoP

**Next meeting: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026 at 3PM EST**

**Theme: Research 101: Part Two with Katrina Pisani (Science North)**

The Educators and Programmers CoP was established in 2020. This community is for programming and education staff across the CASC membership. The CoP is a place for sharing, collaboration, and learning. It offers best practices, guidelines, and strategies that lead to quality educational and outreach programming in our science centres, museums and outreach organizations.

Join the email list

### > National Environmental Learning Leaders CoP

**Next meeting: Monday, February 23, 2026 at 1PM EST**

Leading ongoing conversations and opportunities for our organizations (Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication – EECOM) to learn from each other and create a stronger informal environmental education sector.

Join the conversation

### > Science Connection CoP

**Next meeting: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 11 AM PT/ 12 PM MT/ 1 PM CT/ 2 PM ET/  
3 PM AT/ 3:30 PM NT**

**Theme: Centering Equity in Climate Action: A Community-Driven Approach**

The ***Science Connection Community of Practice*** supports Canada's science culture and public engagement ecosystem. This CoP provides an opportunity for members to learn from experts and network with peers across the public engagement ecosystem and access a growing resource library.

**On January 27, 2026** CASC will welcome Dr. Chúk Odenigbo who will explore how equity must be centered in climate action by applying the principles of Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD). Rather than focusing on gaps or deficits, he will highlight how communities already possess valuable knowledge, strengths, and resources that can drive sustainable and just climate solutions. His talk will illustrate how recognizing and elevating these existing assets not only empowers communities but also leads to more resilient, culturally grounded, and effective climate action.

Join the CoP

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## From ScienceUp First, an initiative of CASC

### > Last Call! The Freestyle Socials Training Course

Don't forget that the **Freestyle Socials Training Course** is available to CASC members for free until **March 2026**. Register for the course so your staff can learn all they need to host Freestyle Socials as part of your organization's programming. You can watch our short explainer video or read our **FAQ document** to learn about Freestyle Socials, the course and program in <20 minutes. By signing up for the course you can also access all new questions packs and toolkits before the offer ends.

### > ICYMI: Share what's true, not what's trending

ScienceUpFirst is proud to share our latest campaign helping Canadians get clear, science-backed facts about flu, COVID, HPV, and important vaccines during pregnancy.

Reaching the audiences that really matter requires breaking out of the silo, listening, learning, and working hand-in-hand with communities. That's why we are collaborating with LGBTQIA+, BIPOC, Indigenous, Francophone and Anglophone creators, from different regions and realities.

Our team has been thrilled by their sincere enthusiasm to adapt evidence-based messaging to their voice, their style, and their community.

Videos are now online with more to come in the new year! Please visit our **Science Champions** webpage to watch the videos and more.





## Members spotlight

### > Towards a (New) Science Culture Framework in Canada

A strong science culture is a key contributor to health, innovation, economic growth and both individual and societal well-being. But what is science culture, exactly? How is Canada doing? And what kind of framework do we need to guide improvements?

Building on the valuable framework presented in the Council of Canadian Academies' landmark 2014 report *Science Culture: Where Canada Stands*, this panel, including CASC's very own Dr. Marianne Mader, will explore ways to extend our thinking about Canada's science culture, including policies and strategies for measuring and improving.

**Register here.**

## > **Celebrating the Success of Women in STEM Symposium: Breaking Barriers, Building our Future**

The Office of the Chief Science Advisor (OCSA) and the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) in partnership with the Canadian School of Public Service (CSPS) invite you to join the **Celebrating the Success of Women in STEM Symposium: Breaking Barriers, Building our Future**. CASC's very own Magda Byma, CASC Director of Public Engagement, will be featured alongside several incredible guest speakers.

**Date: February 11 2026**

**Time: 11am to 4pm EST**

This free virtual event brings together the STEM communities from across the Government of Canada, their collaborators and students to mark the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. The symposium will be a unique opportunity for research-related discussions and networking.

**[Register here.](#)**

## > **RCI Science presents RE:SciComm Conference**

Whether you're behind the mic, in front of a classroom, or crafting stories for the screen, RE:SciComm is the place to build your skills, grow your network, and join the national conversation on science engagement and communication. Join them in Toronto, ON, from February 19-20, 2026 to engage in meaningful discussion.

In an era shaped by climate change, public health crises, and rapid advances in AI, the need for effective science communication has never been clearer. Science impacts all of us — but how we talk about it, and who gets heard, matters more than ever. RE:SciComm will dive into the challenges and opportunities of today's engagement landscape, from tackling misinformation to reaching communities historically excluded from science conversations.

**[Register here.](#)**

## > **Telus World of Science-Edmonton: Fundamentals of Communicating Science**

Fundamentals of Communicating Science is part of Making Science Matter, a suite of evidence-based science communication courses. Perfect for early-career science communicators, this course introduces core interaction and communication skills to help participants share science clearly, confidently, and effectively.

Through interactive discussions and skill-building activities, this 3 hour course builds a strong foundation in science communication that can be applied across audiences and formats, including public outreach, informal education, presentations, reports, and online content.

**[Register here.](#)**

## > **Conference-ready: Building high-impact posters and presentations**

On February 12th, join Ingenium's **Conference-ready: Building high-impact posters and presentations** interactive online workshop! Designed for both first-time presenters and experienced professionals, the session equips you with evidence-based science communication techniques you can apply immediately to create conference posters and presentations that stand out, communicate clearly, and are remembered. You'll learn core principles for effective posters and slides: how to maintain a narrow focus and deliver one clear message, how to choose visuals that strengthen your story, and how to use simple design strategies and the assertion–evidence structure to improve clarity and impact.

Write us at [scicomm@ingenium.ca](mailto:scicomm@ingenium.ca) for more information!

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## Opportunities

### > **A National Search to Uncover Biodiversity with BugQuest**

Discover the incredible insect biodiversity living in schoolyards, parks, and backyards across Canada. Starting in 2026, BugQuest invites schools and communities to collect insects using simple, standardized methods and identify them through DNA barcoding.

By taking part, participants help reveal species that often go unnoticed and contribute to Canada's largest ever insect survey.

**Join the quest.**

### > **STAN Virtual Conference: Connected Currents: Navigating Uncertainty Together**

Connected Currents will bring together educators, program directors, community organizers, and advocates from across the STEAM landscape. Through interactive sessions and collaborative workshops, you'll explore how to sustain engagement, promote equity, and maximize impact in a rapidly evolving world.

Join in from February 24-26 to exchange ideas, spark partnerships, and strengthen the collective current that drives science outreach forward.

**Register here.**

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The Canadian Association of Science  
Centres is a registered charity.  
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**Visit our website**

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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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All-in-one CRM Software for Growing Communities