

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



the POWER of COMMUNITY



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Discovery Centre is proudly located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. With respect and appreciation, we honour generations of traditions and teachings about the world we live in today.

We also recognize the contributions of the African Nova Scotian community who have shared these lands for over 400 years.

VISION

The vision of Discovery Centre is to advance science literacy and evidence-based decision making in Atlantic Canada while inspiring a sustainable and innovative culture.



MISSION

The mission of Discovery Centre is to bring STEAM to life through fun and interactive learning experiences. We are committed to leveraging our people, facility, and programming to create an inclusive environment that ignites a passion for science and discovery.



CORE VALUES



Excellence

Strive for service and content excellence that sets us apart from competitors. Be recognized as a one-of-a-kind, state-of-the-art leader in our industry, with impactful touchpoints for our key audiences.



Collaboration

Engage, include, and listen to diverse communities who bring perspectives that enrich our offerings and experiences. Collaborate with key stakeholders who invest in Discovery Centre's brand and mission.



Diversity

Ensure our spaces and outreach programming are accessible and representative of all abilities, incomes, languages, ethnic backgrounds, identities, genders, and geographic locations.



Innovation

Inspire creative thinking in problem solving. Demonstrate the successful steps to fostering and implementing new ideas. Showcase by example with the latest in science and technology.

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GREETINGS



Emerging from the global pandemic, Discovery Centre is proud to have a full year back in-person, hosting workshops and events face-to-face and welcoming a record number of visitors through our doors to explore Atlantic Canada's prestigious Discovery Centre.

It has been evident over the past year that our community missed the hands-on interactions and invaluable experiences that only Discovery Centre and its staff can deliver. Our featured exhibits attracted thousands of new visitors through our doors, teachers regained their ability to book a record number of award-winning workshops, and our membership community rebounded with many returning and new families taking the opportunity to visit their Discovery Centre time and time again. It was an inspirational year of regrowth for Discovery Centre as we continued to navigate beyond the pandemic and bring science literacy to communities from coast to coast.

Our Discovery Centre team continues to push boundaries and lead with passion as they create more accessible STEAM experiences for our audiences. Through our *Why Immunize?* program we have been working with trusted voices in our Mi'kmaw, African Nova Scotian, and 2SLGBTQIA+ communities to make vaccination and immunization education and resources more accessible across the province and in their communities.

Discovery Centre also launched a new pilot project called *Sprouting Science*, a free hands-on program educating rural communities about food security, agriculture, local farming, cultural connections, and climate change.

We are now in our third year leading our national *GenAction* initiative. Along with 29 other science centres across Canada, we're proudly well on our way to reaching our national target to inspire 200,000 youth and 5,000 Indigenous youth to take action against climate change by 2024.

These are just a few examples of Discovery Centre's impact over the past year as we continue to attract and unite a community of diverse partners who also care about educating the next generation of science enthusiasts tackling tough topics in fun and interactive ways.

We encourage you to read through our 2022-2023 Annual Report to learn about the projects, programming, exhibits, events, and team that have made this year one of the most successful in our 38-year history. In the face of adversity, it's extraordinary what we've accomplished together.

As a registered charity, we would like to thank our incredible donors, supporters, and our volunteer board of directors who share our vision to ignite a passion for science and discovery among our young people today in order to fuel the knowledge-based economy and workforce of tomorrow.

Colin Dodds
Board Chair

Dov Bercovici
President & CEO

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is cursive and appears to read 'Colin Dodds'. The second signature is also cursive and appears to read 'Dov Bercovici'.



2022-2023 Theme:

the POWER of COMMUNITY

Discovery Centre continues to put "unity" in *community*, adapting and delivering educational programming and resources that are relevant and accessible to diverse audiences through the power of its community partnerships.

As the leading science centre in Atlantic Canada, we have the unique opportunity to leverage our reputation for programming excellence with the expertise of local community members and leaders, on a mission to increase science literacy and STEAM engagement throughout Nova Scotia and beyond.

“Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.”

– Marian Wright Edelman

Discovery Centre understands the importance of building strong relationships within its community to achieve a common goal - a brighter future for our youth and increased science literacy among Nova Scotian families. In 2022-2023, Discovery Centre forged several meaningful partnerships that brought fresh perspectives and innovative ideas while creating accessible opportunities in science.

Throughout this annual report, you will learn about our collaboration on accessible vaccination resources with The Africville Museum, The Youth Project, and Mi'kmaq communities. You will read about our community garden work and free camps in partnership with Akoma Family Centre and Imhotep's Legacy Academy, and our partnership with the Marine Environmental Observation, Prediction and Response Network, to create free bilingual ocean research resources.

