



ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020





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A Message from the Chair and CEO



Pamela Scott Crace
Pamela Scott Crace
Chair of the Board

Dov Bercovici
Dov Bercovici
President & CEO

Discovery Centre kicked off its 2019-2020 year by hosting the Canadian Association of Science Centre's (CASC) 2019 Conference. From May 8-10 more than 150 science education specialists gathered in Halifax to grow the impact of public science education.

Fast forward to March 2020 with a global pandemic upending society, and science is suddenly in the spotlight along with new watchwords such as "resilience" and "adaptation".

We see now that our missions are more important than ever.

For communities lucky enough to have a science centre, the benefits will be evident as we transition from emergency lockdowns to recovery to reinvention. The fundamental goals of making science accessible and inclusive, of cultivating curious citizens of all ages, and fostering science literacy are now better understood as top public policy priorities.

For 34 years now, Discovery Centre has been shining a spotlight on science education. True to its roots as a travelling science exhibit, DC remains deeply committed to delivering curriculum-connected, experiential, and fun STEAM education to as many students, families, and communities across Nova Scotia as possible.

Since opening the new facility in 2017, Discovery Centre has welcomed more than 600,000 visitors. The award-winning Science on the Road program connected with 12,271 students this year, compared to 10,576 in 2018-19. The Science in the Centre program also had a 16% increase in 2020, with more than 8,000 participants. And two new initiatives were added: Adopt a School and Driving Discovery, which together reached another 6,324 students.

Looking to further build on important themes such as public health, climate change, workforce development, and inclusive innovation, Discovery Centre is proud of another successful year of new partnerships and engaging the public in important conversations about the world we live in.

Two weeks before our year end on March 31, we closed our doors to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Discovery Centre has thankfully demonstrated the resilience required to sustain a temporary closure. During the final construction phase of our new \$25M facility, the remote-working team steadfastly maintained its community presence and high standards of trusted programming. The post-COVID-19 world will call on us to adapt yet again, and that story will be the subject of our next annual report.

Fulfilling Discovery Centre's mission of bringing STEAM to life would not be possible without the generous support of our donors and partners recognized in these pages. These individuals, organizations, and government agencies are truly engaged and committed to the future of Nova Scotia's youth and the workforce of tomorrow!

We would also like to thank the Board of Directors, Management, and Staff for their hard work and dedication to ensuring that Nova Scotia's beloved Discovery Centre is well positioned to thrive long into the future, better prepared than ever to inspire our youth's curiosity and understanding of our increasingly interconnected and complex natural world.

Leadership Team

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Communications

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Director, Marketing & Sales

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Science Educator

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Exhibit Specialist

Jamie Franzmann
Customer Relations
Coordinator

Dylan Glendinning
Staff Scientist

Priya Gupta
Staff Scientist

Nicole Jessop
Staff Scientist

Roger Kent
Exhibit & Facilities Specialist

Sarah Kingsbury
Coordinator, Science
Experience & Volunteers

Dave MacDonald
Production Specialist

Chris McDonald
Exhibit & Digital Specialist

Emily McIsaac
Science Educator,
Driving Discovery

Andrew McNeill
Events & Membership
Coordinator

Jillian Phillips
Science Educator

Zabrina Prescott
Visitor Experience
Developer

Natalie Quathamier
Science Educator, Driving
Discovery

Mark Santos
Senior Graphic Designer

Japna Sidhu-Bar
Dome Theatre Presenter

Emma Snowdon
Staff Scientist,
Ocean Gallery

Melissa Whigham
Customer Service
Representative



Resilience, Agility & Strength

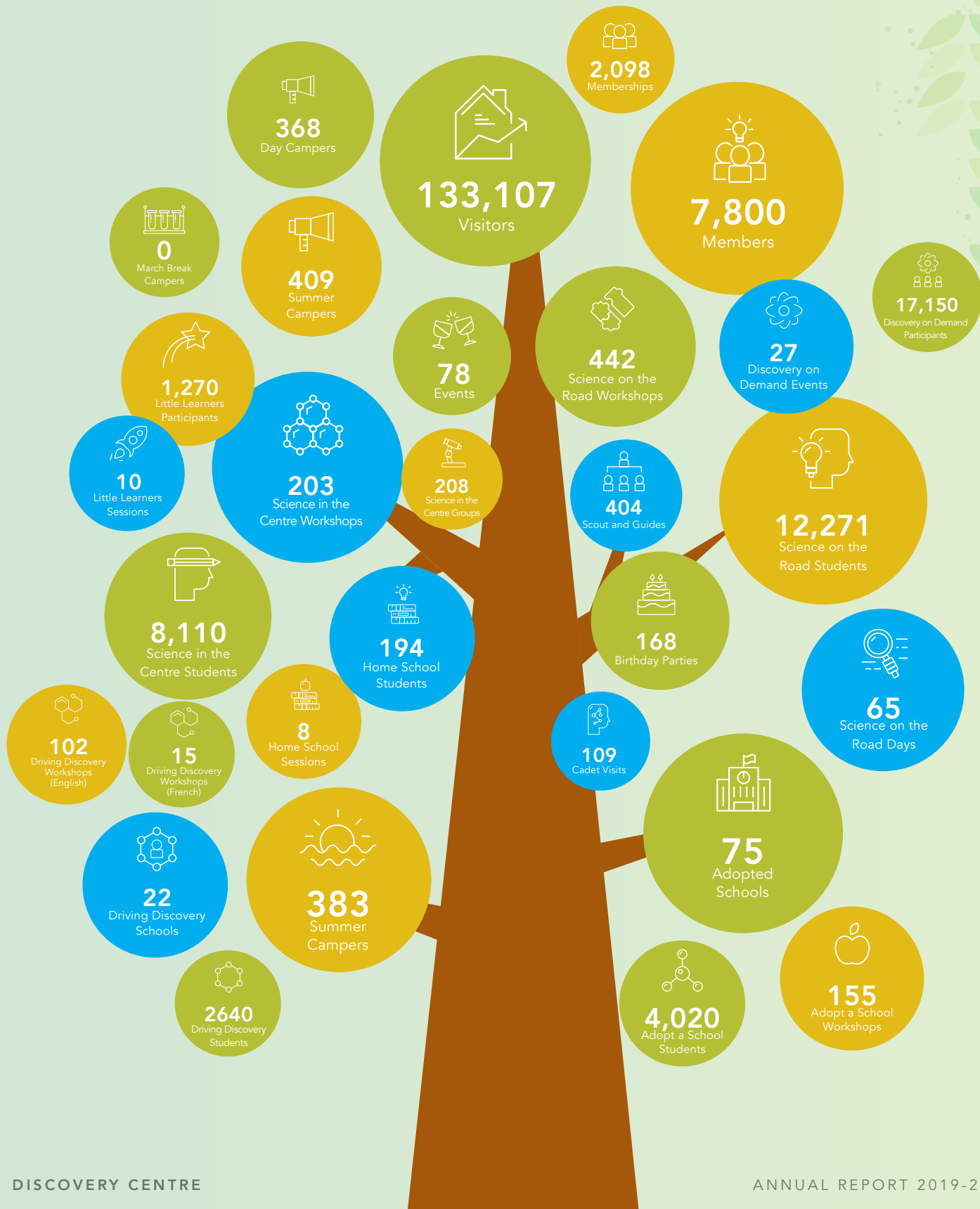
This past year, the Discovery Centre has continued to strengthen its impact, develop meaningful partnerships with corporate, community and government groups and further inspire future generations of leaders in science and innovation. Our ability to be flexible and address the needs of those we serve has formed our resilient, entrepreneurial spirit ensuring we remain relevant for generations to come.

