



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 17, 2023

## Grand opening of the Indigenous Ingenuity travelling exhibition in Parry Sound

**(Parry Sound, ON)** – Anishinaabewin Maamnindimowin: Pane Gii-Bite (*Indigenous Ingenuity: Timeless Inventions*), presented by Indigenous Tourism Ontario and Science North, had its grand opening at the West Parry Sound District Museum on Friday. Guests in attendance were treated to hand drumming performances and jingle dress dances, thanks to support from the Parry Sound Friendship Centre, followed by a chance to explore the exhibition.

*Indigenous Ingenuity* is currently on display until Sunday, August 13 and visitors can experience this one-of-a-kind exhibition, from Wednesday to Sunday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m, with their museum admission.

Parry Sound is the seventh stop of the tour, having already made recent stops in North Bay and M'Chigeeng. Until fall of 2024, the exhibition will be travelling to approximately 30 communities 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.

Elements of the main 500 sqm exhibition have been redesigned into a tour-sized format capable of efficient travel, easy to install and host while maintaining an impactful and engaging visitor experience. In addition, this version adds new content inclusive of Northern Ontario, including content that was developed in close collaboration with Science North's Indigenous Advisors. The northern tour of this exhibit will create a significant economic impact in the north through the growth and diversification of the tourism sector and job creation at Indigenous Tourism Ontario, Science North, and partner attractions.

The *Indigenous Ingenuity: Timeless Inventions* travelling exhibition was developed in consultation with the Montreal Science Centre and 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](http://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](http://NFB.ca/Unikkausivut).

## Quotes

“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 Parry Sound and experience this important and eye-opening exhibit.” - Hon. Neil Lumsden, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport

“I want to thank the Town of Parry Sound, Indigenous Tourism Ontario, Science North and the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation for making this remarkable touring exhibit a reality. Indigenous peoples have a rich heritage of innovation and ingenuity that enable them to thrive on these lands. Their story is an important part of who we are, and I'm thrilled to see Indigenous Ingenuity is keeping this history alive for current and future generations.” - Hon. Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry and MPP for Parry Sound—Muskoka

“We’re very fortunate to have the Indigenous Ingenuity tour stop in Parry Sound for our residents and visitors to experience and learn from. The exhibit brings to life Indigenous inventions, helping to inform and share the knowledge of Indigenous peoples. What an incredible gift!” - Jamie McGarvey, Mayor of Parry Sound

“We are excited that people will learn about many of the crucial contributions, innovations and methods that Indigenous peoples have created and shared with the world. It’s an important step to see tourist attractions like Science North feature exhibitions that highlight Indigenous successes.” – Kevin Eshkawkogan, President and Chief Executive Officer of Indigenous Tourism Ontario

“Exciting news for Parry Sound! We're thrilled to announce that Science North will be hosting another exhibition at the West Parry Sound District Museum. This exhibit will highlight the scientific knowledge and innovations of Indigenous peoples. It's an excellent chance for everyone to participate, observe, listen, and learn about Indigenous Ingenuity. This exhibition also promotes Truth and Reconciliation and educates visitors on its importance. We extend our gratitude to Science North and Indigenous Tourism Ontario for bringing this unique exhibition

to our community.” – Nadine Hammond, Curator and Manager, West Parry Sound District Museum

“We are very excited to support the educational efforts of the Science North and Indigenous Tourism Ontario exposition here in Parry Sound on Tower Hill. This land is very significant as it is the traditional and ancestral summer gathering place of the 6 First Nations whose people we provide powerful life promotion and life recovery services to. We serve the entire Muskoka, Parry Sound and East Georgian Bay communities and we are building a new state of the art reconciliation era Friendship Center where we can host these exhibitions in the future. Joining us today are indigenous youths from our cultural programs, hand drummers and jingle dress dancers and we are feeding all guests traditional foods grown all around where we stand today for centuries. Food is our medicine and indigenous ingenuity is as strong today within the Parry Sound Friendship Center recently announcing a new natural forested public park to be developed on our lands on the north side of tower hill - so come see the history of Indigenous ingenuity while you have the chance!” – Delores McKay, CEO, Parry Sound Friendship Centre

“We are grateful to the community of Parry Sound for always receiving Science North with open arms. Last year, we brought the Great Northern Ontario Roadshow to Parry Sound and also unveiled the Northern Nature Exchange at the West Parry Sound Museum. We are pleased to bring another one-of-a-kind exhibition to this community which will help educate, highlight, and share the contributions of Indigenous peoples. I want to highlight the incredible team at Indigenous Tourism Ontario for all their efforts in bringing the tour of Anishinaabewin Maamnindimowin: Pane Gii-Bite (*Indigenous Ingenuity: Timeless Inventions*) to life. Thank you also to the fantastic West Parry Sound District Museum team for hosting this exhibition.” - 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 that focuses on uniting communities, Indigenous organizations, and industry leaders to support the growth of Indigenous tourism in Ontario. Through product development and marketing of authentic Indigenous experiences, ITO establishes a platform for Indigenous cultural expression and preservation through tourism.

ITO is recognized by the Chiefs of Ontario (COO), the Government of Ontario and ministries for their work therein. For more information about ITO and their initiatives please visit:

[indigenoustourismontario.ca](http://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](http://sciencenorth.ca).

-30-

**Media Contact:**

Nick Ryma  
Marketing Specialist  
Science North  
705-918-5899  
nick.ryma@sciencenorth.ca

*Science North is an agency of the Government of Ontario and a registered charity #10796 2979 RR0001.*