Discovery Centre continued its *Virtual Workshop* offering with continued support from Connected North, which helped Discovery Centre's team reach and engage students in remote Indigenous communities across Canada. You will also discover how 30 science centres can come together to lead positive change in climate action in youth.

In addition, over the past year, Discovery Centre proudly collaborated with Dr. Sandra Meier's PROSIT Lab on a new exhibit addressing youth mental health. We also partnered with the Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia to provide free access to the centre for new immigrant families and have recently become Rainbow Registered with 198 business locations across Canada, providing a safe and welcoming experience for the 2SLGBTQI+ community.

Thank you to our community leaders, knowledge experts, and supporters for collaborating to build a strong science community in Atlantic Canada.



Listen to the interviews:



Why? Immunize

Give Science a Shot

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 prevalence of fake news, gave rise to the "Why Immunize?" initiative.

Trusted Voices

In 2022-2023, the focus of *Why Immunize?* was to promote vaccine confidence in marginalized communities and work with partner organizations to co-create meaningful educational materials. Discovery Centre collaborated with 'Trusted Voices' in Mi'kmaq, African Nova Scotian, and 2SLGBTQIA+ communities to make vaccination and immunization education and resources more accessible across the province.

In partnership with The Youth Project, Discovery Centre met with local experts from the 2SLGBTQIA+ community to discuss vaccinations, hesitations, and available resources. Subject matter experts shared their experiences with vaccinations and the health profession within their communities and the interviews were made publicly accessible. In 2023, Discovery Centre and The Youth Project will continue to promote these resources and feature interviews through social media.

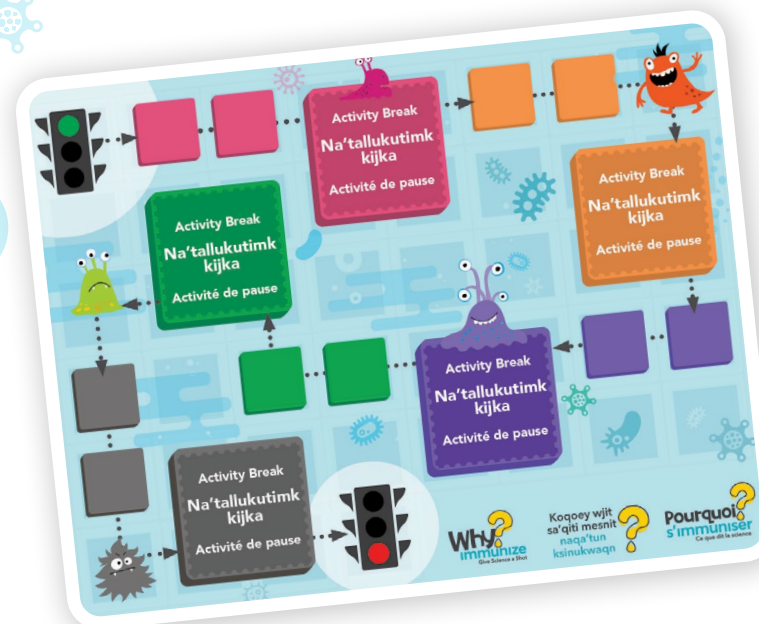
Discovery Centre has also been working closely with The Africville Museum to develop a vaccination awareness campaign to decrease immunization hesitations while creating exposure of health resources in the African Nova Scotian community. In Fall of 2023, billboards, transit posters, and social advertising will carry co-created vaccination promotion designed and reviewed by Discovery Centre, The Africville Museum, health care professionals, and African Nova Scotian community members.

We're Game for Immunity!

Discovery Centre, working with curriculum experts and educators from Mi'kmaq Kina'matnewey, developed an immunization board game and presentation for Mi'kmaq youth. *We're Game for Immunity* is a trilingual board game (Mi'kmaq, English, and French) that follows the life of a young fictional character trying to navigate the complex world of health and wellness. At each new board tile, the character will face a challenge, from a fear of needles to misinformation on social media, and the class will have to decide on a strategy to overcome these challenges.

This new program educates youth on how to identify and combat misinformation, how germs spread, how the immune system and vaccines work, and why they are essential.

In the Fall of 2023, Discovery Centre will deliver the new program to Mi'kmaq Kina'matnewey schools throughout the province and then expand the program to classrooms across the region.