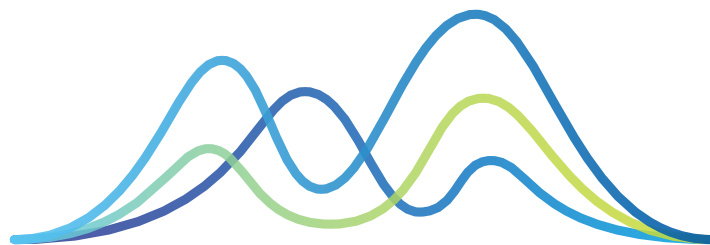
The 2019-20 Annual Report highlights our growing reach to over ½ million visitors in our new facility, a new selection of events that unite community and corporate groups in an inspiring environment, and expanded outreach programs which deliver the excitement of science and technology to communities across Nova Scotia. Our annual fundraising dinner, the Discovery Awards, which continues to celebrate the best and brightest among local science and technology innovators, had record attendance and corporate support this year.

Our new Adopt a School program, Free Access Night, Little Learners, and bilingual initiatives like Driving Discovery enabled us to better deliver programming to more diverse audiences setting the stage for further inclusiveness to a wider spectrum of Nova Scotian families. Most importantly, the Discovery Centre found new and innovative ways to bring STEAM to life and establish itself as a mainstay for public engagement.

This agility and appetite for change will serve us well as we approach the next challenging chapter of recovering and rebuilding from a global pandemic. **This too will make us stronger!**

Year at a Glance





making **waves** | **un océan** de découvertes

CASC 2019 ACCS



The fields of science and technology are filled with waves: water, seismic, acoustic, light, electromagnetic, and the recent confirmation of gravitational waves has been heralded as the discovery of the century. Waves have given us WIFI, MRIs, and our favourite music.

While promoting innovation and advancement, 'Making Waves' is about instigating change and having a resounding impact.

Therefore, it was very fitting that 'Making Waves' became the theme of the 2019 Canadian Association of Science Centres conference hosted by the Discovery Centre in the coastal city of Halifax on May 8-10. What an honour it was to host 150 colleagues from across the country and beyond and hear their accolades for our amazing new facility and great city, as well as the impressive line-up of speakers, entertainment, networking opportunities, and of course, Maritime hospitality.

The roster of events included two pre-conference activities which brought registrants to a local school, the Centre for Ocean Ventures & Entrepreneurship (COVE) and on a boat ride to McNab's Island, a welcome reception at the Discovery Centre complete with Maritime-themed music and menu, a two-day trade show, CASCADE Awards Gala, and a great line-up of inspiring speakers and discussion at the Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel.

The opening panel presentation: BIG DISCOVERIES. SMALL PLACES. featured three ground-breaking local science professionals from different disciplines sharing their stories of making waves of their own, facing challenges and providing opportunities within the region.



