

A photograph of two young boys looking at a science experiment. The boy in the center is smiling and looking at a light bulb that is partially submerged in a blue liquid. The boy on the left is looking at the same experiment. The background is blurred with bokeh lights.

SCIENCE *RENDEZVOUS*

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Science Rendezvous Community:

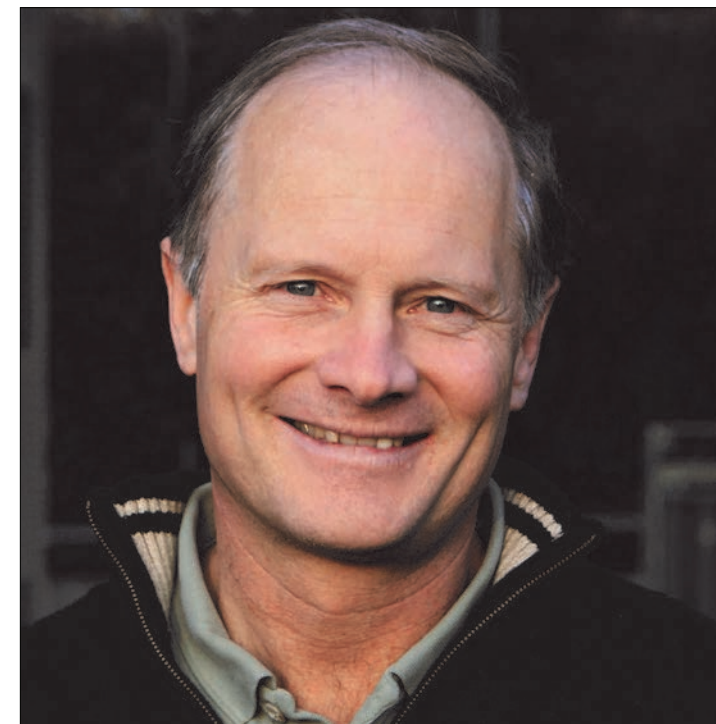
This year, we celebrate a groundbreaking milestone: Science Rendezvous (SR) has become a registered charitable organization! This achievement not only validates our mission but also opens up exciting new opportunities to further inspire curiosity, promote scientific literacy, and empower communities across Canada to learn and connect meaningfully with science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). As we step into this new chapter, our theme, INNOVATE, reflects the boundless possibilities ahead.

Thank you to each of you for bringing this year's vision to life with courage and enthusiasm. From immersive experiences with dinosaurs to dynamic laser and light shows, and cutting-edge STEM demonstrations, the passion and dedication you displayed across the country was truly inspiring. Now, as a charitable organization, we are primed to expand Science Rendezvous' reach, forge enduring partnerships, and unlock funding opportunities that will propel our mission forward.

At Science Rendezvous, we believe a scientifically literate society is more critical now than ever. Our educational programs empower people to learn, think critically, and engage thoughtfully with the world around them. Together, we can foster a world where curiosity and innovation fuel informed decision-making. By igniting curiosity, we promote lifelong learning and a passion for the natural world—essential foundations for a sustainable future.

Beginning as a modest event in 2008 with only 15,000 attendees across four sites, Science Rendezvous has grown exponentially. Last year, over 25 institutions hosted more than 300 events, drawing over 33,000 participants and thousands of volunteers nationwide. Our support from NSERC and partners across the country has been instrumental to this growth, solidifying Science Rendezvous as a vital celebration of scientific engagement.

As we embrace this new era, Science Rendezvous will build upon its unique role of connecting researchers directly



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with the public, fostering a spirit of innovation that spans generations. We will continue creating unforgettable experiences—hands-on activities, interactive demonstrations, and thrilling experiments—all designed to spark curiosity and excitement for the future. Thank you again for your passion and support. Here's to the future of Science Rendezvous, and here's to INNOVATING together!

With gratitude,

R. J. DWAYNE MILLER
*FRSC (Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada)
FRS (Fellow of the Royal Society UK)
Professor of Chemistry and Physics, Distinguished Faculty Research
Chair in Chemical and Biological Physics, University Professor
University of Toronto*

President/Founder Science Rendezvous

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SCIENCE RENDEZVOUS

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Science Rendezvous is a registered charitable organization distinguished by its mission to bring exciting educational science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programming to the public. We take immense pride in being the only entity that extends an open invitation to the very places where scientific progress happens, offering individuals the chance to learn from Canada's pioneering researchers firsthand – our nation's dedicated scientists and STEM professionals.

In 2024, we were elated to welcome over 33,000 enthusiastic attendees back to our 22 in-person science festivals held across Canada. These vibrant events not only provide FREE access to unique educational and interactive programming but also ignite a passion for STEM, empowering our visitors to actively participate in the innovative journey of learning directly from Canada's researchers.

Celebrating its 17th year, Science Rendezvous has grown from a grassroots initiative to an organization powered by over 5,600 volunteers, comprised of scientists, engineers, mathematicians, technologists, innovators, and the next generation of graduate and undergraduate students, contributed an astounding 36,000 hours. Their dedication brought educational programming to life and provided a profound STEM experience for all who attended.

Science Rendezvous serves as a platform for the world-class research conducted at Canada's premier research institutions, providing opportunities to develop stronger science communication for faculty and

CREDIT: Garrett Elliott



students while giving back to the communities that surround them. Collaboration with more than 250 partners from various college and university departments, alongside community STEM charitable organizations and educators, has been instrumental in creating these exceptional events as well as year round educational programming.

This year, under the captivating theme “INNOVATE,” we invited the public to engage face-to-face with scientists and innovators, as they showcased STEM research. This theme invited everyone to explore science in a fresh, exhilarating light, and the events truly embody the essence of a science rendezvous. As an organization, we are proud to deliver educational programming throughout the year, as well as the largest one-day science festival across Canada.

Together, we look forward to continuing our journey, opening the doors to science and inspiring the innovators, creators, and scientists of tomorrow.



CREDIT: Top, Bottom — Garrett Elliott



Dr. Alejandro Adem, President of NSERC trying out the angular momentum demonstration at Science Rendezvous Kingston.

POWERED BY NSERC

Science Rendezvous (SR) is proud to receive support from NSERC, essential to bring the largest one-day, free, educational science festival in Canada, inviting the public to engage directly with researchers and explore the places where innovation happens. With over 33,000 attendees and thousands of volunteers in 2024—half of whom were researchers—SR fosters a national connection between research communities and the public.

