

ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021



Science
in society



A Message from the Chair and CEO



This past year, the Discovery Centre continued to operate in a pandemic driven reality full of current challenges and future opportunities – with science at the forefront!

When the economy reopened in the summer 2020 the facility was completely transformed into the safest environment one can find anywhere. We ensured every staff member had a solid role in the new virtual world and kept the core team together throughout the crisis. We rethought, redesigned, and rebuilt while maintaining the fun atmosphere for which the Discovery Centre is known. And we discovered that you can't hide the smiles of the kids having fun -- even with a mask!

Through the team's creativity and commitment, Discovery Centre showed its ability to adapt quickly to change and respond to restrictions with safety as our priority. Marketing efforts kept the organization's brand robust and introduced online ticketing to facilitate advanced purchase of tickets for guests, consistently selling out under provincial COVID regulations. Funding efforts in the public and private sectors produced essential resources that ensured we were able to keep our great staff in place so they could continue to deliver our much-needed programs to communities across the province.

With support from the Province of Nova Scotia, CIBC, and other private donors we built a professional film studio and launched Discovery@Home, virtual workshops and enhanced our Driving Discovery program -- so we could reach families and classrooms anytime, anywhere. The innovative spirit of the team was demonstrated by offering first rate virtual programs for at home learning and creating a viable revenue stream within 90 days of the pandemic's impact on our province.



We were also able to offer much needed childcare for families and a destination for young learners with in-person and virtual camps during the summer months, PD days, and the ever-popular March Break.

Your Discovery Centre has clearly become a trusted partner for our Federal, Provincial, and Municipal governments, donors, and sponsors recognized in this annual report. This support enabled the Centre to launch Why Immunize? -- a relevant vaccine education program making a difference now and at a time when it is needed most! Transformational partnerships in climate change education are also underway with the new *Divert NS Ocean Action Zone* exhibit, as well as the *Inspiring Youth to Climate Action* program in partnership with Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Now more than ever, we believe diverse participation and representation are essential, therefore the Discovery Centre Board and management team have embarked on a commitment to Diversity, Inclusion, Equity and Accessibility (DIEA) to create an inclusive and equitable culture and spaces where all people can see themselves reflected, feel respected, and have their contributions valued.

Finally, we want to extend an enormous thank you to our board, staff, and supporters. We needed you this year and you stepped up – *thank you!*

Dov Bercovici
President & CEO

Colin Dodds
Chair

Introduction

Science in Society

According to UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), "Science is the greatest collective endeavor. Science generates solutions for everyday life and helps us to answer the great mysteries of the universe. Science, technology and innovation must drive our pursuit of more equitable and sustainable development while responding to societal needs and global challenges."

This past year has been challenging. Challenging on our physical and mental health, challenging for our economy, challenging for our education system, and challenging for science. Science has been tested at the forefront of a global pandemic and many of us have gained a true appreciation for the necessary role science plays in our society.

At Discovery Centre, we too were challenged to step up to be part of the solution to champion science in more ways than ever before. From distributing accurate virus and vaccine education and teaching families how to safeguard against misinformation online with *Why Immunize?*, to virtual education tools for teachers and students with programs like *Driving Discovery* and

Discovery@Home, to leading a national project tackling climate change through *Inspiring Youth to Climate Action*, it has become clear that Discovery Centre's role in the community extends far beyond the bricks and mortar of the downtown Halifax location.

Although our doors were closed for almost half of the past year, our partnerships with government, donors, and community stakeholders allowed us the opportunity to continue to educate families and ignite a passion for science that is necessary to fuel the next generation of science innovators.

The 2020-21 Annual Report highlights a full spectrum of educational programs, events and expanded outreach programs that we were able to deliver, some in person and some virtually, which brought the excitement of science and technology to communities across Nova Scotia. We were excited to share major exhibit installations like *JoyLab* and *Divert NS Ocean Action Zone* and offer families a safe destination to play and learn. Finally, this past year marked our first ever virtual Discovery Awards fundraiser which delivered the best and brightest among local science and technology innovators direct to homes with record attendance and corporate support.

Although challenging, this year has taught us a great deal about our ability to be agile ("PIVOT"), accept change, as well as demonstrate our full potential. Although challenging, this year has made us better!