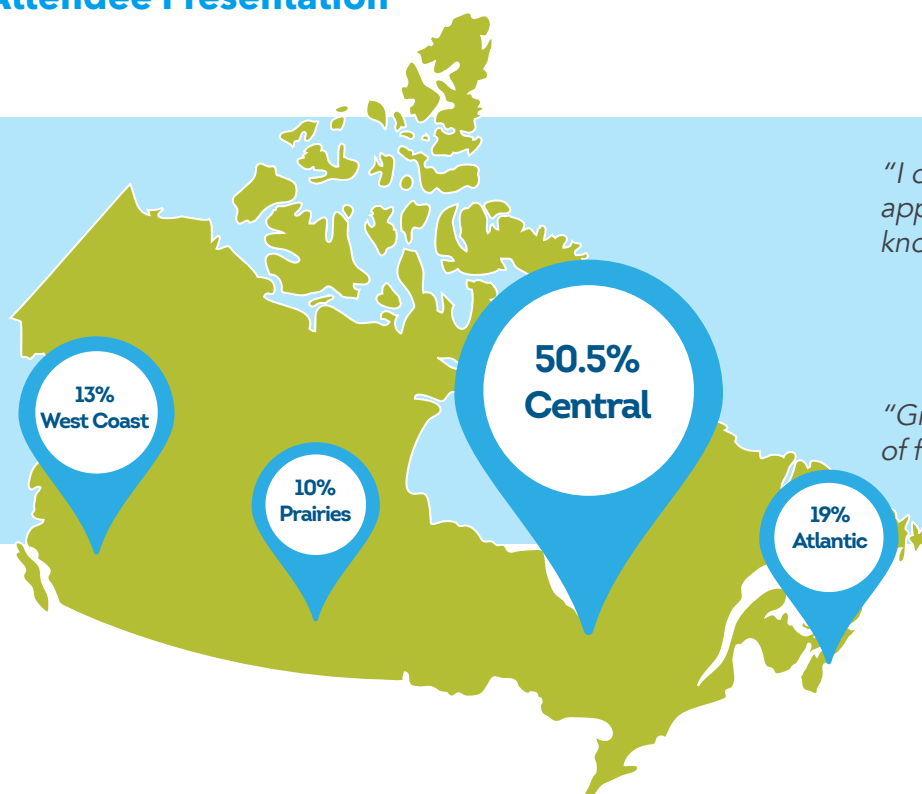
Discovery Centre was proud to showcase Erin Bertrand, Assistant Professor and NSERC Tier II Canada Research Chair in Marine Microbial Proteomics in the Biology Department at Dalhousie University, George Palikaras, Founder & CEO, Metamaterial Technologies Inc, and James Robar, Chief of Medical Physics at the Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA), Professor of Radiation Oncology at Dalhousie University and Co-founder of Adaptiv Medical Technologies.

The closing keynote: PUSHING THE LIMITS - Cultivating Resilience & Critical Thinking in an Increasingly Polarized World featured Dr. Shawna Pandya, Physician Surgeon & Citizen Scientist-Astronaut Candidate. Shawna amazed the group with her experiences in medicine, surgery, space, aviation, and martial arts and encouraged listeners to push limits, build bridges, and foster dialogue.

The Discovery Centre and the other museums and centres represented by CASC work to engage and inspire over eight million people who visit science centres annually. Halifax provided the perfect destination for an event that brings together science centre leaders to reflect on current opportunities, challenges, and the future of public engagement in science and technology. The Discovery Centre was very proud to host this year's conference, offering us all the chance to share best practices, connect with colleagues and further our reach.



Attendee Presentation



"I do a bit of everything in my role, really appreciated the diversity of topics and knowledge here"

-2019 attendee

"Great conference! Feels like a gathering of friends. So much sharing, too!"

-2019 attendee

Featured Exhibits

Survival of the Slowest

May 2019 - September 2019

This wild and wonderful live exhibit had guests discovering how taking it slow can be an advantage. *Survival of the Slowest* explored the counterintuitive survival strategies, showcasing how slow and steady really can win the race. This exhibit featured 12 live habitats with animals including Lilo the Two-Toed Sloth, Spike the African Pygmy Hedgehog, Pascale the Veiled Chameleon, and Hammer the Green Iguana. With daily presentations facilitated by professional wildlife educators, visitors were inspired with a greater understanding and respect for these incredible animals.



Beyond Rubik's Cube

October 2019 - April 2020

Visitors stepped inside a multi-sensory, interactive experience in robotics, art, music, computer programming, and engineering in this featured exhibit, which celebrated over 40 years of creativity based on the world's most popular puzzle- Rubik's Cube. Guests learned about the creation of the Rubik's Cube, tested their solving speed at the solve table, raced against a cube-solving robot named Denso, and manipulated a 10-foot giant working cube.



New Eyes on the Universe

January 2020- March 2020

New Eyes on the Universe featured the building and discoveries of the *Sudbury Neutrino Observatory (SNO)* and the facilities and experiments of SNOLAB, located 2km underground in Sudbury, Ontario. Visitors embarked on a virtual tour of the underground facility, learned about subatomic particles, and saw a real Nobel Prize!



Discovery Awards



The 2019 Discovery Awards for Science and Technology, held on November 21st, once again celebrated Nova Scotia's best and brightest with an inspiring night to remember. Co-presented by Dalhousie University and Saint Mary's University, a crowd of over 600 gathered to enjoy a formal reception followed by dinner at the Cunard Centre with recipients named in the categories of Professional of Distinction, Emerging Professional, Innovation, and Science Champion. The organizing committee works hard all year to feature these Nova Scotian innovators along with an awe-inspiring Youth Award winner and two inductees into the Discovery Awards Hall of Fame. The 2019 award recipients include:

Hall of Fame Inductees

Dr. Sultan Darvesh
Alexander Howard (A.H.) Mackay
(1848-1929)

Professional of Distinction

Dr. Graham Gagnon

Emerging Professional

Dr. Barret Kurylyk

Innovation

Novonix

Science Champion

Dr. Christine Chambers

Youth Award

Om Agarwal

Presenting Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Reception Sponsor



Media Sponsor



Raffle Sponsor



Game Sponsor



Science Challenge Sponsor



Legacy Champion Sponsor



Champion Sponsors



Adopt a School

The Discovery Centre's Adopt a School program grows generosity into curiosity, bringing hands-on, interactive experiences to Nova Scotian students and inspiring their sense of wonder for science!

Many students and educators are unable to benefit from in-school workshops or class trips to the Discovery Centre. With the help of generous donors, we are ensuring that more young people have equitable access to our original, curriculum-connected programming.

While still in its first full year, the Adopt a School program has experienced tremendous growth. Over the past year, 75 schools were adopted thanks to private and corporate supporters. Schools were adopted in all Regional Centres for Education taking our team across the province. Over 4,000 students had the opportunity to take part in hands-on workshops, live stage demos, and portable planetarium presentations.

Special thanks to our Champion sponsors Efficiency NS and Dalhousie University, as well as to our Enhancer sponsors Truro Toyota Limited, Pye Chevrolet Buick GMC, and many individual donors for their generous support during the first full year of this program.