SR has been awarded a PromoScience grant through NSERC’s support. This funding will continue to drive a three-year project focused on the importance of Canada’s trees and flora, integrating Indigenous and scientific knowledge for a comprehensive environmental understanding. By embracing Etuaptmuk, or “two-eyed seeing,” we aim to deepen Canadians’ appreciation for the relationship between land-based Traditional knowledge and Western science. This initiative will highlight how Indigenous knowledge continues to shape scientific understanding and emphasize the role science plays in protecting natural resources vital to Indigenous culture and ways of life.

This support from NSERC enables us to further bridge the gaps in STEM education, promote inclusivity, and connect more Canadians to the impact and importance of scientific research.



CREDIT: Garrett Elliott



WHO, WHAT, WHERE

Empowering Passionate Researchers to Improve their Science Communication and Connect with the Public

Science Rendezvous is more than just an event; it's a catalyst for passionate researchers eager to bridge the gap between their work and the public's understanding of it. Our affiliate teams often begin with an email from an inspired researcher who is deeply committed to sharing their love for science with a broader audience. Through Science Rendezvous, these visionary scientists find the resources, support, and a collaborative network of like-minded peers that empower them to reach beyond the confines of traditional science promotion.

We are dedicated to building teams that reflect the diversity of our society, embracing STEM educators of all genders, races, abilities, religions, and sexual orientations. Our platform serves as a launchpad for the most impactful STEM educational programming, offering the largest one-day signature STEM event in the country.

Democratizing Science: Everyone Can Be a Scientist

At Science Rendezvous, we challenge the conventional notion of who can be a scientist. Our mission is not just to assert that "anyone can do science" but to vividly demonstrate it. We seek to dismantle the enigmatic nature of science and tackle the perplexing question, "What is science?" We believe that science is not

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merely a noun; it's a verb—a dynamic process of unending inquiry, rigorous testing, and constant evolution as research progresses.

Science is a potent tool for predicting outcomes, but it's far from being the final word. The more we convey this to the public, the better they comprehend the critical and timely messages emerging from the scientific community. "Because science" becomes a call to action, an invitation to engage in the ongoing dialogue that defines the scientific endeavor.

Campus Connection: Bringing Science to Life

Hosting Science Rendezvous events on university and college campuses is a distinctive feature we hold dear. While research institutions often open their doors for free and inclusive events, we consistently reach a distinct audience—one that may not typically attend conventional outreach initiatives.

Being physically present on campuses, attendees have the privilege of learning directly from scientists, researchers, and students. They actively participate in experiments, engage in educational shows, witness captivating demonstrations, and interact with experts across all STEM fields. This immersive experience ensures that attendees not only feel welcome but also deeply connected to the vibrant world of science and research that unfolds every day within the walls of our academic institutions.

Science Rendezvous—where passion, collaboration, and curiosity converge to ignite a lifelong love for science in everyone, everywhere.

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CREDIT: Garrett Elliott



CORE PROGRAMMING

Science Rendezvous: Namesake STEM Festivals and Events

At the heart of our organization lies "Science Rendezvous," the flagship program that embodies our mission and passion. Science Rendezvous brings together a dynamic alliance of faculty, graduate, and undergraduate student volunteers from colleges and universities across Canada. These dedicated teams collaborate harmoniously to craft an annual STEM-focused extravaganza, commonly referred to as "affiliate" or "partner" Science Rendezvous events.

Our commitment extends beyond event day; we provide continuous support to these teams throughout their event planning journey, offering educational resources, guidance, and encouragement year-round. Each Science Rendezvous site works with top Canadian researchers, fostering the creation of engaging and thrilling learning festivals that are open to the general public.

The primary aim is to impart scientific principles in an interactive and enjoyable manner, cementing knowledge, boosting science literacy, and fostering a unique convergence between researchers and the public. Attendees, spanning diverse age groups, have the opportunity to inquire, observe captivating scientific demonstrations, embark on lab tours, actively engage in research endeavors, attend public talks, conduct basic guided experiments, and much more.

For researchers, Science Rendezvous offers an invaluable platform to put their science communication



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education into practice, honing their abilities to effectively communicate complex ideas to individuals of all backgrounds and ages.

But Science Rendezvous is not just about inspiring the next generation of scientists; it's a crucible for personal and professional growth. Our volunteers gain priceless project management experience, enhancing their career development prospects. Moreover, they refine their science communication skills, an asset in an increasingly interconnected world.

Feedback from team members consistently echoes the profound impact of their volunteer experiences on mental health and overall well-being. They feel embraced and supported, forging a strong sense of community, both locally and nationally. In the past two years, it has become evident that involvement with Science Rendezvous has served as a catalyst for our student volunteers, propelling them to pursue higher education with renewed zeal.

Our annual festival is a treasure trove of opportunities for children, youth, post-secondary students, and the public at large. It is an immersive experience that allows them to interact with leading researchers, participate in hands-on educational activities, embark on enlightening lab tours, attend captivating public lectures, engage in discussions, and showcase their STEM prowess through competitions.

Ultimately, Science Rendezvous empowers our society to embrace STEM and current Canadian research, nurturing a more scientifically literate and enlightened world.

SR Hacks: Empowering Education Through Innovation!

SR Hacks stands as a visionary outreach initiative designed to provide enriching educational experiences and foster meaningful connections between youth, educators, and industry professionals. This program, initiated and led by SR volunteers at the University of Toronto, is set to expand its horizons to involve other volunteer teams in 2025 and beyond.

SR Hacks unfolds as a month-long educational journey, orchestrating a synergy between seasoned industry experts in coding and engineering, dedicated graduate student volunteers, and eager middle school students in grades 6-8. The core objective is to demystify the realms of coding and engineering, making them accessible and exciting for our young participants.

Industry experts take the helm, leading instructional sessions that instill fundamental coding and engineering principles. As part of an inspiring innovation speaker series, they share their insights,



experiences, and passion for the field. Interactive workshops further enhance the learning experience. To put their newfound knowledge into action, students tackle practical challenges, each an opportunity to address real-world problems.