Inspiring Youth to Climate Action

As part of the Climate Action and Awareness Fund, the Government of Canada selected the Discovery Centre to lead an exciting new national initiative: *Inspiring Youth to Climate Action*. Over the next four years, Discovery Centre will work with key partners at Science North in Sudbury, ON, The Exploration Place in Prince George, BC, and the Canadian Association of Science Centres, and over 30 of its member organizations to raise awareness and engage 200,000 youth in taking real action to fight climate change.

Youth will participate in hands-on activities grounded in local climate research, fostering a connection with their natural environment and providing them with the knowledge and skills to take climate action now and into the future. Specific initiatives will include school programs, camps, and other hands-on locally relevant activities in every province and territory in Canada, helping youth understand current and

credible climate change science, transforming their thinking, and inspiring them to take action.

This initiative builds on the already great work happening at Canadian science centres. With a reach of over 10 million visitors annually, we play an important role in teaching youth to be critical thinkers and change makers on important issues like climate change.



Supported by Government of Canada





Why? Immunize?

In 2019, The World Health Organization named vaccine hesitancy as one of the top 10 global threats to health. This, along with a global pandemic and the rise of fake news, mobilized the “Why Immunize?” initiative. The goal is to empower learners of all ages to consider why immunization is both a right and a responsibility and help them focus their critical lens in an age of information overload. Why Immunize? was developed in partnership with Nova Scotia Health and made possible by the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia, the Telus Friendly Future Foundation, and the SM Blair Family Foundation.

The Why Immunize? website (whyimmunize.ca) has been developed to provide educators and families with access to free, bilingual resources including activities, videos, and frequently asked questions suitable for homes and classrooms to make immunology and vaccinology fun, engaging, and accessible. Specific highlights include three informal gamified activities, two full classroom workshops, an information brochure for older adults, video interviews with trusted health experts, and a series of videos celebrating

National Immunization Awareness Week. Pop-up Why Immunize? programming in Discovery Centre's Health Gallery engaged over 4800 visitors in hands-on vaccine education initiatives, and video and social media outreach generated over 35,000 impressions.

Bias Busters

With support from the Government of Canada's Digital Citizen Initiative, Why Immunize? and Discovery Centre launched Bias Busters (whyimmunize.ca/bias-busters), a virtual hub of interactive content to help youth build up an immunity to misinformation online. Bias Busters includes a virtual point-and-click detective game where the player puzzles through common tactics used in health disinformation to escape an untrustworthy “expert”, as well as videos like *Trick or Truth* and *Debunk* that help a variety of ages separate the facts from fiction in online media.



Divert NS Ocean Action Zone



Jeff MacCallum, CEO, Divert NS

Discovery Centre was proud to partner with Divert NS to inspire environmental change-makers of all ages through an exciting new exhibit, the Divert NS Ocean Action Zone. With a permanent home in the J&W Murphy Ocean Gallery, the Divert NS Ocean Action Zone equips visitors of all ages with an appreciation of the importance of our ocean and the impact of our behaviour on the health of our aquatic environment.

With the look and feel of a working research lab, visitors explore samples of waste found during a recent local shoreline clean-up to learn what happens to each type of waste once it enters the ocean. They then take a deeper dive into the story of plastics within our oceans, learning about their long lifespan and their impact on Nova Scotia marine life. The exhibit features an array of local community heroes and ends with a call to action, asking each of us to commit to a specific behavioural change.

The *Divert NS Ocean Action Zone* is just one example of how Divert NS has been instrumental in creating a culture of recycling and refusing to waste province-wide – a culture that it continues to enhance and grow. The Discovery Centre shares this goal with a commitment to not only create awareness, but to inspire the kinds of actions that will create the necessary change to protect our environment.



Featured Exhibits



JoyLab

October 2020 – April 2021

JoyLab - an original experience created by the Saskatchewan Science Centre



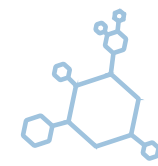
Who didn't need a little Joy this past year?