Science, Students and You!

Champion Sponsors



Enhancer Sponsors

TRURO



Education Programming

Science in the Centre

This year, we hosted over 8,100 students at the Discovery Centre! Students joined us for epic field trips where they experienced hands-on curriculum connected workshops, explored amazing feature exhibits, took in live star shows in our Dome Theatre, and enjoyed exploring the many exhibits and experiences. Whether they joined us for a full day or just a few hours, students left smiling and inspired.

Thank you to our workshop sponsors Atlantic Canada Aerospace and Defense, Efficiency Nova Scotia, and Halifax Harbour Bridges.



Science on the Road

Over 440 workshops were presented this year through Science on the Road (SOTR). SOTR brought STEAM to thousands of Nova Scotian students across the province from Yarmouth and Tatamagouche to Guysborough and Glace Bay. Thank you to Clearwater for supporting this award-winning outreach program. Also, thank you to our workshop sponsors Efficiency NS, Halifax Harbour Bridges, and Ocean Technology Council of Nova Scotia.

This year, we developed and debuted a new program for our Portable Planetarium called Stories of the Night Sky. Stories of the Night Sky is an astronomical adventure that integrates traditional Mi'kmaq teachings with current cosmological understanding. Thank you to the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) for support of this program, as well as to Saint Mary's University for their ongoing support of our portable planetarium.



Natural Sciences and Engineering
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en sciences
naturelles et en génie du Canada



Education Programming

Camps

March Break

Unfortunately, due to the temporary closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Discovery Centre was unable to host March Break campers this year. We did have over 50 campers registered and have managed to connect with many participants via online offerings.

Summer Camps

Over 400 children aged 5-12 years joined us for our summer camps this year. Our campers journeyed to outer space in our One Giant Leap camp, travelled into the past in our Time after Time camp and studied living organisms in our Micro-Macro Explorers camp. Each camp had hands-on STEAM activities, live star shows, and fieldtrips into the community. Thank you to Pratt & Whitney for helping us inspire and encourage STEAM to the next generation of scientists in Nova Scotia.

Digital Discovery Camps

This year, over 100 youth aged 9-14 took part in our amazing Digital Discovery Camps. In partnership with Digital Nova Scotia, Discovery Centre ran three weeklong Digital Discovery camps, two Digital PD Day camps, and new outreach camps in Spryfield, Bridgewater, Yarmouth and Wolfville for the first time. This camp goes beyond all limits with access to Nova Scotia's most prestigious professionals in Information and Communications Technology (ICT). Campers participated in real hands-on challenges in hardware breakdown, game development, coding and robotics. Thank you to our EPIC gigabyte sponsor and pro-mentors at REDspace who provided incredible insight to a digital world. Also special thanks to Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) for supporting this dynamic camp experience.

Ocean Tech Camp

This year, 12 youth aged 11-14 years dove headfirst into our popular Ocean Tech camp. Joining forces with the Ocean Technology Council of Nova Scotia, this camp was full of exciting challenges surrounding the latest ocean technology and research, here in Nova Scotia. With hands-on activities, field trips and special guests who work in ocean tech, campers were inspired to go forward, educate others about the ocean, and maybe even become the next generation of ocean engineers, scientists, and technicians.

Aeronauts and Astronauts Camp

Last August, 17 girls aged 6-10 years took part in an amazing one-day camp Aeronauts and Astronauts thanks to a partnership with the British High Commission. The campers explored aerodynamics, engineering and outer space while at the Discovery Centre and then went on a special airport hangar fieldtrip where they were able to meet the Royal Air Force's Red Arrows aerobatics team and explore an aircraft.

Maker League

This year, 22 kids attended Saturday morning Maker League clubs. Over the course of eight weeks, participants ages 9-12 years old, learned how to design, model, and code their own creations using a variety of different platforms and applying it to cutting-edge technology. This fun and innovative league builds strong critical thinking, communication, and teamwork skills. This program is made possible with the generous support of accomplished entrepreneur and believer in our youth, Wade K. Dawe.



Education Programming

Discovery on Demand

Visiting communities across the province for special events, after school programs and family days, Discovery on Demand, presented by TD, reached over 17,150 Nova Scotians and tourists over the past year. Discovery on Demand inspired youth with specialized hands-on STEAM programs, captivated them with explosive stage shows and wowed them with our portable planetarium.

Scouts, Guides and Cadets

Over 513 Scouts, Guides and Cadets visited the Discovery Centre this past year. They experienced hands-on STEAM activities and live star shows in the Immersive Dome Theatre which helped them earn badges and complete their programming.

Little Learners Scotiabank

More than 630 toddlers between the ages of 18 months to 5 years took part in Little Learners presented by Scotiabank. Each of the 10 sessions had a different theme. Little ones met live animals such as Lilo the two-toed sloth, explored rocket science, learned the importance of handwashing using Glo-Germ, experienced story time in our Immersive Dome Theatre, and met special guests such as author Chris Ferrie.

Driving Discovery

Driving Discovery is a unique province-wide outreach program supporting teachers and students in inquiry and skill-based science learning. In partnership with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, our Driving Discovery team visited 22 schools across the province, delivering workshops in both French and English. This year, we debuted a new hands-on inquiry-based workshop for Grade 7 students called Animated Earth. Driving Discovery also engaged teachers during four Professional Development Day sessions. Over 90 teachers took part in the sessions led by our Science Educators who addressed topics such as technology in the classroom and inquiry-based learning.



Events

Autism Awareness Morning

On April 14, 2019, we opened our doors early to celebrate Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month. We welcomed visitors starting at 9 am, dimmed our brightest lights, adjusted our loudest exhibits, and made quiet spaces available for those who needed a break from the action.