The program's genesis was a response to a pressing need for engineering and coding learning opportunities tailored to grades 6-8. Participants engage in sessions thoughtfully designed to align with their grade-level curriculum, effectively building their engineering and coding skills. To guide them on this educational journey,

each participant is paired with a graduate student mentor, offering valuable support and mentorship.

Innovation speaker sessions and interactive workshops further ignite curiosity and creativity. The heart of SR Hacks lies in its project challenges—a means to evaluate learning and stimulate innovation. Participants present their projects, which are subsequently assessed by industry experts.

The top-performing projects earn their place in the final SR Hackoff event, where an ultimate challenge awaits. This event not only

showcases their program learning but also invites expert judges to determine the ultimate winner.

Coding and STEM have recently found their place in elementary and middle school curricula across the nation. However, there remains a gap in resources and mentorship opportunities for both educators and students. SR Hacks addresses this void by offering an interactive and engaging platform to learn essential engineering and coding skills, inspiring excitement and confidence among participants to continue their journey of skill development in future educational pursuits.

SR Hacks is not just a program; it's an invitation to young minds to explore, innovate, and envision a future rich in coding and engineering possibilities.



CREDIT: Garrett Elliott



SCIENCE CHASE: A THRILLING QUEST FOR STEM EDUCATION

Drawing inspiration from the beloved television series "The Amazing Race," Science Chase has emerged as a wildly popular scavenger hunt-style challenge that not only captivates participants but also guides them through an engaging and educational journey across event sites. Science Rendezvous ingeniously adapted this concept to create unique and exciting virtual programming, reprising its success in 2024.

STEM-based research, experiments, and captivating challenges were meticulously crafted to provide participants with an immersive learning experience on the Science Rendezvous website. Participants embarked on a digital adventure, collecting virtual points by completing quizzes and overcoming challenges while traversing an interactive map of Canada.

The genesis of the virtual Science Chase was a response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It was designed as an innovative and free online platform to offer STEM-based educational resources and experiences that were not only educational but also fun and engaging. For students who found it challenging to immerse themselves in virtual class lessons, Science Chase injected a much-needed sense of play into their STEM education journey.

Even as the world transitions to a post-pandemic era, Science Chase persists as a vital bridge to participants across the country who may face geographical constraints that prevent them from attending in-person Science Rendezvous programming. Its enduring popularity is a testament to its impact on learners, volunteers, and educators alike.

The resounding feedback, brimming with positivity from both the public and our dedicated volunteers, has cemented Science Chase as an integral part of Science Rendezvous' outreach efforts. As we look to the future, it is clear that this program will continue to shine as a beacon of STEM education, offering an enriching, fun, and engaging way to inspire and empower learners of all ages.





CANADA WIDE EXPERIMENT: THE MILLION TREE PROJECT

Science Rendezvous' Million Tree Project (MTP) is an initiative meticulously designed to achieve several interconnected goals. It aims to create educational programming across Canada utilizing a rich repository of educational resources. At its core, the MTP is committed to deliver transformative educational opportunities throughout Canada. Students and community members, guided by Science Rendezvous volunteers and a network of dedicated educators, explore the intricate worlds of tree, climate, and environmental sciences. Our volunteer teams, spread across Science Rendezvous' affiliate colleges and universities nationwide, are joined by teachers and educators, invited to become MTP leaders. These leaders undergo "teach the teacher" training, equipping them with lesson plans, educational sessions, and a treasure trove of hands-on activities and experiments designed to enrich learning experiences within their classrooms and communities.

Moreover, we are actively developing additional educational programming that underscores the pivotal importance of integrating Indigenous and scientific knowledge systems. This integration is pivotal for a holistic education program.

The MTP will aspire to provide educational experiences utilizing the principle of "Etuaptmumk," the Mi'kmaw term signifying "two-eyed seeing." By showcasing land-based Traditional plant knowledge and elucidating its profound contributions to, and ongoing influence on, Western science, we foster a deeper appreciation of Indigenous heritage. Simultaneously, we underscore the role of Western science in safeguarding Indigenous communities' access to the natural resources. Our first three Indigenous Teachings: Wahta (Maple), Azaadi (Trembling Aspen), and Ghiizik (Cedar) are provided courtesy of the STEM Community Outreach Centre at Queen's University and partners from the local Indigenous community. They explore the traditional Indigenous knowledge and science of these trees side by side.

Our commitment extends beyond the MTP; Science Rendezvous is steadfast in maintaining ongoing

MILLION TREE PROJECT

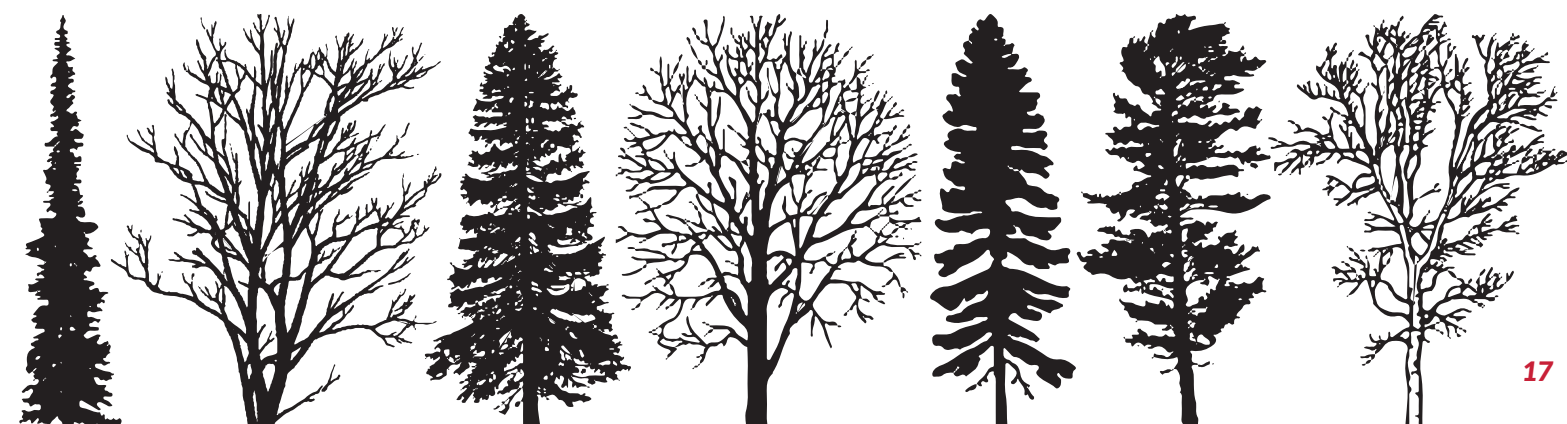


LEFT: "Cosmic Tree and Sky Woman" and RIGHT: "Tree of Life on Turtle Island" by Diane Maytwayashing.

engagement with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples and their organizations. We firmly believe that Indigenous wisdom and scientific discovery walk hand in hand. We are dedicated to unveiling the intricate interplay between nature, Indigenous communities, and scientific knowledge systems, thereby fostering greater accessibility and inclusivity in STEM education.