With help from our friends at Saskatchewan Science Centre, Discovery Centre delivered a new twist on joy this year with JoyLab, a low-touch featured exhibit experience constructed entirely by our talented in-house exhibits team.

This exhibit was inspired by the book *Joyful* by author Ingrid Fetell Lee, in which she describes the "10 Aesthetics of Joy". These aesthetics are defined

as: energy; abundance; freedom; harmony; play; surprise; transcendence; magic; celebration; and renewal. Each JoyLab experience was designed to highlight these aesthetics and evoke neurological triggers based on how the brain reacts to its surroundings, and how we can alter our surroundings to feel more joy.

Visitors experienced hanging among the clouds, getting lost in a light tunnel or coming face to face with a giant unicorn. Perfect for Instagram and those looking for the perfect selfie, visitors came ready to smile, laugh, and jump for JOY.



Discovery Awards

The 2020 Discovery Awards for Science and Technology, held on November 26th, once again celebrated Nova Scotia's best and brightest with an inspiring night to remember. The first ever virtual Discovery Awards celebrated incredible finalists and science leaders from across Nova Scotia, a highly diverse group in gender, culture, and institutional alignment. Co-presented by Dalhousie University and Saint Mary's University in support of the Discovery Centre, nearly 400 community members, who received at home charcuterie boxes and game component deliveries, joined together for a virtual celebration to honour the finalists and recipients in four prestigious categories, introduce a new inductee to the Science Hall of Fame, and recognize this year's inspiring Youth Award recipient.

Guests were also treated to a special online visitor - Canadian Astronaut Chris Hadfield who delivered awe-inspiring remarks and performed a song he wrote with The Barenaked Ladies called "I.S.S. - Is Somebody Singing". The 2020 Discovery Awards was a night to remember and proved that even during a pandemic there is still amazing innovation in science and technology in Nova Scotia that deserves recognition, as well as incredible support for Discovery Centre's not-for-profit mission.



DISCOVERY CENTRE

Presenting Sponsors



Award Sponsors

Science Hall of Fame



Emerging Professional



Science Champion



Youth Award



Professional of Distinction



Discovery Game Sponsor



Science Challenge Sponsor



Media Sponsor



Discovery Awards Champions



Friends of the Discovery Awards



Centennial Building Investments Limited

The 2020 award recipients include:

Profession of Distinction:

Dr. Linda Campbell

Emerging Professional:

Dr. Mita Dasog

Innovation:

MacKenzie Healthcare Technologies

Science Champion:

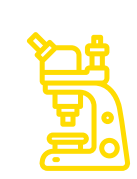
Chantelle Cormier

Youth Award:

Michelle Song

Hall of Fame Inductees:

Dr. Sandra Barr



Educational Programming

Driving Discovery



Driving Discovery is a unique province-wide outreach program supporting teachers and students in the transition to inquiry and skill-based science learning. In partnership with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD), our team worked to adapt key Driving Discovery resources, record new videos, and take advantage of new digital opportunities to ensure these workshops would remain impactful in the move to online learning. Science Educators further developed a new hands-on inquiry-based workshop for Grade 8 students called Medical Mysteries, launched two new professional learning videos for teachers, showcased the program in French at the Nuit des Idées Halifax virtual event, and led live virtual learning sessions for the South Shore Regional Centre for Education and participants at the EECD Summer Learning Academy.

In addition, new work was begun to support inquiry science learning in Grade 10 Technology Advantage Program (TAP) pilot classrooms over multiple live videoconference-based class visits. Four new workshops were developed and delivered, engaging students and teachers in physics and chemistry using PASCO sensor technologies and modeling real-world challenges in the classroom.



Discovery@Home



The Dr. & Mrs. H.E. Christie
Community Foundation

School closures following the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 posed unprecedented challenges for students adjusting to new at-home learning environments. Discovery@Home helped to keep hands-on science a part of this transition with an online reimagining of our curriculum-connected science workshops and brand-new content.

Discovery@Home featured a scheduled series of 16 live Science Educator-led video sessions organized by grade level and topic, covering or complimenting classroom work on specific curriculum outcomes from Grade Primary to Grade 9. Discovery@Home provided interactivity, allowing students to ask and answer questions via social media and Flipgrid. This made every session unique, allowing Educators to address students' needs and capitalize on teachable moments. Automatic closed captioning was enabled on YouTube Live to enhance program accessibility. Abridged recordings were posted for those unable to tune in live with the videos, Discovery@Home website, and associated social media outreach generating a total of 193,276 digital impressions.