Thank you to *Why Immunize?* supporters:



Public Health
Agency of Canada

Agence de la santé
publique du Canada



TELUS Friendly
Future Foundation



SM BLAIR FAMILY
FOUNDATION



sprouting science

In the Spring of 2022, Discovery Centre launched its new pilot program, *Sprouting Science*.

Sprouting Science, presented by TD, is a collaborative initiative between Discovery Centre and Imhotep's Legacy Academy, in partnership with the Akoma Family Community Garden. The program is a joint effort to create free programming for youth aged 8-12 in the African Nova Scotian community. The camps and clubs aim to promote the science and fun in gardening while addressing concerns around food security, climate change, and nutrition.

Over the course of the program, youth were instilled with a sense of ownership and accomplishment as they learned to set up, plant, care for, harvest, and prepare fresh produce. The wheelchair accessible garden, constructed by Discovery Centre, is now a permanent installation at the Akoma Family Centre Community Garden.

The program aims to increase access to fresh produce, strengthen community connections, and promote a shared sense of pride. Discovery Centre plans to expand the program to new locations, providing free educational gardening programming with its amazing partners.



Sprouting Science
in the media:



Presenting sponsor



Thank you to *Sprouting Science* supporters:



Arthur &
Audrey Cutten
Foundation

IMHOTEP'S
LEGACY ACADEMY



Thank you to *Sprouting Science* partners:



WINTER OF DISCOVERY

Discovery Centre hosted a free access weekend called *Winter of Discovery* for the public on January 14 and 15, 2023. We proudly dedicated *Winter of Discovery*, a celebration of science, to healthcare heroes that have tirelessly served our communities. Canadian Heritage helped to make *Winter of Discovery* possible through their Reopening Fund, designed to attract visitors back to museums following the pandemic. Discovery Centre welcomed over 3,000 people through its doors for science fun and exploration!

Guests had the opportunity to test their skills and knowledge at the newly built *Winter of Discovery* exhibit during their visit, including engineering, puzzles, and hands-on exploration of all things science from anatomy to zoology. The *Winter of Discovery* exhibit was made travel-sized, so Discovery Centre's Science Education team could take it on the road throughout the month of February, offering free programming across the province at community centers, events, and libraries.



The provincial tour was a resounding success, reaching over 5,000 people in 12 locations. We're proud to have been able to showcase free STEAM learning, celebrate science and our health care heroes, and bring joy to communities from Yarmouth to Sydney, Nova Scotia.

Discovery Centre would like to thank Canadian Heritage for their support of *Winter of Discovery*, offering all Nova Scotian families the opportunity to discover science innovations in our region.

OUTREACH COAST TO COAST



Thank you to our *Winter of Discovery* supporter



Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien





As a part of the \$37.8 million Climate Action and Awareness Fund, the Government of Canada invested \$6 million towards *GenAction*, a youth-oriented project aimed at addressing climate change. Led by Discovery Centre, the *GenAction* initiative seeks to inspire and educate over 200,000 youth in grades K-12 across the nation to take steps towards climate action.

National Reach

Since April 2022, Discovery Centre has led 29 participating science centres in eight Community of Practice sessions to collaborate, co-create, share case studies, and build *GenAction* promotional campaigns and programming.

Collectively we've completed over 200 school demonstrations, nearly 100 camp programs, and 60 plus outreach events across Canada. *GenAction* has reached thousands of youth across the nation and is well on target to meeting the 205,200 youth projected by 2025.

In addition to *GenAction* programming, Discovery Centre has also led the development of Science Spotlights, offering free, bilingual educational resources on climate science and climate hero researchers developed by science centres in their province or territory. Thirty Science Spotlights have been created and published on the *GenAction.ca* website.

Also in 2022, Discovery Centre launched bilingual *GenAction* social channels on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, where Science Spotlights, climate resources and information, and science centres' *GenAction* initiatives are shared with the public and educators for open engagement and accessibility across Canada.

PARTICIPATING SCIENCE CENTRES



Local Impact

Locally, Discovery Centre's team has been making big waves in climate science awareness, reaching over 7,000 youth in Nova Scotia alone! Discovery Centre's *GenAction* team has developed camps, school workshops, Dome Theatre show activations, Science on the Spot activities, and outreach programming to inspire climate action.

From the Halifax boardwalk, to shopping malls, libraries, schools, and festivals, the *GenAction* team has been invited to share climate-focused demonstrations and programming to unite youth to take action for our climate.