"By advancing knowledge about local issues impacting trees and forests and catalyzing action using the lens of etuaptmumk (two-eyed seeing). Canadian mi'kmaw elder Albert Marshall defined etuaptmumk as "learning to see from one eye with the strengths of indigenous knowledges and ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the strengths of mainstream knowledges and ways of knowing, and to use both these eyes together, for the benefit of all."

The Million Tree Project is not merely an initiative; it is a testament to the boundless potential of collaborative STEM education. Together, we embark on a journey of enlightenment, nurturing a profound connection between science and Indigenous wisdom, showcasing that Indigenous peoples have always been scientists, and ultimately shaping a more harmonious and sustainable future for all.





SCICOMM AND PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Science Rendezvous is committed to nurturing a community of proficient science communicators and educators. We recognize the paramount importance of equipping our volunteers and educators across Canada with the skills, knowledge, and peer mentorship necessary to excel in the realm of science communication (SCICOMM).

Our comprehensive program encompasses a series of engaging and informative video call sessions. During these sessions, our dedicated volunteers and educators receive structured instruction on crafting STEM-focused educational programs tailored for the public. Our expert team of educators at Science Rendezvous provides valuable resources and guidance, ensuring that each participant is well-equipped to take their newly acquired knowledge and skills back to their local educational programs within schools, communities, colleges, and universities.

What sets our program apart is its commitment to hands-on learning and practical application. Volunteers and educators are not merely passive recipients of knowledge; they are active participants in the process of bringing these educational and science communication programs to life for the public. They engage in

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interactive sessions, honing their communication skills and fine-tuning their educational programs.

Importantly, this program offers a unique opportunity for job-skills training and experience, all at no cost to teachers, students, and other dedicated volunteers. As they embark on this enriching journey, they gain invaluable skills that extend far beyond the realm of science communication.

Our dedication doesn't end with a single training session. Science Rendezvous continues to lead informative sessions every month, ensuring ongoing learning opportunities and fostering a culture of peer mentorship. We believe in the power of collective knowledge, where each participant contributes to the growth and enrichment of the community, propelling us all toward a future where science is not just understood but celebrated and shared with enthusiasm.



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COMMUNICATION AND PROMOTION

AMPLIFYING OUR REACH

At Science Rendezvous, our mission has always been to break free from the confines of traditional scientific circles and engage the broader public. To achieve this, we orchestrate an extensive communication campaign that includes several marketing initiatives, promotional materials, outdoor advertising, and robust connections with major media outlets.

Our efforts manifest in numerous ways. We secure coveted spots on breakfast television shows, arrange appearances on TVO Kids, secure pre-event and event day news coverage from leading outlets like Global News, CTV News, and CBC Tonight at most major event sites, and conduct radio interviews and event promotions across the entire nation.

Science Rendezvous additionally directs significant attention toward several social media platforms. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with conversations echoing our message with support from affiliate sites, participating partners, bloggers, journalists, and science advocates around the globe.

Our social media presence across platforms like Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and X (formerly Twitter) has played a pivotal role in amplifying our message. Through these channels, we have reached diverse audiences, igniting curiosity and fostering a deeper appreciation for STEM.

This impact reflects not only the power of these platforms but also our shared passion for making science accessible, exciting, and engaging for everyone. As we move forward, we are committed to expanding our

CREDIT: Garrett Elliott



reach, inspiring new minds, and breaking down barriers in science communication. Together, we create a lasting impact and continue to inspire discovery.

Reach numbers are third party verified by MELTWATER INC., and links and clippings are available. Connect with the Executive Director at kathleen.miller@sciencerendezvous.org for more information.

2024 REACH

146

News Articles
Reaching ~137M pageviews

1.41 K

Social Media Posts
Reaching a potential 4.28M impressions
(Facebook / Instagram / Twitter
shares + retweets)

216

Broadcast Pickups
Reaching ~2.82M viewers

Top 10 Cities Visiting sciencerendezvous.ca in 2024

- | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Toronto | 3. Winnipeg | 5. Mississauga | 7. Ottawa | 9. Montreal |
| 2. Vancouver | 4. London | 6. Victoria / Oak Bay | 8. Brampton | 10. Windsor |

In 2024, sciencerendezvous.ca had over 77,000 unique users.

Science Rendezvous' international reach in 2024 included 75 countries with at least a dozen online visitors, including — obviously — Canada and the US, Australia and the UK, but also as far away as Venezuela, Portugal, Greece, Serbia, Italy, Japan, India, Philippines, and South Korea.

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CREDIT: Garrett Elliott

2024 STEAM Big! AWARD

FOR EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP AND VISION



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The 2024 STEAM Big! Award recognizes individuals and groups who make up the coordinating team responsible for creating a truly outstanding Science Rendezvous event.

The coordinating team's vision, creativity and leadership were essential in the development of a successful virtual event that ignited an interest in science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM), in their community and around the world. Science Rendezvous is honoured to have such dedicated individuals and groups share our vision and mission. As a part of a collaborative national model, event coordinators across the country will benefit and grow from these exceptional coordinating teams.

For more information about these award winning events and the supporters, sponsors and volunteers who make them all possible, visit scincerendezvous.ca/hall_of_fame



2024 STEAM BIG AWARD WINNER UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



The Science Rendezvous team at the University of Toronto (UofT), St. George Campus embraced the challenge of STEAM Big! in 2024, going above and beyond to deliver an exceptional and captivating event.

Coordinating one of the largest SR events in the country, Co-Chairs Alyssa Yang and Leanna Smith led an Executive team of 43 volunteers (with over 500 volunteers in total), all dedicated to making the festival bigger and better than ever.