2019 Canada Gairdner Lecture Series

The Gairdner Foundation celebrates the world's best biomedical and global health researchers by awarding seven recipients each year. To further promote these incredible award winners, the Gairdner Foundation hosts a series of lectures across Canada. On June 24, 2019, Discovery Centre was lucky to host guests who attended a free after-hours lecture from *Canada Gairdner Award Laureate*, Dr. Janet Rossant as she discussed *Human Stem Cells and Gene Editing: The promise, the challenges, and the ethical concerns*.

Bubble Parade

What better way to celebrate World Oceans Day than playing with giant bubbles by the ocean? On June 7, 2019, Discovery Centre and the Canadian Sea Turtle Network joined by many of our daycare friends paraded along the Halifax waterfront singing, learning, and blowing lots and lots of bubbles.

Wild Things

This animalistic adult-only adventure attracted more than 400 visitors on June 22nd for an evening at the Discovery Centre. Ticket holders experienced Survival of the Slowest, a featured exhibit with live animal presentations and programming from community partners Little Ray's Nature Centres, Shubenacadie Wildlife Park, Nature Conservancy of Canada and more.

Spooktacular

Over 1,450 visitors wore their most spectacular Halloween costume to our 7th Annual Spooktacular Science Halloween Party, which took place both Saturday and Sunday, October 26 & 27, 2019. With family-friendly experiments, thriller dance moves, eye-popping demos, costume competitions and Halloween crafts, Spooktacular proved to be a bone chillingly good time.

Science, Spirits & Boos

This adult-only Halloween thriller drew a crowd of almost 400 visitors on Saturday, October 26, 2019. Visitors dressed in their most creative costumes as they explored the Discovery Centre, including the featured exhibit Beyond Rubik's Cube! Our heart dissections and bug eating were a huge hit along with a live snake and spider touch station by Little Ray's Nature Centre's.

Discover Love

We explored the science of sex at this annual Valentine's Day adult-only event on February 8, 2020 with over 500 guests who enjoyed expert talks from health professionals, sex researchers, and local sex shop Venus Envy. Ticket holders enjoyed stargazing in our dome theatre and engaged with heart pounding interactive activities like bull penis dissections, burlesque performances, and 'friendly' competitions. Visitors loved exploring the Discovery Centre by night and enjoying a different twist on this romantic occasion.

Mighty Bites

To celebrate National Dental Hygienist Week (April 4-10, 2019), Dalhousie's School of Dental Hygiene students engaged families in games, activities, and giveaways to promote good oral health. On the very same day, the Atlantic Research & Conservation Coalition (ShARCC) shared their expertise on Nova Scotia shark conservation science. Visitors left the Centre with extra toothy grins that day!

Discovery Days

Throughout the year we hosted ten Discovery Days events with hands-on activities, jaw-dropping experiments, and special guests relating to popular topics like sharks, dark skies, and snowy science. Over 5,700 visitors learned from subject experts and opened their minds to new ideas.



Events

Moon Walk Weekend

In July we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the first moon landing with a never-seen-before full dome feature film, *LANDER: From Avro to Apollo!* The film explored the life of Canadian Engineer, Owen Maynard. Showcasing the impact of the Avro Arrow project, its cancellation, and how it stemmed into the well-known Apollo program. Visitors learned about Owen's influence on the historic program, ultimately leading to the Apollo 11 moon landing.

Red Arrows: Kings of the Skies Screening

Discovery Centre was approached by the British High Commission to help recognize a visit from the Red Arrows (Canada's equivalent of the Snowbirds). In addition to a Discovery on Demand event on the Halifax waterfront, and a one-day camp for girls entitled Aeronauts and Astronauts, Discovery Centre played host to a special screening of the first episode of the *Red Arrows: Kings of the Skies* series on August 8th. Guests were treated to a special Q&A session and an intimate reception with mechanics and pilots from the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team.

Parks Canada

Visitors were treated to several visits by Parks Canada's Learn to Camp team during July and August 2019. Parks Canada taught families the tricks of the trade like how to pick the perfect tent, and what tools to bring camping. The team also taught guests about invasive plants and animals that can harm our local ecosystems through fun hands-on activities.

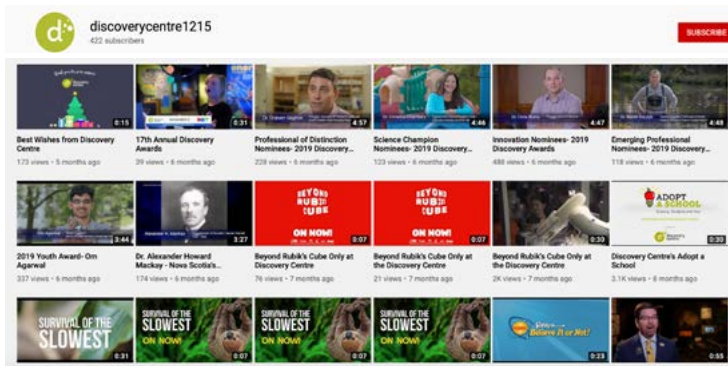
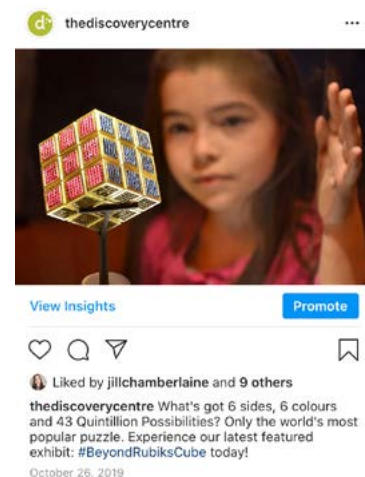
Science Literacy Week: Reading the Seas

Visitors celebrated *Science Literacy Week* on September 22, 2019 with ocean-themed activities and artifacts – all part of a special in-house version of our Discovery on Demand outreach program: *Reading the Seas*. Guests were able to observe real ocean specimens, handle replicas of whale teeth, baleen, and bones, and explore how scientists in NS study and 'read' our oceans and coasts.