Virtual Science on the Road Workshops

Unable to visit classrooms in-person due to public health restrictions, Discovery Centre developed brand new virtual workshops and adapted outreach favourites to continue engaging the province's students in hands-on science learning through the pandemic. Teachers received advanced deliveries of COVID-19-safe educational materials and individual student workshop kits, a pre-workshop Tech-Check session to ensure tech compatibility, and a dynamic workshop delivered live to the class via video conferencing, encouraging student interactivity and covering curricula from biology to geology, and structures to space exploration. From December to March, Science Educators visited 131 classes, virtually, reaching 2787 students across the province with this new program format.

Science in the Centre



Despite the restrictions this past year, Discovery Centre hosted 192 students for curriculum-connected field trips and experiential workshops. Students enjoyed capturing lasting happy memories in JoyLab, tinkering in the Innovation Lab, and exploring the many other exhibits and experiences available at Discovery Centre. Whether they joined us for a full day or just a few hours, students left smiling and inspired.

Thank you to our Science in the Centre workshop sponsors Atlantic Canada Aerospace and Defense Association, Efficiency Nova Scotia, and Halifax Harbour Bridges.





Camps & Clubs

March Break:

Sold-out camps of 18 campers aged 5-12 enjoyed five action-packed days of March Break programming this year. Campers took part in exciting hands-on experiments, participated in project-based learning opportunities, and enjoyed visiting our new Divert NS Ocean Action Zone and featured exhibit JoyLab.

Summer Camps:

Over 240 children aged 5-12 years joined us for our summer camps this year. Our campers enjoyed a variety of COVID-19-safe hands-on STEAM activities, virtual visits from special guests, and open-air fieldtrips around the waterfront and surrounding parks. Thank you to Efficiency NS for helping us inspire and encourage our next generation of scientists and energy problem-solvers in Nova Scotia.

Digital Discovery Camps:



This year, 38 youth aged 9-14 years took part in our Discovery Centre-based Digital Discovery Camps in two weeklong summer camps and one PD Day Camp. Additionally, over 40 youth in the communities of Spryfield, Bridgewater, and Yarmouth joined in virtual Digital Discovery Camps over three summer camp weeks. In partnership with Digital Nova Scotia, these camps go beyond limits with access to Nova Scotia's most prestigious professionals in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) as special guest mentors. 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 virtual world. Also special thanks to Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) for supporting this dynamic camp experience.

Ocean Tech Camp:

This year a sold-out crew of campers 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.



Virtual Camps with Neptune Theatre



Discovery Centre joined 37 youth aged 7-12 every Thursday this summer to add STEAM programming to new camps run in partnership with Neptune Theatre. Campers enjoyed mixing drama, science, and technology with themes ranging from exploring natural wonders to video gaming, to spies, mysteries, and myths.

Discovery Centre Clubs

This year Discovery Centre ran two sold-out afterschool clubs: Maker League and a new Space Club pilot program. In Maker League, over the course of four weeks, participants ages 7-12 years old learned how to design, model, and code their own creations using a variety of different platforms and cutting-edge technology. This fun and innovative club builds strong critical thinking, communication, and teamwork skills and was made possible with the generous support of accomplished entrepreneur and believer in our youth, Wade K. Dawe.

Space Club engaged youth aged 7-11 in exploring some of the Universe's biggest questions through fun activities and captivating Immersive Dome Theatre planetarium shows. Over the course of four weeks, club participants investigated constellations of the winter skies, black holes, and creatively imagined the needs of life and how humans might explore new worlds.

Little Learners



More than 260 toddlers and their families and caregivers took part in Discovery Centre-based Little Learners programming, while associated online educational events generated over 36,400 views and impressions, all presented by Scotiabank. At Discovery Centre, little ones explored the joy and STEAM in colours and shapes, experimented as Mini-Physicists, and mixed science and sound while enjoying special guest performances by Symphony NS musicians. Online Little Learners programs included family-friendly programming centred on nature and birdwatching, dinosaurs, and health sciences, presented via Discovery Centre's new puppet theatre.