For almost two years, the Canadian Association of Science Centres has partnered with Discovery Centre to deliver a nationwide program to inspire youth to climate action. *GenAction* is exactly this kind of collaboration and community impact that we need to build a strong innovation and science culture in Canada.

— Dr. Marianne Mader, Executive Director, Canadian Association of Science Centres.



DISCOVER our Climate

In partnership with MEOPAR, Discovery Centre launched eight bilingual climate-related research features for educators last year. The research features serve as additional resources for teachers in classrooms for grades primary to 12. The features are free and accessible on Discovery Centre's website, and their topics have been selected based on their impact and relevance to Atlantic Canada, our coasts, and rural and Indigenous communities.

MEOPAR strives to develop strong partnerships to broaden our network and create greater impact for the benefit of the Canadian economy and society.

By building on each of our organizations' strengths, the Discover Our Climate partnership is using world-class research by members of the MEOPAR Network and turning it into practical and relevant teaching tools to inspire the next generation of ocean scientists and researchers."

— Rodrigo Menafra, Managing Director, MEOPAR

Explored topics include:



Eelgrass Meadows



Ocean Acidification



Marine Heatwaves



Saltwater Intrusion



Coastal Erosion



Climate Imaginary



Plastic Pollution



Icebergs

Dive into the resources:



Thank you to our Discover our Climate supporters



20 YEARS discovery awards

for science & innovation

A new year, a new venue, a new look, and a new category! The 20th annual Discovery Awards, in support of Discovery Centre, was an impressive celebration, hosted back in person on November 23rd at the prestigious Halifax Convention Centre.

The night brought together 400 attendees to commemorate the successes of researchers, innovators, and educators whose careers, passions, and accomplishments impacted Nova Scotia's science and innovation industries as well as local and global communities.

Discovery Centre is proud to celebrate our passionate science and innovation community, while inspiring the next generation of leaders in our youth. The evening had attendees on their feet during the infamous Discovery Demo, and on the edge of their seats as each recipient was named live on stage.

Finalists in seven categories were honoured, including the new Public Impact Award, presented by Research Nova Scotia. The award recognizes a Nova Scotian researcher in academia, a public research institution, government, or the private sector, whose research has benefited Nova Scotians by tangibly improving the economy, environment, healthcare system, or society.

The 2022 Discovery Awards was co-presented by Saint Mary's University and Dalhousie University.

The 2022 award recipients include:



Hall of Fame Inductee:
Dr. Ken Lee



Youth Award:
Silas Eastwood



Professional of Distinction:
Dr. Tamara Franz-Odenaal



Emerging Professional:
Dr. Souvik Mitra



Innovation:
Graphite Innovation
& Technologies



Science Champion:
Dr. Arunika Gunawardena



Public Impact Award:
Dr. Timothy Webster

Discovery Centre

I believe that early exposure to such a fun and exciting facility played a significant role in my continued love of STEAM and the successes I've achieved. I hope my story can inspire other young people to take advantage of the wonderful resources that the Discovery Centre has to offer."

— Silas Eastwood, Youth Award Recipient 2021-2022

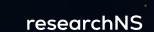


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Science Challenge Sponsor



Discovery Demo Sponsor



Champion Sponsors



Friend



FEATURED EXHIBITS




May 15, 2022 – August 31, 2022

A splash of excitement for summer visitors.

Based on French author Jules Verne's 1870 classic, *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, *Voyage to the Deep* brought to life the deep-sea adventures of Captain Nemo, his fantastical Nautilus submarine, and the mythical world he inhabited.

Visitors climbed aboard to discover the inner workings of a deep-sea submarine. The exhibition presented fantasy and facts, allowing visitors to explore Verne's imaginary world and the real-life wonders of ocean exploration.

Voyage to the Deep is toured internationally by:  FLYING FISH



BEHIND RACISM AN EXHIBITION

October 28, 2022 – January 8, 2023

Challenging the Way We Think

There is no scientific basis for "race" and its injustices. Yet our mental and emotional biases can lead us to believe that one race is superior to another.

Behind Racism: Challenging the Way We Think invited Discovery Centre's visitors to explore the psychological and social roots of racism and discover how empathy and self-understanding can counteract misunderstanding and hatred.

Along with the interactive and informative exhibit came the unique opportunity for Discovery Centre to invite groups, including ISANS (Immigrant Settlement Association), Halifax Regional Police, Downtown Halifax Business Commission, and the Halifax Chamber of Commerce, as well as many universities and colleges, to explore the exhibition as part of their organization's Diversity and Inclusion training.

