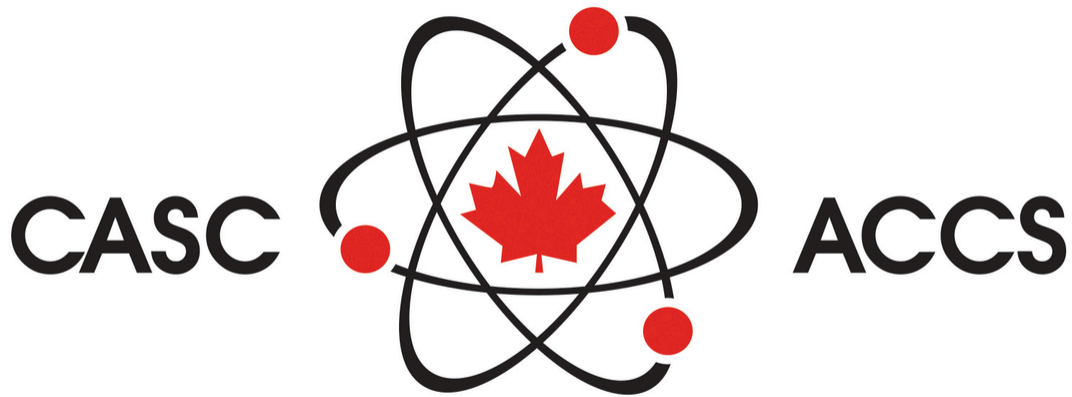


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Dear Siena,

As April unfolds, our team at the Canadian Association of Science Centres is in full stride preparing for the 2026 CASC Conference. This is always an energizing time of year for us. It's filled with collaboration, creativity, and a shared commitment to delivering a meaningful experience for our members and partners.

Behind the scenes, there's a tremendous amount of work underway to bring this year's conference to life. From shaping engaging sessions to coordinating opportunities for connection and learning, our team is focused on creating a space where ideas can be exchanged and our community can continue to grow stronger together.

We are especially looking forward to connecting with many of you in person. The conference is more than just an event—it's a chance to reconnect with colleagues, spark new conversations, and celebrate the important work happening across science centres and museums nationwide.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing engagement and support. We can't wait to see many of you at the 2026 CASC Conference.

For those unable to join us, please stay tuned! As we head into the summer months of planning, there will be plenty to share about our programs and opportunities in the weeks and months ahead.

Thank you,
Dr. Marianne Mader
CEO, CASC



> **Meet the 2026 CASC AWARD Institutional Award Nominees!**

The 2026 CASC AWARD Awards will take place at this year's CASC Conference in Sudbury, on April 29, 2026. The highly anticipated CASC AWARD awards recognize individual CASC members and member organizations for the contributions they've made to Canada's thriving science and innovation culture.

- **Category 1: \$1M and over**
 - Centre des sciences de Montréal - Nanualuk : Expédition Nordique (MSC)
 - Ontario Science Centre - Ontario Science Centre Satellite at CF Sherway Gardens
 - Telus World of Science Edmonton- Northern Coding Academy
 - Supply + Demand - L'homme qui plantait des arbres : un récit immersif

- **Category 2: \$250,000 to \$1 million**
 - Flying Fish & Science World - Artemis Adventure with LEGO® Bricks
 - Musée de l'ingéniosité J. Armand Bombardier - Ma région, ma mobilité
 - Science North - Nature Exchange

- **Category 3: \$50,000 to \$250,000**
 - Telus Spark Science Centre - Paws, Claws and Stars
 - Exploration Place - Explorations Gallery
 - Centre des sciences de Montréal - Fabrik2 – défis créatifs / Fabrik2 – Creativity Factory

- **Category 4: \$50,000 and under**
 - Saskatchewan Science Centre - Girls+ in STEAM
 - Science North - Northern Med Talks

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 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: Building with Buffalo: Expanding STEM Programming through Indigenous Science and Empathy

DATE: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 3PM EST

Presenter: Samantha David, Director, TREDIA Relationships and Initiatives

What does it mean to bring reconciliation into STEM Programming? For many organizations, the answer to this can be very complex and difficult to navigate. Understanding the history of knowledge disruption for Indigenous communities often leads to hard questions about our own roles in revitalizing Indigenous science, and the fear of doing the wrong thing can serve as a powerful deterrent to change.

