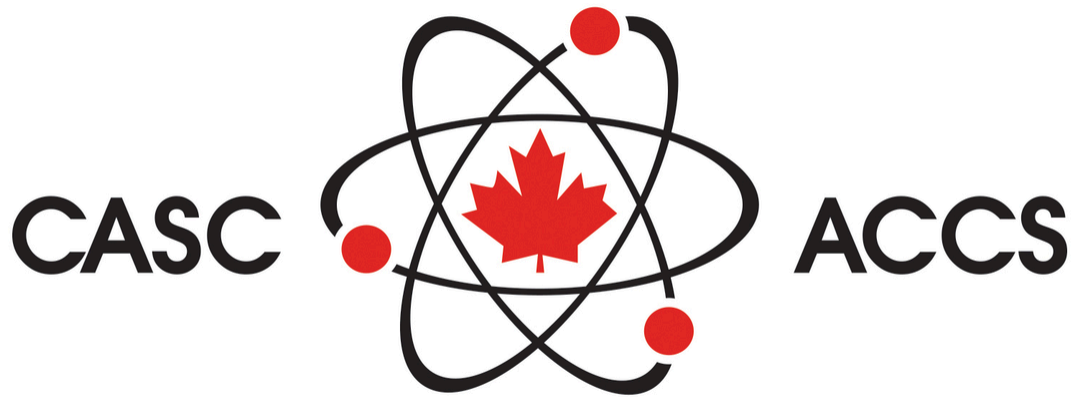


[View this email in your browser](#)



Dear Siena,

As we step into March, we're excited to share the latest updates, opportunities, and highlights from across the CASC network. With spring around the corner, this season brings renewed energy for collaboration, innovation, and community engagement.

In particular, we're looking forward to our annual conference in Sudbury, Ontario and the celebration of our CASCADE Awards. We hope you'll join us for this highly anticipated annual event that brings together brilliant minds from across our growing network.

As always, thank you for your ongoing commitment to the work of this community and the communities you serve.

Thank you,
Dr. Marianne Mader
CEO, CASC



APRIL 28-30
SUDBURY
28-30 AVRIL



Curiosity Unleashed
La curiosité en éveil

> **Full schedule release for CASC 2026**

The schedule for CASC 2026 is live on **our website!** Check it out to see the incredible sessions and speakers we have on the docket this year.

> **Register now for CASC 2026!**

Join us in Sudbury, ON for CASC 2026, hosted by Science North. Register **here on our website** to secure your spot at this year's exciting conference!



> **Meet the 2026 CASCADE Institutional Award Nominees!**

The 2026 CASCADE Awards will take place at this year's CASC Conference in Sudbury, on April 29, 2026. The highly anticipated CASCADE 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: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 3PM EST

Theme: AI, Disinformation & Digital Literacy: Building Gender-Inclusive, Cyber Smart STEM Classrooms

Presenters: Abbey Ramdeo and Mickole Mulano, ACTUA Canada

AI can shape information. Explore its role in gendered bias & disinformation in STEM. Learn to teach digital literacy, spot bias, challenge misinformation and build inclusive classrooms where all learners think critically & engage responsibly with tech.

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 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

> Science Connection CoP

Join the CoP

From ScienceUp First, an initiative of CASC

> 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 currently rolling out. New content from creators is being published throughout this week and until the end of March. [Learn more about the campaign here.](#)

Members spotlight

> TELUS Friendly Future Foundation Student Bursary opportunity

This year, the TELUS Friendly Future Foundation is committed to expanding that impact further by awarding another 650 bursaries to youth facing financial barriers to their education.

Key details for your youth:

- **Application window:** March 16 to March 27, 2026 (Please note: the portal will close early if 1,500 applications are received).
- **Support provided:** Up to \$5,000 in tuition funding, plus access to 24/7 mental health support, low-cost connectivity and career development opportunities.

- **Eligibility:** Students aged 17–29 pursuing their first undergraduate degree or diploma in Canada who demonstrate financial need and a commitment to social impact.
- **Focus on impact, not grades:** This is not a merit-based award. Applications are evaluated on financial need and a student's commitment to community social impact, rather than academic performance.

To learn more about the program and detailed eligibility, [click here](#).