Space Explorers: The ISS Experience

In November, 109 visitors viewed special screenings of a new Dome Theatre production by Felix & Paul Studios, Space Explorers: The ISS Experience, filmed by astronauts onboard the International Space Station in microgravity. This immersive film, a result of an unprecedented collaboration with NASA, took Discovery Centre visitors on the first spacewalk in history filmed in VR, granting them a front row seat and a stunning overview of our planet Earth.





Leadership Team

Board of Directors

Executive

Colin Dodds, Chair

Dov Bercovici, President & CEO

Steve Rankin, Vice Chair,
Discovery Centre International Chair

Christine Christensen
Stakeholder & Community
Engagement Chair

Richard Butts
Nominations & Governance Chair

Pamela Scott Crace
Past Chair

Directors

Danielle Comeau

Chris Crowell

Myra Freeman, CM ONS

Cary Kaplan

Simone Le Gendre-King

Matthew Newell

James Robar

Kristin Williams

Management

Dov Bercovici
President & CEO

Helen Dolan
Manager, Partnerships

Brenna Hill
Manager, Marketing
& Communications

Ryan Jameson
Manager, Science Education

Linda Laurence
Director, Human Resources

Ruth Munro
Manager, Exhibits & Facilities

Jennifer Punch
Director, Marketing & Sales

Full-time Staff

Adam Brown
Science Educator

Will Cool Gaudin
Exhibits Specialist

Jennifer Douglas
Science Educator

John Eaton
Exhibit Specialist

Jamie Franzmann
Customer Relations Coordinator

Kim Griffon
Customer Service Representative

Andrew Howe
Staff Scientist

Priya Gupta
Staff Scientist

Nicole Jessop
Staff Scientist

Roger Kent
Exhibit & Facilities Coordinator

Tanya Madden
Senior Graphic Designer

Chris McDonald
Digital & Network Specialist

Emily McIsaac
Science Educator, Driving Discovery

Andrew McNeill
Events & Membership Coordinator

Jillian Phillips
Senior Science Educator

Zabrina Prescott
Science Educator, Driving Discovery

Natalie Quathamier
Senior Science Educator, Health

Japna Sidhu-Brar
Staff Scientist

Many thanks!



The Dr. & Mrs. H.E. Christie Community Foundation

Walker Wood Foundation

Rick and Nan MacDonald Foundation

Individual Donors

Steve Ashton	Helen Dolan	Bob and Wendy McDonald Kelvin Ogilvie	Robert and Mary Anne White
Lesley and Dov Bercovici	Hon. Myra A. Freeman	Wynne Potter	David Wicks
Renee Covill	Leila Gashus	Stuart Rath	Kristin Williams
Pamela Scott Crace and John Crace	Orlando Hung	J. William Ritchie	Michele Williams
Colin and Carol Dodds	Keating Family: Gregg, Ann Marie, Susan, Cathy	Gerhard Stroink	
	Robert & Janice MacKay	The Verschuren Family	

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, 2021 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, 2021;
- 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 significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

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.

/s/PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

Halifax, Nova Scotia
June 23, 2021



Statement of Financial Position

As of March 31, 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and short-term investments (notes 10 and 11)	1,578,880	1,676,525
Accounts receivable	255,089	449,058
Government contributions receivable	63,234	352,625
Prepaid expenses and deposits	40,108	30,844
Inventories	39,957	57,119
	1,977,268	2,566,171
Long-term investment – at cost (note 3)	1,000,000	1,000,000
Property, plant and equipment (note 5)	18,613,218	19,960,647
	21,590,486	23,526,818
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 16)	341,281	443,646
Deferred revenue and deferred contributions (note 12)	1,077,475	2,005,709
Current portion of long-term debt (note 6)	680,718	1,155,687
	2,099,474	3,605,042
Long-term debt (note 6)	3,331,529	3,560,220
	5,431,003	7,165,262
Net assets (note 13)		
Investment in property, plant and equipment	14,600,971	15,244,741
Internally restricted reserve (note 10)	100,000	100,000
Endowment fund (note 11)	72,000	72,000
Unrestricted	1,386,512	944,815
	16,159,483	16,361,556
	21,590,486	23,526,818
Commitments (note 15)		