Science Rendezvous 2024 presented a unique set of challenges. Due to an unforeseen circumstances, the organizing team had to shift venues with less than a week’s notice. Despite the challenges, this team managed to seamlessly transition from their planned event space at Front Campus, Kings College Circle, back to the historical event venue of St. George St. in four days! This rapid pivot was a testament to the dedication and resilience of the organizing team, partners, and volunteers.

Consequently, a notable success was our seamless transition from pivoting from our new event venue on Front Campus, Kings College Circle, back to the historical event venue of St. George St, in just under four calendar days.



A Celebration of Science, Innovation, and Art at Science Rendezvous 2024

In 2024, 46 booths showcased groundbreaking research and innovation from the University of Toronto, the provide of Ontario, and beyond. Of these, 33 featured departments and research centers based within UofT, while 13 were hosted by external STEM organizations.

The SciArt Gallery had its largest and most diverse showcase of artistic STEM talent yet, featuring the work of 42 artists, including seasoned professionals and students alike.

Other fan favourites also made a return in 2024, including the Science Chase, which challenged participants with 8 unique activities, the Science Fair competition, where elementary and high school students showcased their research, and the SRHacks competition, a novel program where students put their engineering and coding skills to the test!

Celebrating the Spirit of Science Rendezvous at UofT, St. George

The Science Rendezvous team at UofT, St. George Campus has once again demonstrated their resilience and their commitment to making science accessible, engaging, and fun for all. This outstanding event is a testament to the dedication and passion of the entire team. Thank you for your leadership, enthusiasm, and for being an integral part of the Science Rendezvous community.

We are looking forward to seeing what you will come up with in 2025!



2024 COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD

FOR EXTRAORDINARY CREATIVITY AND RESILIENCY

The Science Rendezvous 2024 Community Champion Award recognizes coordinating teams who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to engaging and inspiring their local community by creating fun, accessible, and inclusive opportunities for the public to get their hands on science at their local Science Rendezvous events.

For more information about these award winning events and the supporters, sponsors and volunteers who make them all possible, visit sciencerendezvous.ca/hall_of_fame

2024 COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD WINNER **SCIENCE RENDEZVOUS KINGSTON**



We are thrilled to recognize Science Rendezvous Kingston as a recipient of the 2024 Community Champion Award! This event, funded primarily by the Office of the Vice-Principal (Research) at Queen's University, was a wonderful collaboration that extended far beyond the laboratories at the institution.

On Saturday May 11, 2024, over 5400 visitors from across southeastern Ontario made their way to Slush Puppie Place and The Tragically Hip Way to experience 60 booths (a new record for Science Rendezvous Kingston), hosted by 485 volunteers. Those who arrived to see the doors officially open at 10:00 a.m. by Barrack the Bear (the official mascot of the Kingston Frontenacs hockey team) and Slush Puppie himself, were warmly welcomed, first by Kingston's award-winning Town Crier, Chris Whyman; Lindsay (Kawennenhá:wi) Brant; Mark Gerretsen, MP; Ted Hsu, MPP; and Bryan Paterson, Mayor.

Faculty members, students (post-secondary, elementary and secondary), staff and citizen scientists capitalized on the theme of INNOVATION, showcasing ground-breaking research and inventions and celebrating the ingenuity of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, from the time of Leonardo da Vinci to the present. From exhibits that focused on scientific fun to others that featured life-changing discoveries, visitors to Science Rendezvous Kingston were captivated saw first-hand how complete houses can be made from concrete using 3D printers. They watched as hungry beetles ate their way through plastic—recycling the natural way—and learned how metal corrosion can be stopped. As they peered through solar telescopes, they discovered that Queen's had the very first Canadian astronomical observatory, and were invited to attend its open houses throughout the year. The two performers from Great Canadian Invention Circus (and some audience participants) taught us about Canadian inventions such as the light bulb, telephone, snowshoes, the Robertson screw, paint rollers and basketball. The fast-paced show, featuring many special technological (and juggling) effects, kept everyone engaged and informed.

Prior to the event, efforts to made to improve inclusivity. Volunteers (including a Science Rendezvous partner from



Labrador City, Labrador; two international students [Spain and China] and a Professor from the Faculty of Education at Queen's) recorded promotional videos in Ukrainian, Spanish, Cantonese, and Hindi.

For the second year, Science Rendezvous Kingston also provided a Sensory Friendly Zone so that families with neurodiverse children could experience experiments in a physical setting that was less crowded, noisy and brightly illuminated. A new feature in 2024 was the creation of a special resource for families visiting the Sensory Friendly Science Zone, illustrated by award-winning author and illustrator, Peggy Collins. The Welcome to Science Rendezvous Kingston narrated booklet walked our young explorers through all they can see and do at the Sensory Friendly Science Zone in advance of their visit, beginning with the famous “Oyez, oyez!” by Kingston’s town crier Chris Whyman.

As Dr. Nancy Ross, Vice Principal (Research) said so eloquently when asked why visiting Science Rendezvous Kingston was one of her favourite things to do ... it’s because this event showcases the community’s greatest strength: our people. This includes the faculty, students, and staff at Queen’s who are working together to showcase the transformative research happening inside our labs, libraries, and offices on campus, and off campus, in the field and within the community. These teams spend months planning for and promoting [Science Rendezvous] activities, so that we reach as broad and inclusive an audience as possible. “Our people” also includes city and regional partners—the local museums, school boards, professional organizations, and conservation groups who participate in the event. These collaborations highlight very clear examples of how applied research impacts our daily lives—from building houses to treating wastewater. “Our people” captures the thousands of individuals who attended the event – including families and youth – who came with open minds, curiosity and wonder, and a willingness to question and engage. We know they left the arena inspired and open to exploring future studies or even a career in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

Congratulations to Science Rendezvous Kingston for their dedication and commitment to delivering an accessible, engaging, and exceptional event. Your leadership in science outreach and community engagement continues to inspire, and we are grateful to have you as part of the Science Rendezvous community. We can’t wait to see the exciting ideas and innovations you bring to life in 2025!



2024 COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD WINNER

CNA LABRADOR CITY



We are thrilled to recognize Science Rendezvous at the College of the North Atlantic (CNA), Labrador City as a recipient of the 2024 Community Champion Award! This marked CNA’s fifth Science Rendezvous event since 2018 and their first off-campus festival, hosted at the Labrador Mall.