In addition, *Behind Racism: Challenging the Way We Think* co-creators, the Canadian Race Relations Foundation and Ontario Science Centre, put on a Race Training session for Discovery Centre's staff, which left a lasting impression and a great opportunity to learn how to address challenging topics to mature audiences.

Behind Racism is proudly toured by:



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Government of Ontario

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SCIENCES
DE L'ONTARIO
un organisme du
gouvernement de l'Ontario

DINOSAURS IN MOTION

WHERE ART & SCIENCE MEET

January 27 – April 16, 2023

A roaring success for all ages.

Dinosaurs in Motion attracted over 45,000 visitors to Discovery Centre, as the featured exhibit during the March Break period. Fourteen gigantic recycled-metal dinosaur sculptures filled level 0, delivering the perfect meld of science, innovation, art, and education. The prehistoric creatures were designed by artist John Payne, with the intention of being moved through pulleys, remotes, and levers. Visitors loved the hands-on nature of the exhibit, meeting dinosaurs up close and personal.

To welcome *Dinosaurs in Motion*, Discovery Centre hosted a Dinosaur March on opening day, which brought 250+ participants roaring together on a walk along the Halifax waterfront, and then into the centre to get a sneak peek of the exhibition. Families and dinosaur-lovers dressed up to celebrate the occasion. *Dinosaurs in Motion* also broke a record for Member Sneak Peek attendance, bringing 500+ people in to see the exhibition before it opened to the public.

Discovery Centre hosted a family-style and adult-only Dino Disco. Over 500 guests danced to a DJ with silent disco headphones amongst the dinosaurs. Guests had DINomite fun, as Discovery Centre showcased the truly unique experiences it can offer all ages.

Dinosaurs in Motion is proudly toured by:



Discovery Centre

15

14

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Driving Discovery | Le moteur de la découverte



Driving Discovery launched a new Climate Quest program for grade 8 students exploring how climate change is impacting communities across Nova Scotia and how we can prepare for the future with climate mitigations strategies.

This and other Driving Discovery programs are offered as bookable workshops and include program documents, teacher and student inquiry cards, videos, and interactive games and activities. Resources can be accessed online free for teachers to deliver in their classrooms.

Discovery@School | Découvrir à l'école



Discovery Centre, in collaboration with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, created and launched 16 video-based learning resources, with accompanying teachers' guides, and hands-on activities. Discovery@School will help teachers navigate the inclusion of skills in the renewed Nova Scotia curriculum. All assets are bilingual and accessible on the Discovery Centre website for educators to have their learners inquire, create, and explore in a fun and interactive way.

Virtual Workshops

Discovery Centre continued its *Virtual Workshop* offering to meet the needs of communities unable to visit the Discovery Centre or access our *Science on the Road* team. This was largely due to the continued support from Connected North, which helped Discovery Centre's team reach and engage students in remote Indigenous communities from areas such as the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Northern Alberta, and Northern Ontario. Discovery Centre hosted 40 virtual workshops, including a new virtual workshop addition, Acoustic Adventure, reaching over 800 students throughout Canada.

Science in the Centre

Discovery Centre hosted 3,000 students for curriculum-connected workshops this year. Whether they joined for a full day or just a few hours, students left smiling and inspired.

Discovery Centre delivered 145 workshops in the centre, offering new *GenAction* workshop, Salt and Vinegar: Exploring Ocean Acidification, enhanced programming under the *GenAction* lens, and created engaging updates to the Float the Boat workshop to better align with the grade Primary curriculum.

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

Science on the Road

Our award-winning outreach programs, *Science on the Road*, delivered 120 workshops this year, including two new *GenAction* additions - Sail the Sour Seas, Whole School Demo, and Salt and Vinegar grade 10, Ocean Acidification-based workshop. Through *Science on the Road* programming, Discovery Centre reached 5800 Nova Scotian students across the province from Yarmouth to Tatamagouche and Guysborough to Glace Bay. *Science on the Road* programming is exclusively designed by our talented team of Science Educators and is connected to Department of Education curriculum objectives on a grade-by-grade basis.

Science on The Spot

Lift Off! & Potato Protective Equipment



Our two complimentary Workers Compensation Board, *Science on the Spot* experiences introduce youth to safe workplaces, in key target areas of safe lifting and slips-trips-falls, through *Lift-Off!* and *Potato Protective Equipment*. With real-time biomechanical sensor feedback, *Lift-Off!* participants compete head-to-head to build a structure, focusing on the safety of their work, rather than the speed. In *Potato Protective Equipment*, participants explore the surprising magnitude of forces involved in even short falls, leading them to the data-and-experience-driven conclusion that prevention is easier than protection and should be prioritized.