Approved by the Board of Directors

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

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

For the year ended March 31, 2021

	Investment in property, plant and equipment \$	Internally restricted reserve \$ (note 10)	Endowment fund \$ (note 11)	Unrestricted \$	2021 \$	2020 \$
Net assets – Beginning of year	15,244,741	100,000	72,000	944,815	16,361,556	17,114,664
Transfers	1,281,646	-	-	(1,281,646)	-	-
Excess of expenditures over revenue for the year	(1,925,416)	-	-	1,723,343	(202,073)	(753,108)
Net assets – End of year	14,600,971	100,000	72,000	1,386,512	16,159,483	16,361,556

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements



Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

For the year ended March 31, 2021

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Revenue		
Campaign funding (note 9)	755,649	796,762
Admissions, memberships and workshops	338,813	1,239,887
Government contributions (note 8)	2,065,992	1,098,570
Fundraising and donations	1,065,172	1,365,966
Retail income	43,890	140,168
Special events (note 7)	106,956	185,469
Other	12,563	151,430
	<u>4,389,035</u>	<u>4,978,252</u>
Expenditures		
Salaries and benefits	1,608,714	1,894,963
Exhibits, programs and administration	777,118	1,499,217
Rent and common area charges	196,693	290,872
Special events (note 7)	54,215	90,800
Retail cost of goods sold	28,952	42,969
	<u>2,665,692</u>	<u>3,818,821</u>
Excess of revenue over expenditures before the following expenses	<u>1,723,343</u>	<u>1,159,431</u>
Amortization of property, plant and equipment	1,574,183	1,578,840
Interest on long-term debt	208,299	330,101
Transaction costs associated with repayment of long-term debt	142,934	-
Interest on line of credit	-	3,598
	<u>1,925,416</u>	<u>1,912,539</u>
Excess of expenditures over revenue for the year	<u>(202,073)</u>	<u>(753,108)</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended March 31, 2021

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Cash provided by (used in)		
Operating activities		
Excess of expenditures over revenue for the year	(202,073)	(753,108)
Charges to excess of revenue over expenditures not involving cash		
Amortization of property, plant and equipment	1,574,183	1,578,840
	<u>1,372,110</u>	<u>825,732</u>
Net change in non-cash working capital items related to operations		
Accounts receivable	193,969	(52,999)
Government contributions receivable	289,391	1,147,375
Prepaid expenses and deposits	(9,264)	96,524
Inventories	17,162	(23,619)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(102,365)	(184,357)
Deferred revenue and deferred contributions	(928,234)	(307,702)
	<u>832,769</u>	<u>1,500,954</u>
Financing activities		
Repayment of long-term debt	(4,924,972)	(2,092,946)
Proceeds on issuance of long-term debt	4,364,247	-
Transaction costs associated with repayment of long-term debt	(142,934)	-
	<u>(703,659)</u>	<u>(2,092,946)</u>
Investing activities		
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	(226,755)	(20,882)
Purchase of long-term investment	-	(999,999)
	<u>(226,755)</u>	<u>(1,020,881)</u>
Net change in cash and short-term investments during the year	<u>(97,645)</u>	<u>(1,612,873)</u>
Cash and short-term investments – Beginning of year	<u>1,676,525</u>	<u>3,289,398</u>
Cash and short-term investments – End of year	<u>1,578,880</u>	<u>1,676,525</u>
Non-cash transactions (note 5)		

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Notes to Financial Statements

For the year ended March 31, 2021

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 long-term debt 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 non-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.

Notes to Financial Statements

For the year ended March 31, 2021

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 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 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 non-profit entity, in order to expand its initiatives in science and technology and with the objective that all net revenue 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	2021
	\$	\$
Total assets	667,675	747,722
Total liabilities	78,697	14,157
Net assets	588,979	733,566
Revenue	4,600	54,966
Expenses	149,188	294,953
Cash flows from operating activities	(110,186)	(307,213)
Cash flows from financing activities	-	1,000,000

Notes to Financial Statements

For the year ended March 31, 2021

4. Bank indebtedness

The Centre has an authorized revolving demand facility in the amount of \$500,000 which bears interest at prime plus 0.5% and the Centre has provided a general security agreement over all assets as security for the operating line facility.