On May 11, 2024, over 600 community members of all ages engaged in person with a variety of science demos and activities. The excitement continued on May 13 with a virtual Quiz Time, where an additional 101 students from JRS Middle School participated, bringing the total outreach to over 700 participants! The event’s impact was recognized by Labrador MP Yvonne Jones, who sent a special congratulatory message in honour of the festival.

Despite a limited number of on-site volunteers, the Science Rendezvous team at CNA, Labrador City executed a seamless and engaging event, demonstrating their resilience and teamwork. The festival featured about 90 activities across 35 stations. Attendees engaged in hands-on demonstrations and interactive experiences, exploring topics from electric vehicles, drones and tornadoes to slime-making, weather science, and soap bubbles!

One of the standout features in 2024 was the focus on sustainability and environmental awareness, with engaging STEM workshops on topics such as “A Step Towards Net Zero”, “Why Trees Matter” and “Science of Lipsticks”. These workshops, held prior to and during the event, supported the Million Tree Project and inspired participants to reflect on how they can contribute to environmental conservation.



Science Rendezvous 2024 was a true community effort, made possible by the dedication of staff and student volunteers from the College of the North Atlantic, as well as the participation of community members from Labrador West, Happy Valley Goose Bay, St. John's & Fermont (Quebec). The event was promoted extensively on social media as well as on CBC radio, and was sponsored by College of the North Atlantic, Iron Ore Company of Canada, Labrador West Status of Women council, Labrador Mall and the Town of Labrador City.

Science Rendezvous Labrador City has once again demonstrated the power of community-driven STEM outreach, making science engaging, accessible, and fun for all. Thank you for continuing to inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, and innovators! We look forward to seeing how you will spark curiosity in 2025!

“Science seeks excellence. Science knows no boundaries of race, religion, gender or country; just as a rainbow will not limit itself because it must cross boundaries to be completed”
— Dr. Gurinder Ahluwalia, Site Chair

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

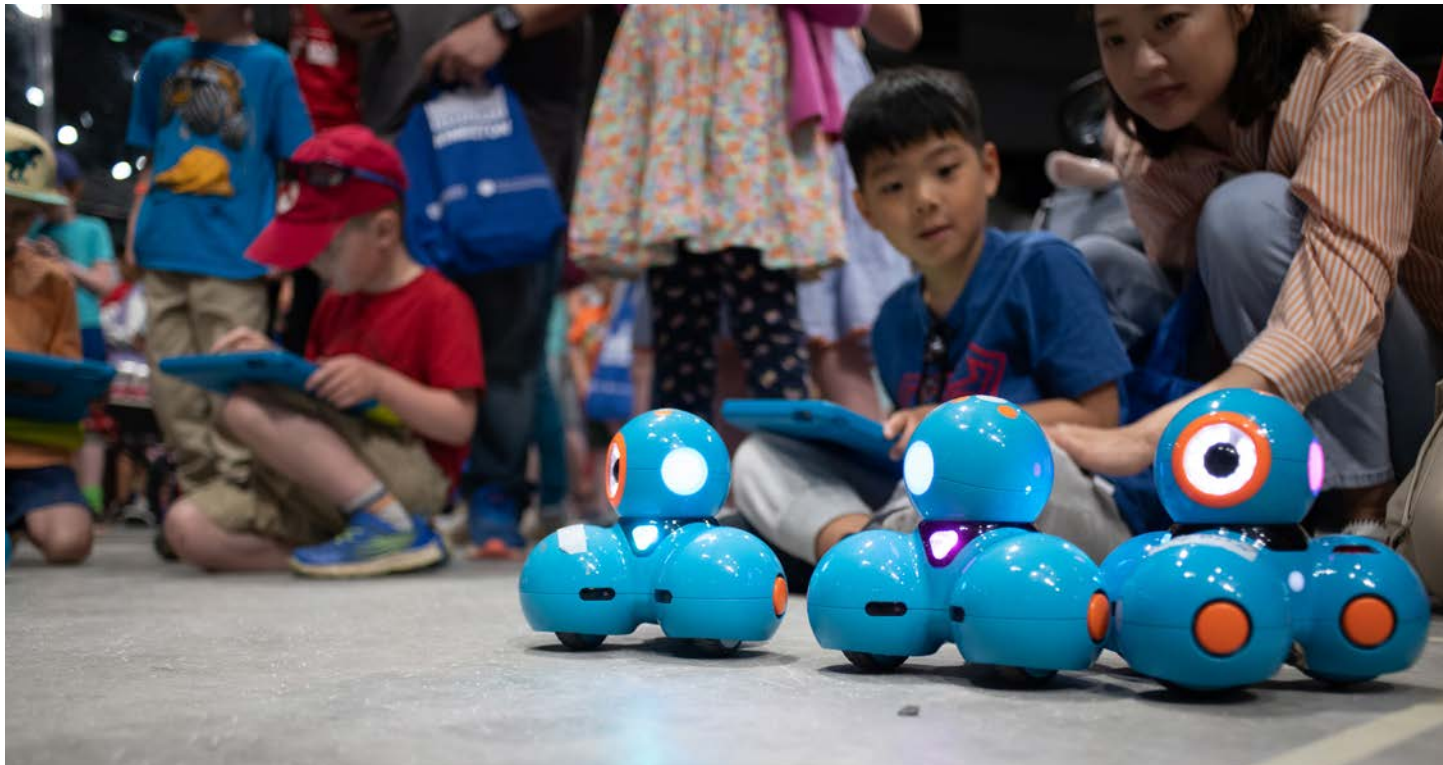
The New Year was very young—only five days in—when we received the official notice from Revenue Canada that Science Rendezvous was successful in its bid to become a Registered Charity. All the credit for that amazing accomplishment goes to Katie Miller, who worked tirelessly on the application and its seemingly infinite revisions. The new status allows us much more opportunity in terms of applying for funding through sponsorships, foundations and government agencies and if we are successful in our proposals, the Science Rendezvous will be poised to expand and extend its important role in educating Canadians about STEM, scientists and limitless career possibilities long into the future.



