



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Science North celebrates Indigenous Ingenuity and the launch of the Thunder Bay Science Festival

(THUNDER BAY, ON) – Over the coming days and weeks, Thunder Bay will play host to two unique events celebrating scientific innovation. Earlier today at the Thunder Bay Museum, special guests celebrated the grand opening of Anishinaabewin Maamnindimowin: Pane Gii-Bite (*Indigenous Ingenuity: Timeless Inventions*) and the launch of the Thunder Bay Science Festival. Chief Michele Solomon of Fort William First Nation opened the event with a traditional welcome.

Indigenous Ingenuity, presented by Indigenous Tourism Ontario and Science North, is currently on display in the Thunder Bay Museum until March 17th. Admission is by donation, and visitors can experience the exhibition from 1:00pm to 5:00pm Tuesday through Sunday (closed Monday), with the last entry at 4:00pm.

Thunder Bay is the 14th stop of the tour. Until fall of 2024, the exhibition will be travelling to approximately 30 communities across Northern Ontario, presenting a clever and novel mix of science and culture intended to stir a sense of pride among First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities.

The Thunder Bay Science Festival returns for its 12th annual celebration of science and technology from February 18 to 24, 2024. This year, the festival promises a week-long program of engaging events, exhibits, and activities that are open to the public and free of charge. People of all ages will be able to explore the wonders of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) in the world around them.

This year, the Festival lineup includes the Science of Sound featuring the Tamarack Wind Quintet; Science at Snowday on the Waterfront; and Nerd Night at the Sleeping Giant Brewery. The week wraps up with the Science Carnival on Saturday, February 24 from 10am to 3pm at Intercity Shopping Centre. This inspiring one-day community event highlights the exciting science happening in the Thunder Bay region and provides families with the opportunity to participate in engaging and fun science, innovation, and technology activities. The Carnival will feature local exhibitors displaying hands-on presentations and activities for all ages.

- For more information about the Indigenous Ingenuity exhibition and upcoming stops on its tour, visit sciencenorth.ca/indigenous-ingenuity
- For Thunder Bay Science Festival event details, visit sciencenorth.ca/scifest

Quotes

“Science North continues to engage and inspire the people of Thunder Bay and our region with creativity and a passion for connecting people with science. This weekend's Thunder Bay Science Festival and the opening of the Indigenous Ingenuity exhibit both serve to broaden horizons and introduce science to a varied audience. The Indigenous Ingenuity exhibit is a celebration of Indigenous innovations, knowledges, and worldviews and an important opportunity to recognize a critical piece of the culture of Northern Ontario and of our country. The Government of Canada is proud to support Indigenous Tourism Ontario and Science North in bringing this significant and inspirational exhibition to people across the province. Our interconnectedness gives our communities strength, and Anishinaabewin Maamnindimowin: Pane Gii-Bite is a testament to that power.” – [Hon. Patty Hajdu, Minister of Indigenous Services and Minister responsible for FedNor, and Member of Parliament for Thunder Bay—Superior North](#)

“It is an honour and a privilege that our Thunder Bay Museum will be hosting the *Indigenous Ingenuity: Timeless Inventions* pan-northern travelling exhibit tour. We wish to extend our gratitude to Indigenous Tourism Ontario and Science North for their vision in bringing to life this significant celebration of the truly far-reaching impacts that Indigenous knowledge and leadership have had on the world around us. That the exhibit will coincide with the annual Thunder Bay Science Festival is really special. Please join me in congratulating all those who have been hard at work in making these important offerings available to so many communities! I am certain that our residents of all ages who have opportunity to participate in both the exhibit and the science festival will appreciate the important reminder that, as it is in the spirit of nature, we are all connected.” – [Kevin Holland, MPP Thunder Bay-Atikokan](#)

“I'm thrilled that Thunder Bay is included in the Indigenous Ingenuity tour as part of the launch of the 12th annual Thunder Bay Science Festival, and I encourage all residents to visit the exhibit and take in the rich Indigenous culture and historic contributions on display at the Thunder Bay Museum,” said Ken Boshcoff, Mayor of Thunder Bay. "Thank you to all of the individuals and organizations, past and present, who supported this significant project.” – [Ken Boshcoff, Thunder Bay Mayor](#)

“It’s a rare and great thing to have a partner like Science North in the community providing such great exhibits like Indigenous Ingenuity: Timeless Inventions as well as great events like the Thunder Bay Science Festival. Our involvement in both endeavours has been a real value added for the Thunder Bay Museum and a great benefit for the peoples of Thunder Bay.” – [Scott Bradley, Executive Director, Thunder Bay Museum](#)

“Science and building a healthy future for people and the planet go hand-in-hand. EcoSuperior is once again excited to partner with Science North to participate in the Thunder Bay Science Festival! With so much awesome science education happening, you don't want to miss out. You'll see EcoSuperior at the Science Carnival on February 24th. Come check out why pollinators are so important to our community, the environment, and our favourite foods!” – [Erin Moir, Co-Executive Director, EcoSuperior](#)

“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](#)

“Science North is immensely proud of its impact in Thunder Bay and across Northwestern Ontario and having the opportunity to showcase the Indigenous Ingenuity exhibition and Thunder Bay Science Festival at the same time is tremendously exciting. We are so fortunate to work with strong partners like Indigenous Tourism Ontario, EcoSuperior, Sleeping Giant Brewing Co, and the Thunder Bay Museum.” – [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.

About the Thunder Bay Science Festival

The Thunder Bay Science Festival is a proud member of the Science Festival Alliance

and the Northern Ontario Science Festivals. The twelfth Thunder Bay Science Festival is a collaborative venture under the direction of Science North, in partnership with Parks Canada, EcoSuperior, Tamarack Wind Quintet, Intercity Shopping Centre, and Sleeping Giant Brewing Co.

About Indigenous Ingenuity

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.

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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