Speed Cubing with Graeme Watt

Visitors were amazed when they met 16-year-old Graeme Watt, a Haligonian speed-cuber! He visited twice in December and again in January showing off his skills with various cubes, transforming the Beyond Rubik's Cube mosaic wall, and challenging the speed of Denzo, the cube solving robot.

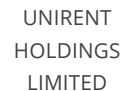




With Thanks



STRONGER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER™



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Christie Community
Foundation

Walker Wood
Foundation

S.M. Blair Family
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MacDonald
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Kristin Williams

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of Discovery Centre,

Our opinion

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Discovery Centre (the Centre) as at March 31, 2020 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

What we have audited

The Centre's financial statements comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2020;
- the statement of changes in net assets for the year then ended;
- the statement of revenue and expenditures for the year then ended;
- the statement of cash flows for the year then ended; and
- the notes to the financial statements, which include a summary of significant accounting policies.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We are independent of the Centre in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Other information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon, included in the annual report.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Centre's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Centre or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Centre's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Centre's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Centre's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Centre to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

(Signed) PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

Halifax, Nova Scotia

June 24, 2020



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at March 31, 2020

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and short-term investments (notes 10 and 11)	1,676,525	3,289,398
Accounts receivable	449,058	396,059
Government contributions receivable	352,625	1,500,000
Prepaid expenses and deposits	30,844	127,368
Inventories	57,119	33,500
	2,566,171	5,346,325
Long-term investment (note 3)	1,000,000	1
Property, plant and equipment (note 5)	19,960,647	21,518,604
	23,526,818	26,864,930
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 16)	443,646	628,003
Deferred revenue and deferred contributions (note 12)	2,005,709	2,313,411
Current portion of long-term debt (note 6)	1,155,687	1,913,801
	3,605,042	4,855,215
Long-term debt (note 6)	3,560,220	4,895,051
Total liabilities	7,165,262	9,750,266
Net assets (note 13)		
Investment in property, plant and equipment	15,244,741	14,709,752
Internally restricted reserve (note 10)	100,000	100,000
Endowment fund (note 11)	72,000	72,000
Unrestricted	944,815	2,232,912
	16,361,556	17,114,664
	23,526,818	26,864,930
Commitments (note 15)		

Approved by the Board of Directors

Director

Director

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

as of March 31, 2020

	Investment in property, plant and equipment \$	Internally restricted reserve \$ (note 10)	Endowment fund \$ (note 11)	Unrestricted \$	2020 Total \$	2019 Total \$
Net assets – Beginning of year	14,709,752	100,000	72,000	2,232,912	17,114,664	16,333,774
Transfers	2,443,930	-	-	(2,443,930)	-	-
Excess (deficit) of revenue over expenditures for the year	(1,908,941)	-	-	1,155,833	(753,108)	780,890
Net assets – End of year	15,244,741	100,000	72,000	944,815	16,361,556	17,114,664

STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENDITURES

For the year ended March 31, 2020

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Revenue		
Campaign funding (note 9)	796,762	1,283,834
Admissions, memberships and workshops	1,239,887	1,434,491
Government contributions (note 8)	1,098,570	2,243,775
Fundraising and donations	1,365,966	1,042,115
Retail income	140,168	120,527
Special events (note 7)	185,469	163,200
Other	151,430	188,039
	<u>4,978,252</u>	<u>6,475,981</u>
Expenditures		
Salaries and benefits	1,894,963	1,853,556
Exhibits, programs and administration	1,499,217	1,513,115
Rent and common area charges	290,872	258,191
Special events (note 7)	90,800	85,217
Retail cost of goods sold	42,969	91,459
	<u>3,818,821</u>	<u>3,801,538</u>
Excess of revenue over expenditures for the year before the following expenses	<u>1,159,431</u>	<u>2,674,443</u>
Amortization of property, plant and equipment	1,578,840	1,540,042
Interest on long-term debt	330,101	353,511
Interest on line of credit	3,598	-
	<u>1,912,539</u>	<u>1,893,553</u>
Excess of revenue over expenditures for the year	<u>(753,108)</u>	<u>780,890</u>

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended March 31, 2020

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Cash provided by (used in)		
Operating activities		
Excess of expenditures over revenue (revenue over expenditures) for the year	(753,108)	780,890
Charges to excess of revenue over expenditures not involving cash		
Amortization of property, plant and equipment	1,578,840	1,540,042
	<u>825,732</u>	<u>2,320,932</u>
Net change in non-cash working capital items related to operations		
Decrease (increase) in accounts receivable	(52,999)	469,414
Decrease (increase) in government contributions receivable	1,147,375	(1,194,487)
Decrease (increase) in HST receivable	-	2,323
Decrease (increase) in prepaid expenses and deposits	96,524	(14,863)
Decrease (increase) in inventories	(23,619)	(5,111)
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(184,357)	159,456
Increase (decrease) in deferred revenue and deferred contributions	(307,702)	(572,059)
	<u>1,500,954</u>	<u>1,165,605</u>
Financing activities		
Repayment of construction loan and long-term debt	(2,092,946)	(1,495,942)
Investing activities		
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	(20,882)	(762,323)
Purchase of long-term investment	(999,999)	-
	<u>(1,020,881)</u>	<u>(762,323)</u>
Net change in cash and short-term investments during the year	<u>(1,612,873)</u>	<u>(1,092,660)</u>
Cash and short-term investments – Beginning of year	<u>3,289,398</u>	<u>4,382,058</u>
Cash and short-term investments – End of year	<u>1,676,525</u>	<u>3,289,398</u>
Non-cash transactions (note 5)		

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

For the year ended March 31, 2020

1. Description of operations

Discovery Centre (the "Centre") is a non-profit organization, which operates a hands-on science and technology centre. The Centre is a registered charity under the Income Tax Act and therefore, is not required to pay income taxes.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with and reflect the following policies and practices:

a) Basis of presentation

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations ("ASNPO") as issued by the Canadian Accounting Standards Board.

b) Inventories

Inventories are valued at the lower of cost and net realizable value. Cost is determined on the first-in, first-out basis. There was no provision or reversal of provision against inventories during the year.

c) Property, plant and equipment and amortization

Leasehold improvements, equipment and fixtures and exhibits are recorded at cost or in the case of donated assets, at estimated fair market value where determinable with reasonable certainty. Salaries, materials and other costs directly attributable to the construction of exhibits are capitalized.