5. Property, plant and equipment

			2021	2020
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net	Net
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Exhibits	9,244,244	3,333,047	5,911,197	6,599,397
Equipment and fixtures	314,801	237,905	76,896	133,781
Computer equipment	196,267	195,258	1,009	6,012
Leasehold improvements	15,101,330	2,477,214	12,624,116	13,221,457
	24,856,642	6,243,424	18,613,218	19,960,647

Of the additions to property, plant and equipment during the year, \$22,678 (2020 – \$nil) 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.

6. Long-term debt

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) non-revolving term loan, repayable in monthly principal instalments of \$27,757 plus interest, bearing interest at the bank's prime rate plus 0.5%, due January 2026, amortized to January 2031. The terms of this loan require interest only payments for the first six months	3,164,247	-
CIBC non-revolving term loan, repayable in amounts tied to receipt of certain pledges and contributions, bearing interest at the bank's prime rate plus 0.5%, due January 2026	848,000	-
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. The loan was repaid in full during the year	-	1,030,000
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. The loan was repaid in full during the year	-	772,775
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. The loan was repaid in full during the year	-	2,913,132
	4,012,247	4,715,90
Less: Current portion	680,718	1,155,687
	3,331,529	3,560,220

Notes to Financial Statements

For the year ended March 31, 2021

The aggregate amount of principal repayments on the long-term debt in each of the next five years is as follows:

	\$
For the year ending March 31, 2022	680,718
2023	333,079
2024	333,079
2025	333,079
2026	722,413

On January 14, 2021, the Centre completed a debt restructuring which resulted in repayment of existing term loans with RBC and the issuance of a demand operating facility (see note 4) and demand instalment loans with CIBC. The loans are secured by a general security agreement constituting a first-priority security interest in all present and future personal property of the Centre and an assignment of accounts receivable.

7. Special events

During the year, the Centre held one special event.

The event resulted in a net excess of revenue over expenditures of \$52,741 (2020 – \$94,669).

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Sponsorships and registration revenue	106,956	185,469
Expenditures	(54,215)	(90,800)
	52,741	94,669

8. Government contributions

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

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Government of Canada	1,183,537	337,630
Government of Nova Scotia	605,000	520,000
Halifax Regional Municipality	145,000	145,000
Employment grants	132,455	95,940
	2,065,992	1,098,570

During the year, the Centre was eligible for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) and Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS). These programs were implemented during the year by the Government of Canada to support businesses and employees through the COVID-19 pandemic. The Centre received \$785,363 as a reimbursement for direct salaries and payroll expenses and \$58,174 for rent expenses. The Centre has a government contribution receivable of \$37,277 and \$10,957 as at March 31, 2021, related to CEWS and CERS, respectively.

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:

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Private donors	755,649	796,762

Notes to Financial Statements

For the year ended March 31, 2021

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 2021. As a result, \$100,000 (2020 – \$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

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Deferred private sector contributions received	1,025,000	1,625,000
Deferred revenue	48,175	75,609
Deferred deposits	4,300	1,600
Deferred capital contributions	-	300,000
Deferred awards revenue	-	3,500
	<u>1,077,475</u>	<u>2,005,709</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.

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)	318,323	318,323
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	341,283	341,283
Term loans	4,012,247	4,012,247

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.

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.

Notes to Financial Statements

For the year ended March 31, 2021



An outbreak of a novel strain of coronavirus, identified as COVID-19, was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020. In response, many countries have required entities to limit or suspend business operations and implemented travel restrictions and quarantine measures. These measures have resulted in significant volatility in the global markets and disrupted the activities of many entities, including the Centre, which has impacted financial results during the year ended March 31, 2021 and could impact future results.

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 2022 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 vehicles during the next two years are as follows:

	\$
Year ending March 31, 2022	7,392
2023	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 as at the statement of financial position date (2020 –\$nil).



Thank You