> **Building What's Next: Two Strategic Hires Strengthen Okanagan Science Centres Future.**

The Okanagan Science Centre is entering a pivotal chapter as it prepares for a new, accessible facility designed to serve the growing needs of the region. To support this ambitious next step, the Centre is welcoming two senior leaders whose expertise in communications, partnerships, and fundraising will help build the relationships and momentum necessary to bring this vision to life.

Camillia Courts, Marketing and Communications Director.

A long time Vernon resident, Camillia brings a strong background in marketing, communications, photography, and the arts, along with a creative, strategic approach to storytelling and community engagement. Camillia will lead the charge in telling the Centre's story with a fresh, strategic lens, leveraging her background in the arts for a deeper emotional connection with families and partners across the region.

Dave Hillary, Director, Corporate Development & Strategic Partnerships.

Dave Hillary brings more than 25 years of senior leadership and fundraising experience to the Okanagan Science Centre as Director of Corporate Sponsorship & Partnerships. He has a proven track record of building high-impact partnerships and securing major gifts from corporations, foundations, governments, and individuals, supporting complex organizations and mission-driven work across Canada and beyond. Dave will focus on building strong relationships with businesses and community partners to support the Okanagan Science Centres programs and long term growth.

[Learn more.](#)

> **Launch of the Artemis II mission to the Moon**

Following a Flight Readiness Review that took place this week, NASA is targeting as early as April 1st for the launch of the Artemis II mission around the Moon.

[Join the virtual event](#) for the launch of the Artemis II mission to the Moon (date subject to change). [More details.](#)

Opportunities

> **Pride STEM 2026 Conference**

Join Canada's premier conference for 2SLGBTQ+ professionals and students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Join over 250 delegates from across Canada.

This conference will spotlight the latest research, hear inspiring success stories, and highlight emerging leaders within the 2SLGBTQ+ STEM community.

Date: June 10-13 2026

Where: Dalhousie University, Halifax

Register today.

> Science Writers and Communicators of Canada Conference

This year's theme for SWCC is: Discovery. Dialogue. Decision. Navigating complexity to make sense of science.

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.

Date: June 14-17, 2026

Where: Montreal

Register today.

> ECCC & Nature Labs - FREE Printable outdoor activity guides

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) partnered this year with **Nature Labs** – to develop an outdoor activity guide called “Curious by Nature.” The guide is designed to help youth and families discover biodiversity in urban areas, parks, etc. They are made to be small booklets 14x22 cm (approximately).

There are two editions:

1. Nature Edition – is written using the story of a female fox and her story
2. Urban Edition – is written using the story of a beaver that helped save a city from flooding
3. Teacher guide – there is an accompanying guide for teachers with lesson plans touching on different aspects of the activity guide

They are offering to print and deliver some copies of the guides to some CASC members – **for FREE!** It would be a fun, easy resource for everyone to use, with supporting videos, lesson plans, etc. on the site.

Please email ECCC at publicite-advertising@ec.gc.ca with:

1. Which version of the guide: Nature or Urban Edition
2. Which language (English or French)
3. Quantities of each

The deadline to submit your interest is March 31, 2026.

> BugQuest: Exploring insect biodiversity across Canada

BugQuest is a national biodiversity engagement program based at the Centre for Biodiversity Genomics, University of Guelph. The project aims to reconnect people with local biodiversity by inviting schools, science centres, gardens, community organizations, and other public-facing sites across Canada to take part in insect sampling.

Participating sites host a simple insect trap and support weekly sample collection from spring through to fall 2026. The insects collected are sent to the Centre for Biodiversity Genomics, where they are identified using DNA barcoding. In return, participating sites receive biodiversity results from their own location and contribute to a growing national picture of Canada's insect biodiversity.

BugQuest provides the sampling kit, classroom or outreach resources, DNA analysis, and shipping through the program, making it easy for sites to participate in real biodiversity science and public engagement. [Learn more.](#)

> Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary Weekly Restoration Learning Meetups -

Continuously running since the early 1980s, these ecological restoration meetups are a fun, friendly way to learn about non-native plant management as well as native plant cultivation. These free Tuesday and Saturday morning events take place at Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary (a charitable non-profit organization) with access to washroom facilities and the option to socialize with tea and coffee after the shared plant work. [Sign up here.](#)

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.



