



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Indigenous Ingenuity travelling exhibition kicks off its tour in Kenora

(Kenora, ON) – Anishinaabewin Maamnindimowin: Pane Gii-Bite (*Indigenous Ingenuity: Timeless Inventions*), presented by Indigenous Tourism Ontario and Science North, had its official opening this morning at the Lake of the Woods Discovery Centre. Kenora is the first of twenty communities in Northern Ontario to host the exhibition. Over the next two years, the exhibition will be travelling across the north, presenting a clever and novel mix of science and culture intended to stir a sense of pride among First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities.

To help celebrate the opening, The Honourable Greg Rickford, Minister of Northern Development, Minister of Indigenous Affairs, and MPP for Kenora-Rainy River was in attendance along with Kevin Eshkawkogan, CEO of Indigenous Tourism Ontario and Ashley Larose, CEO of Science North.

The development of the customized 100 sqm *Indigenous Ingenuity* travelling exhibit and Northern Ontario tour will reach communities across the province from September 2022 to June 2024. Elements of the main 500 sqm exhibition have been designed into a smaller version for efficient travel, installation and hosting while maintaining an impactful and engaging visitor experience. The Northern tour of this exhibit will create a significant economic impact in the North through growth and diversification of the tourism sector, as well as job creation at ITO, Science North and partner attractions.

Guests at the event were treated to Indigenous drumming and dance performances, followed by an opportunity to experience the exhibition. *Indigenous Ingenuity: Timeless Inventions* is currently on display at the Lake of the Woods Discovery Centre until Wednesday, October 26. Visitors can stop by and see the exhibition free of charge from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Experience an interactive, insightful, educational, and one-of-a-kind exhibit.

The *Indigenous Ingenuity: Timeless Inventions* travelling exhibition is proudly supported by the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation, the Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario, and the Government of Canada. For more information about the Indigenous Ingenuity tour and upcoming stops on its tour, visit sciencenorth.ca/indigenous-ingenuity

The Igloo installation in the exhibition is an original creation by the National Film Board, directed by Dan Thornhill, designed to bring to life the richness of Canadian Inuit culture. For more information, visit NFB.ca/Unikkausivut.

“Indigenous Ingenuity is a memorable interactive exhibit that invites visitors of all ages to explore and celebrate Indigenous heritage in science and innovation. I encourage everyone to visit Northern Ontario and experience the exhibit at one of its stops. Ontarians who stay overnight can claim up to 20 per cent of eligible travel accommodation expenses through our Ontario Staycation Tax Credit.” - *Hon. Neil Lumsden, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport*

“It is a pleasure and an honour for the City of Kenora to be the first stop on the Indigenous Ingenuity exhibition. This exhibition will bring positive economic and cultural impacts to the tourism sector of Northern Ontario, and I invite everyone to take this opportunity to visit and learn more about Indigenous peoples and how their contributions and achievements have shaped our province and country for the better.” - *Hon. Greg Rickford, Minister of Northern Development, Minister of Indigenous Affairs and MPP for Kenora-Rainy River*.

“We are excited to host the travelling exhibit Indigenous Ingenuity by Science North and Indigenous Tourism Ontario in Kenora and we encourage everyone to drop into the Lake of the Woods Discovery to experience the free display. It will surely be engaging and stir-up curiosity about the connection of Indigenous knowledge and culture to modern science and innovation. Thank you to NOHFC, FedNor, and Canadian Heritage for supporting the exhibit to make this learning opportunity available in our community.” - *Daniel Reynard, City of Kenora Mayor*.

“Indigenous Tourism Ontario is proud to present *Anishinaabewin Maamnindimowin: Pane Gii-Bite (Indigenous Ingenuity: Timeless Inventions)* exhibition. It highlights the incredible knowledge, technology, innovations, and stories of the ingenuity of Indigenous peoples. This exhibit will help people understand some of the crucial contributions, innovations, and methods the Indigenous peoples have created and shared with the world. We are excited to be partnered with Science North to bring this exhibit all over Northern Ontario. This exhibit and its many ancillary offerings have been made possible with support from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation, the Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario and the Government of Canada.” - *Kevin Eshkawkogan, CEO – Indigenous Tourism Ontario*

“It has been a true pleasure partnering with Indigenous Tourism Ontario to bring this interactive and insightful travelling exhibition to life. We’re thrilled to be launching the multi-year tour of *Indigenous Ingenuity: Timeless Inventions* across Northern Ontario. Kenora is just one of 20 stops over the next couple of years as this exhibition makes its way across the province. *Indigenous Ingenuity* will improve capacity and investment readiness in Northern Ontario communities by providing a platform through which Indigenous tourism operators can market their experiences to a wider range of audiences. We hope you’ll spread the word about

this amazing exhibit and bring all your friends and family.” - *Ashley Larose, MSc, CEO – Science North.*

About Indigenous Tourism Ontario

Indigenous Tourism Ontario (ITO) is the province’s first and only dedicated Indigenous tourism organization. They are a membership-based non-profit whose mission it is to improve the economic conditions of Indigenous Peoples through the provision of meaningful financial, marketing, industry guidance and support, resources, and advocacy work to Indigenous tourism owners and operators across the province. ITO is recognized by the Chiefs of Ontario (COO), and Government of Ontario organizations and ministries for their work therein. For more information about ITO and their initiatives please visit indigenoustourismontario.ca.

About Science North

Science North is Northern Ontario’s most popular tourist attraction and an educational resource for children and adults across the province. Science North maintains the second – and eighth-largest science centres in Canada. Science North’s attractions include a science centre, IMAX® theatre, digital Planetarium, butterfly gallery, special exhibits hall, and Dynamic Earth: Home of the Big Nickel. Science North, in partnership with Laurentian University, offers North America’s first and only comprehensive Science Communication program, a joint master's and Graduate Diploma program. As part of its mandate, Science North provides science experiences throughout Northern Ontario including outreach to schools and festivals, summer science camps and more, and has a permanent base in Thunder Bay providing outreach to the Northwest. Science North is an agency of the Government of Ontario. For information, visit sciencenorth.ca.

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