Amortization of property, plant and equipment is provided on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets once put into commercial use at the following rates:

Exhibits	10 years
Equipment and fixtures	3 - 5 years
Vehicle	3 years
Computer equipment	2 years
Leasehold improvements	(Lease term) 25 years

All donations, government grants and funding of capital additions out of revenue related to the purchase or construction of property, plant and equipment increase the investment in property, plant and equipment.

Direct expenditures for the purchase of fixed assets and direct allocations of operating and maintenance expenditures are capitalized.

Interest paid on the construction loan related to the construction of the leaseholds and exhibits is capitalized during the term of construction.

d) Long-term investments

The Centre accounts for its investment in The Discovery Centre International Inc. (DCI), a controlled not-for-profit entity at cost.

e) Revenue recognition

The Centre follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions, which include government grants. Contributions and income related to future periods are recorded as deferred revenue and are only recognized as revenue when earned.

Restricted contributions for the purchase of property, plant and equipment are deferred and amortized to revenue on the same basis as the amortization on the purchased property, plant and equipment. A restricted contribution may be provided for a certain area of activity, for example the capital campaign for the new Centre, without the contributor specifying which portion is to be used to acquire property, plant and equipment. In order for a contribution to be accounted for as a contribution restricted for the purchase of a property, plant and equipment, the contributor must specify the portion of the contribution that is to be used to purchase property, plant and equipment. If the contributor does not so specify, then the contribution would be recognized as revenue when spent for the particular purpose covered by the restriction, regardless of the fact that some of the expenditures may relate to the purchase of property, plant and equipment.

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable to the extent that amounts to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

f) Donated and volunteer services

Donated services by corporate contributors, where the value of the services can be estimated, are recorded as revenue in the period in which the services are provided.

Due to the difficulty in determining the value of volunteer services, these donated services are not recorded in the financial statements.

g) Pledges

A pledge is recorded as revenue if collection is reasonably assured.

h) Management estimates

The presentation of financial statements in conformity with ASNPO requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenditures during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those reported.

i) Financial instruments

The Centre has evaluated the fair value of its financial instruments based on the current interest rate environment, market values and the actual prices of financial instruments with similar terms. The carrying value of financial instruments is considered to approximate fair value. Financial instruments consist of accounts receivable, which will result in future cash receipts, as well as accounts payable and accrued liabilities, the construction loan and long-term debt, which will result in future cash outlays.

Fair value estimates are made at a specific point in time, based on relevant market information and information about the financial instruments. These estimates are subjective in nature and involve uncertainties and matters of judgment and, therefore, cannot be determined with precision. Changes in assumptions could affect the estimates.

Financial instruments are to be recognized depending on their classification and the Centre has implemented the following classifications:

- Cash and short-term investments are classified as "Financial Assets Held-for-Trading". These financial assets are marked-to-market through the statement of changes in net assets at each year end.
- Accounts receivable are classified as "Loans and Receivables". After their initial fair value measurement, they are measured at amortized cost using the effective interest method.
- Accounts payable and accrued liabilities, the construction loan and long-term debt are classified as "Other Financial Liabilities". After their initial fair value measurement, they are measured at amortized cost, net of transaction costs, using the effective interest method.

3. Long term investment

The Centre made an investment in DCI, a wholly owned not for profit entity, in order to expand its initiatives in science and technology and with the objective that all net earnings will be repatriated back to the Centre as and when available to support the Centre's mission.

A summary of DCI's financial information is provided below:

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Total assets	747,722	18,145
Total liabilities	14,157	44,592
Net assets	733,566	(26,447)
Revenues	54,966	58,382
Expenses	294,953	94,106
Cash flows from operating activities	(307,213)	(5,235)
Cash flows from financing activities	1,000,000	-

4. Bank indebtedness

The Centre has an authorized revolving demand facility in the amount of \$250,000 which bears interest at prime plus 2% and the Centre has provided a general security agreement over all assets as security for the operating line facility.

5. Property, plant and equipment

	Cost \$	Accumulated amortization \$	2020 Net \$	2019 Net \$
Exhibits	9,028,825	2,429,428	6,599,397	7,499,326
Equipment and fixtures	309,965	176,184	133,781	179,762
Computer equipment	196,267	190,255	6,012	14,219
Leasehold improvements	15,094,831	1,873,374	13,221,457	13,825,297
	<u>24,629,888</u>	<u>4,669,241</u>	<u>19,960,647</u>	<u>21,518,604</u>

Of the additions to property, plant and equipment during the year, \$nil (2019 - \$2,457) had not been paid at year end and was included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities. These amounts were excluded from the statement of cash flow.

Of the additions to property, plant and equipment during the year, \$nil (2019 - \$nil) were operating expenditures directly related to the construction of exhibits.