Applications for financial support are highly competitive in today's world. There are more grassroots organizations than ever looking for the funds to bring myriad STEM experiences to children and youth in urban, rural and remote communities starved for educational opportunities. To make the case that Science Rendezvous is having an impact and is a successful educational provider, the first step is to gather hard data that goes beyond the numbers of attendees to our flagship event. What visitors to Science Rendezvous' multiple events and casual users of its nationally- and partner-developed web-based educational resources do not recognize is that it is the researchers and citizen scientists are investing heavily to bring STEM to the streets and the kitchen table, using their own funds to make these “free” STEM experiences and opportunities possible at sites across the country. The cost of consumable materials for crafts and Chemistry Magic Shows, busses, signage, volunteer lunches, take-home “swag” and other site-specific expenses are covered by their labs or through funding for which they have applied individually. These are the individuals who are our allies and advocates, and we are deeply appreciative of their commitment to outreach and public education.

But, the “playing field” is variable: some sites have access to more funds than others; nonetheless, the goal remains equivalent, i.e., to bring invaluable STEM learning opportunities to all communities. To make things equitable, funding is needed to infuse support to the many sites that continue to face the invisible barriers—social, cultural, geographic and economic—that

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prevent many children and youth in their region from accessing the STEM opportunities their Science Rendezvous committees host.

It is not realistic to assume that one funder, no matter how deep the pockets, can fulfill the goal of equilibrating access to Science Rendezvous festivals, events and resources from coast to coast to coast. The only way to attract funding is to reach out to many networks, organizations, foundations and corporations that support locally, provincially and nationally with requests for specific initiatives, basics and costs.

With deep appreciation to Board of Directors member, Lissa Matyas, I now have a very thorough and wide-ranging database of potential funders that includes data that will be invaluable in preparing proposals that match our needs with the funders' vision and criteria.

Given the immensity of the challenge of writing multiple proposals—there is no “one-size-fits all” general submission—it became clear that this was much more than a one-person endeavour. I am happy to report that a small team has been formed to tackle this important portfolio and maximize the submissions that Science Rendezvous submits. The team includes myself, Alyssa Yang, an experienced Science Rendezvous coordinator at the UofT site and Dr. Faraj Haddad, a passionate advocate for STEM outreach and science communication, from The University of Western Ontario. With the support and input of the Board of Directors, we anticipate a busy year ahead, full of grant-writing and fund raising.

The NSERC PromoScience project (ROSC/577339-22), Tree Teachings: Combining Indigenous Earth Science and Western Science has had a most productive year, adding two new educational resources Azaadi (Aspen) and Giizhik (Cedar) Teachings to the suite of curriculum materials available on the Million Tree Project Website. We are grateful to Indigenous Educator and principal author, Jennifer MacRae, for assembling a collective comprised of Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Indigenous academics, scientists and educators, who together, brought the materials to life. The resources are available in two digital formats and both

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official languages. These resources play an important role in filling the gap caused by the dearth of free, accessible, research informed and Indigenous authored classroom ready science resources by putting land-based curricular activities into the hands of Canadian students, and by extension, those of educators, families and the wider community.

With Mitigomizh (Oak), Baapaagimaak (Ash) and Mashkiigwaatig (Tamarack) Teachings in development and scheduled for release in early 2025, the goal of our 2024 PromoScience application is to acquire funds to provide free workshops to schools, after-school programs and community organizations about trees that have significance to various Indigenous communities. The participatory workshops will provide a comprehensive suite of information and activities about the trees to illustrate their contributions to humans, the climate, and ecosystems and expand the mission of MTP providing opportunities for learners of all ages to learn about tree and climate science; and connect, conserve, plant and care for trees in their communities and across Canada.

This goal satisfies the mandate of our newly acquired charitable status which is to be educational service-providers and responds to abundant research that tells us that even highly supported programs and resources yield poor results if not purposefully and carefully implemented.

We look forward to bringing our resources and their first-hand experiences to children and youth through hands-on activities and other events that braid Indigenous Science and Western Science. We believe that by experiencing the content and activities in these exemplary resources, our audiences will be impacted by Science Rendezvous' explicit efforts at reconciliation in classrooms, organizations, and communities through the dissemination of explicit attribution to increase respect for and teach Indigenous ways of knowing. Decolonizing and Indigenizing learning were outcomes suggested in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission final report in 2015. One of the “calls to action” was to bring diverse groups of people together in solidarity. Tree Teachings: Combining Indigenous Earth Science and Western Science puts such resources into the hands of community educators (classroom teachers, Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers, community organization leaders) using a purposeful implementation model that capitalizes on leaders (academics, graduate students, educators, and policy makers) from the pan-Canadian network of Science Rendezvous partners.



DR. LYNDA COLGAN
*Executive Director, Education and Development
Science Rendezvous
Professor Emerita, Faculty of Education, Queen's University
Founder, Science Rendezvous Kingston*

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IMPACT

ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

Science Rendezvous has utilized an online survey at all event sites since 2012. The information gathered through this survey provides valuable information about how to improve our reach in the communities around event sites, the individuals who come to Science Rendezvous events, what events are doing well, and how we can improve each year. Below we review some of the important findings from the 2024 Impact and Volunteer Surveys.

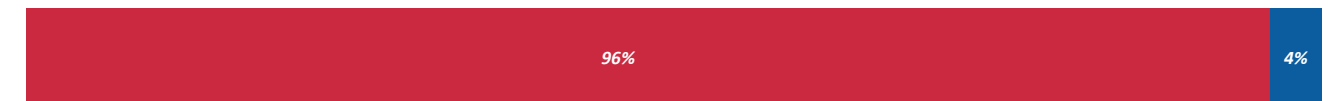


In a survey of Science Rendezvous volunteers, when asked how enjoyable their experience was volunteering from 0 (awful) to 100 (excellent): the average ranking was an 87!

~96% of attendees said that they enjoyed their Science Rendezvous experience.