For Ingenium, the journey into this space began with buffalo. With the repatriation of buffalo across First Nations and Metis communities in the Prairies, interest in buffalo science is facing a resurgence. Building on years of conversation with the Buffalo Culture Collective, a small team set out with the hope of bringing buffalo to Ottawa for the first time. Learn through our experiences creating a land-based learning in an urban setting – putting Indigenous science at the forefront of an otherwise colonial space. Hear about the transformative nature of working with hides, and how navigating difficult conversations in a gentle way can lead to deeply impactful experiences for all. Participants will learn more about etuaptmumk (Two-Eyed Seeing), wahkohtowin (kinship) and how multiple perspectives of knowing and being can mutually benefit research outcomes.

Join the email list

> National Environmental Learning Leaders CoP

MORE UPDATES TO COME!

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

> **It's back! The Science Connection CoP returns this June!**

Curiosity Unleashed: Science Literacy Week 2026 and a Community Reconnected

Presented by the Canadian Association of Science Centres (CASC), *Science Literacy Week* returns October 4–11, 2026, bringing together organizations from across sectors to celebrate curiosity, discovery, and the science woven into everyday life. From museums and schools to community groups, health organizations, libraries, and beyond, this national initiative invites everyone to spark questions, try new ideas, and connect through science.

This year's theme, *Curiosity Unleashed*, is a call to explore, experiment, and embrace the unexpected. Curiosity doesn't require expertise, it thrives on asking "what if?", learning through play, and seeing the world in new ways.

To build momentum ahead of the week, CASC is relaunching the Science Connection Community of Practice (CoP) starting June 4, 2026. This ongoing space will bring people together across disciplines to connect, share experiences, and learn from each other through monthly sessions running from June to October. Whether you work in science, health, education, community engagement, or communications, this is an opportunity to exchange ideas and strengthen your impact in reaching youth and families.

The CoP will kick off with a powerful opening session featuring Lydia Greene, Licensed Practical Nurse and vaccine advocate, presenting *From Anti-Vax to Vaccine Advocate: Lessons in Rebuilding Trust*. Drawing on her lived experience, Lydia will explore how trust in science can be lost and rebuilt, offering valuable insights for anyone working to engage communities, navigate misinformation, and strengthen relationships.

As part of Science Literacy Week 2026, the Science Connection CoP creates space for connection and collaboration while helping to build a stronger, more curious Canada. Registration details will be shared in the coming weeks - stay tuned!

Join the CoP

From ScienceUp First, an initiative of CASC

> **Finally Seen: From Diagnosis to Daily Life**

Join us on May 7, 2026 for a powerful and affirming hybrid panel experience exploring how neurodivergence and mental health intersect in women across the lifespan — in healthcare, relationships, mental health, and everyday life.

Created in collaboration with CAMH, CAMH womenmind™, Women's Health Research Cluster, CAMH Azrieli Adult Neurodevelopmental Centre, and ScienceUpFirst, this event moves beyond the typical conversation around "late diagnosis" to explore something deeper: what it means to be recognized, understood, and supported.

[Learn more and register.](#)

> **Neurodiversity Celebration Week with ScienceUp First**

For Neurodiversity Celebration Week (March 16–20), check out [this post](#) and [factsheet](#) from ScienceUp First in collaboration with CAMH and Immunize Canada on autism!

> **Science Champions Creator Campaign**

The second phase of ScienceUp First's Science Champions campaign on immunization is complete! Check out all the creative, informative and often hilarious content.