6. Long-term debt

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Royal Bank of Canada ("RBC") non-revolving term loan, repayable in monthly principal instalments of \$10,000 plus interest, bearing interest at bank's prime rate plus 3%, due October 2023, amortized to October 2028	1,030,000	1,160,000
RBC non-revolving term loan, repayable in amounts tied to receipt of certain pledges and contributions over the next 3 years, bearing interest at bank's prime interest rate plus 1.00%, due in March 2022	772,775	2,455,885
RBC non-revolving term loan, repayable in monthly blended instalments of \$35,497, bearing interest at 5.46%, due October 2023, amortized to October 2028	2,913,132	3,192,967
	<u>4,715,907</u>	<u>6,808,852</u>
Less: Current portion	<u>1,155,687</u>	<u>1,913,801</u>
	<u>3,560,220</u>	<u>4,895,051</u>

The aggregate amount of principal repayments on the long-term debt, assuming maturing debt is renewed at similar terms to the existing debts, in each of the next five years is as follows:

	\$
For the year ending March 31, 2021	1,155,687
2022	419,787
2023	425,193
2024	442,278
2025	460,323

The loans are secured by a general security agreement constituting a first ranking security interest on all personal property of the Centre and landlord consent granting the bank access rights to the leased space, a borrowing resolution signed by the Board of Directors and a letter from the Centre detailing pledges and contributions relating to the capital campaign.

7. Special events

During the year, the Centre held one special event. The event resulted in a net excess of revenue over expenditures of \$94,669 (2019 - \$77,983).

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Sponsorships and registration revenue	185,469	163,200
Expenditures	<u>(90,800)</u>	<u>(85,217)</u>
	<u>94,669</u>	<u>77,983</u>

8. Government contributions

During the year, the Centre recorded government contributions for the operations of the Centre as follows:

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Government of Canada	337,630	1,500,000
Government of Nova Scotia	520,000	520,000
Halifax Regional Municipality	145,000	145,000
Employment grants	95,940	78,775
	<u>1,098,570</u>	<u>2,243,775</u>

9. Campaign funding

During the year, the Centre received funding from government and private donors and recorded expenditures to support the construction and operations of the Centre as follows:

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Revenue		
Government of Canada	-	128,666
Private donors	769,762	1,155,168
Total campaign funding	<u>769,762</u>	<u>1,283,834</u>

10. Internally restricted reserve

In 2005, the Board approved the creation of an internally restricted reserve, which can only be used for specific expenditures. No transfers were approved through fiscal 2020. As a result, \$100,000 (2019 - \$100,000) of cash in the operating fund is restricted from general use by the Centre.

11. Endowment fund

During 2009, a \$252,000 grant was received from Democracy 250, of which \$72,000 was specifically identified to be maintained as an Endowment fund to be invested in a GIC or other secure investment vehicle approved by the donor. Annual income derived from the investment will support youth to participate in the Science on the Road Program.

12. Deferred revenue and deferred contributions

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Deferred revenue	75,609	84,145
Deferred deposits – facility rentals	-	2,916
Deferred deposits	1,600	1,350
Deferred private sector contributions received	1,625,000	2,225,000
Deferred awards revenue	3,500	-
Deferred capital contributions	300,000	-
	<u>2,005,709</u>	<u>2,313,411</u>

13. Capital management

The Centre defines capital as net assets. Currently, the Centre has no defined targets for net assets and operates under the culture of a balanced budget with goals of modest surplus to build capital. Management intends to formalize its capital management targets in the near future. There are currently no external restrictions on capital for the Centre.

14. Financial instruments and risk management

Senior management of the Centre are responsible for setting acceptable levels of risk and reviewing risk management activities as necessary.

i. Fair value of financial instruments

The following table sets out the approximate fair values of financial instruments as at the financial position date:

	Carrying value \$	Fair value \$
Accounts receivable (trade, government and HST)	801,683	801,683
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	443,646	443,646
Term loans	4,715,907	4,715,907

Fair value of items, which are short-term in nature or are variable instruments, have been deemed to approximate their carrying value and the terms of the term loans are at market.

ii. Risk management

The Centre, through its financial assets and liabilities, has exposure to the following risks from its use of financial instruments: credit risk, interest rate risk and liquidity risk. Management is responsible for setting acceptable levels of risk and reviewing risk management activities as necessary.

Management believes the Centre is exposed to normal credit risk with respect to its accounts receivable. Provisions are maintained for potential credit losses and no such losses have been recognized to date. Management believes the Centre is not subject to significant credit concentration or other credit risk.

Management believes that the Centre has no significant interest rate risk as the only financial instruments that have variable interest rates are the revolving demand facility, as outlined in note 4, and two of the term loans, as outlined in note 6. Fluctuations in the prime interest rate will have moderate impact on the Centre's result of operations.

Management believes the Centre has no significant liquidity risk as its assets are liquid in nature.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic. States of emergency were declared across Canada with varying degrees of mandatory business closures and operating restrictions, resulting in a complete economic slowdown. The continued spread, duration and impact of COVID-19 and the actions being taken by governments, businesses and individuals to limit this pandemic, including business closures and physical distancing, and the effects of resulting layoffs and other job losses on the available cash flow of governments, organizations and individuals may adversely impact the Centre's operations and activities. This has resulted in significant economic uncertainty, of which the potential impact on the Centre's future financial results, including collections risk, is difficult to reliably measure. The future impacts to the Centre are not determinable at the date of these financial statements, however they could be material and include impairments of receivables and property and equipment, reductions in values of marketable securities, and reductions in revenue for fiscal 2021 and beyond. In light of these fiscal challenges, the Centre has the flexibility to adjust the delivery of programs to lessen expenditures.

15. Commitments

The Centre is in a twenty-year lease with a five-year renewal option with Nova Scotia Power Inc. for the premises at 1215 Lower Water Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia. The Centre will pay a nominal minimum base rent of one dollar per year during the term of the lease agreement. The minimum annual lease payments for a photocopier and vehicle during the next two years are as follows:

	\$
Year ending March 31, 2021	12,733
2022	5,622

16. Government remittances

Government remittances consist of amounts (such as sales taxes and payroll withholding taxes) required to be paid to government authorities and are recognized when the amounts become due. In respect of government remittances, the Centre had a net payable amount of \$nil at the statement of financial position date (2019 - \$nil).



Thank you.