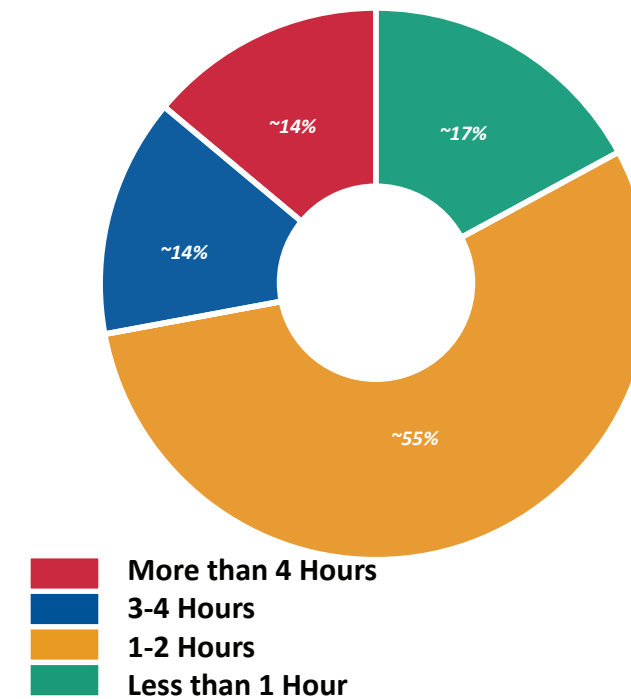


Q. DID YOU ENJOY THE SCIENCE RENDEZVOUS EVENT?

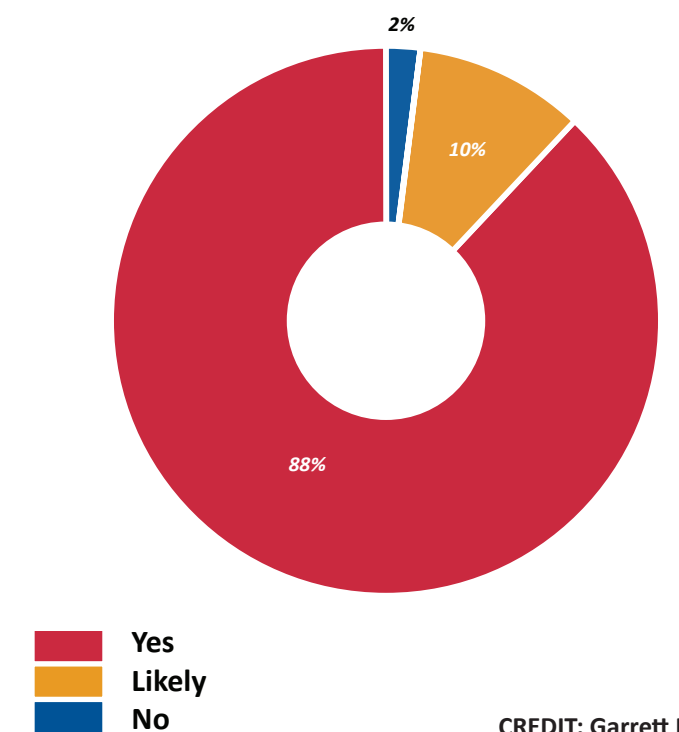


Yes
No

Q. HOW LONG DID YOU SPEND AT YOUR LOCAL SCIENCE RENDEZVOUS FESTIVAL?



Q. DO YOU THINK YOU WILL ATTEND YOUR LOCAL SCIENCE RENDEZVOUS EVENT NEXT YEAR?



CREDIT: Garrett Elliott



WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

ATTENDEES

"The presenters were really enthusiastic and my daughter really enjoyed all the activities"

"I loved the variety of booths that there were. There were some special ones for sure! The VR was a hit!"

"Great learning opportunity for children interested in science!"

"This event is an absolute blast! It's incredibly interactive and engaging, and the best part is that it's free! It's perfect for anyone who's curious and wants to have a great time. What we loved most is that every station allowed us to dive right in. I can't help but wish I had something like this when I was growing up. Keep up the fantastic work; we're already looking forward to next year!"

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VOLUNTEERS

"I love volunteering, children, and being able to spark creativity. I remember being little and in elementary school we would have days called scientist in the school where people would come and do science experiments with the class. I felt like this could be something similar and I recall being so amazing back then I wanted to have a full circle moment and be that person for another child."

"Science Rendezvous is absolutely one of my favourite events of the year! It is a festival that celebrates our passion for science and discoveries. The way that volunteers of Science Rendezvous educate people is not only incredibly engaging, but also super fun! As a volunteer, not only do I get to communicate science to the public, but I also get to learn about science from volunteers in different departments."

"I really enjoy watching our Science Rendezvous visitors try a quick science activity, perhaps experience an outcome different than what they were expecting, and hopefully leave with a bit more understanding of how fun and exciting science can be."

"Science Rendezvous is a spectacular event that brings together communities in the interest of science like none other. It is accessible, fun and informative."

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AFFILIATES / SPONSORS

Science Rendezvous supports the efforts hundreds of partners with 35 affiliate sites made up of Canada’s top research institutions, industry and community partners. These affiliates share the belief that our voice is strongest together. The collaborative effort of sharing best practices, logistical coordination, marketing efforts and program development ensures that Science Rendezvous events continue to improve and reach farther into the general public each year. Together we are a true Science Rendezvous!



Aurora Research Institute — Fort Smith, Aurora Research Institute — Inuvik, Bridgepoint Active Healthcare, Camosun College, Carleton University, College of the North Atlantic Labrador West, Durham College, Future Energy Systems at University of Alberta, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Let’s Talk Science, University of Manitoba, Main Street Markham, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Mississauga Library, Ontario Tech University (FKA: University of Ontario Institute of Technology), Queen’s University, University of Saskatchewan, Seneca College, Simon Fraser University, Sinai Health System, Toronto Metropolitan University (FKA: Ryerson University), The Toronto Zoo, University Health Network, University of British Columbia, University of Guelph Humber, University of Toronto — St. George, University of Toronto — Mississauga, University of Toronto — Scarborough, University of Victoria, University of Windsor, University of Winnipeg, Western University, York University

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

June 30, 2024

	2024	2023
REVENUES	\$	\$
Revenues	63,000	82,000
Government Grants	147,919	77,076
	210,919	159,076

EXPENDITURES	\$	\$
Program Wages and Wage Costs	132,036	84,880
Program Advertising and Promotion	83,680	66,082
Canada Wide Experiment	1,253	2,585
Insurance	1,496	1,404
Telephone	188	323
Office and Administration	19,249	12,864
	237,802	168,138

DEFICIENCY OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	(26,883)	(9,062)
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WHERE PEOPLE & SCIENCE MEET
TOGETHER WE'RE INSPIRING
THE NEXT GENERATION OF GREAT CANADIAN INNOVATORS
AT SCIENCE RENDEZVOUS.

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