[Learn more about the campaign here.](#)

Member spotlight

> **THEMUSEUM - An Evening with Chris Hadfield**

THEMUSEUM is hosting An Evening with Chris Hadfield in Lazaridis Hall at Wilfrid Laurier University on Saturday, May 30, 2026 at 7 pm. They are offering a 10% discount to all CASC Members using the code CASC26

[Click here for the ticket link.](#)

> **Our History Lives Under This Roof!: Bushplane Museum Launches Campaign for Significant Building Repairs**

The Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre launched a major fundraising campaign to raise funds for critical repairs needed to the building. With the campaign tagline “Our heritage lives under this roof,” the museum is inviting the community to help preserve the landmark that not only protects decades of aviation history, but also serves as a vibrant hub for tourism, events, and family-friendly experiences.

In addition to replacing the roofing, the campaign will help to fund a new HVAC system in the main museum hangar and improvements to insulation. Today, museum visitors and staff are greeted not only by iconic aircraft and treasured exhibits, but also by the sight of dozens of red buckets strategically placed to catch water from chronic leaks. While these buckets have become an all-too-familiar feature in the hangar, they are a stark reminder of the urgent need for a long-term solution.

The entire project is estimated to cost \$4.7 million and the Bushplane has tentatively secured 50% of the funding required. Every donation, big or small, makes a difference.

Donations can be made [here](#).

> **MindBlown: Okanagan Science Festival Debuts as the Region's First Science Festival**

Get ready to have your *mind blown*! The Okanagan's very first science festival of its kind, *MindBlown* is set to take over the Okanagan Science Centre from May 21-23, 2026, is packed with hands-on activities, events and *mind blowing* experiences for all ages.

Brought to the community by the Okanagan Science Centre, this three-day celebration brings together community partners, interactive science workshops, fun science events and special guests to create a festival experience unlike anything the region has seen before.

As the first festival of its kind in the region, MindBlown aims to connect the community through shared experiences that celebrate science, innovation, and creativity.

Tickets and full event details available at okscience.ca.

Opportunities

> **ESA: Webinar – Q&A Session on ESA Procurement Processes and Contracts**

The European Space Agency (ESA), in collaboration with the Canadian Space Agency, invites you to participate to the “**Webinar – Q&A Session on ESA Procurement Processes and Contracts**”.

This interactive session aims to allow Canadian organizations to ask questions on how to do business with ESA, including procurement processes, contracts, and best practices for proposal preparation.

Topics covered include:

- How to do business with ESA
- Preparing proposals in response to ESA ITTs
- Best practices for ESA R&D technical proposals

Please submit your questions by April 26, 2026 (6:00 p.m. EDT) at esa_programme-esa_program@asc-csa.gc.ca. [Click here to register via Teams](#)

> **Natural Curiosity Educator Awards**

Natural Curiosity’s awards for exemplary in-service and pre-service educators are now open!

Are you or someone you know an educator or educator candidate with a deep commitment to environmental education? If so, check out the awards application process at naturalcuriosity.ca/awards.

Submissions are accepted now through May 13th!

> **Call for abstracts for SWCC 2026**

SWCC 2026 Montréal explores how science journalists and communicators bridge this growing gulf: turning technical language into meaning, uncertainty into dialogue, and understanding into informed decision-making – and in particular, how our success depends on new frameworks, inclusive practices, and creative means of connection.

Together, we will consider how to keep human judgment, reconciliation, and ethics at the heart of progress, and ensure that scientific knowledge remains understandable, transparent, and inclusive.

Submit your abstracts here. Deadline to submit is May 1, 2026.

> Fundraising and Partner Opportunity - *She Measures the Earth*

Ching Yu, a BIPOC geophysics-trained filmmaker based in Alberta, is currently fundraising for their documentary *She Measures the Earth* on Seed&Spark. The film follows four women scientists in Canada, and is made with an all-women crew.

“As someone trained in geophysics, I rarely saw people like myself in field science or in front of and behind the camera. This film is about shifting that: who gets to belong in science, and how science can be lived, creative, and embodied.”

They are seeking **outreach partners** and **campaign funding**. Once completed, the film will be available for **community and school screenings**, with **bilingual (English/French) educational materials**.

The Canadian Association of Science
Centres is a registered charity.
(# 87543 9861 RR001)

[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.



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All-in-one CRM Software for Growing Communities