What's in Your Water? & Stormy Science



Presented by Halifax Water, "What's in Your Water" is a new hands-on public program designed to instill an appreciation for the science behind water treatment and testing, dispel misinformation around water treatment additives, and the importance of protecting the full water cycle. Visitors use digital LabQuest sensors and custom equipment to explore real water quality variables analyzed through Halifax Water's comprehensive water monitoring and testing program. Visitors interact with Discovery Centre staff scientists to discuss the chemistry of chlorine and fluoride and why they are so important in treating our water.

Also presented by Halifax Water, "Stormy Science" features custom models that simulate household property runoff with and without storm services, highlighting the need for storm water mitigation. This facilitated program explores the complex system protecting our communities, making connections between the increasing need for these services and higher frequencies of storm events due to climate change.



CAMPS & CLUBS

PD Camps

Over 300 youth ages 5-12 years engaged in hands-on STEAM activities and Discovery Centre's exhibits during 15 PD-day camps over the course of the year. Themes included Science Fun for Everyone, Micro-Macro Explorers, Science of Winter, and Curiosity Quest among others featuring a focus on climate action and sustainability through engaging GenAction activitie.

March Break Camps



Discovery Centre hosted 55 campers between the ages of 5-13 years in three camps during the 2023 March Break. Campers participated in exciting hands-on science experiments and enjoyed exploring the *Dinosaurs in Motion* exhibit. Our older campers participated in all time favorite *Digital Discovery Camp*, hosted in partnership with Digital Nova Scotia. Digital campers enjoyed engaging with special guests from Skills NS, the Construction Association of NS, and Brilliant Labs. Many thanks to Digital Nova Scotia, REDSpace, ACOA and our special guests for helping to spark interest in tech among our campers!

Summer Camps



Over 400 children aged 5-12 years joined us for our summer camps this year including Destination Discovery Camps. Campers enjoyed hands on STEAM activities in our recurring Climate Champions, Ocean Explorers, and Health Heroes camps, as well as trips to the Halifax 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, 25 youth aged 9-14 years took part in our Discovery Centre-based *Digital Discovery Camps* in two, week-long summer camps. Additionally, 60 youth in the communities of Spryfield, Bridgewater, New Glasgow, and Yarmouth participated in *Digital Discovery Camps* hosted in their community. These camps hosted in partnership with

Digital Nova Scotia, connect youth with professionals in Nova Scotia's Information and Communications Technology sectors (ICT) as special guest mentors.

Campers participated in hands-on challenges using tech, such as game development, coding, and robotics and had the opportunity to test drive heavy duty excavation simulators used for training in the construction industry.

Thank you to our EPIC gigabyte sponsor REDspace, and our mentors from Arcurve, Skills NS, the Construction Association of NS, and Hutch Games! Also special thanks to Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) for supporting this dynamic camp experience.

Ocean Tech Camp



This year, 15 campers aged 10-14 years participated in our popular *Ocean Tech camp*. Proudly sponsored by the Ocean Technology Council of Nova Scotia, this camp was full of exciting challenges surrounding ocean technology and research in Nova Scotia. With hands-on activities, field trips, and special guests highlighting their work with tech in the marine industry, campers were inspired to learn more about our oceans and how we can study and protect them using the latest tech.

Creative Curiosity Camps



Based on the successes of the previous year, Discovery Centre partnered with Neptune Theatre once again, expanding the camp selection with an additional week of *Creative Curiosity Camp*. Together Discovery Centre and Neptune Theatre co-delivered three in-person summer camps to 40 youth aged 7-14 who enjoyed mixing drama and science. Themes ranged from exploring the science and art behind magic, the wonders of the natural world, and the mysteries, myths and science tied to our oceans.

Little Learners



Scotiabank

More than 510 toddlers and their families and caregivers participated in Discovery Centre-based *Little Learners* programming, presented by Scotiabank. At Discovery Centre, little ones explored the joy and STEAM in aerodynamics, experimented with chemistry, and explored prehistoric species.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

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- Matthew Johnson (ex-officio)
- Simone Le Gendre-King
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- Daria Goncharova
Project Manager of Youth Climate Action
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- Ruth Munro
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Manager of Customer Relations
- Leah Veinot
Manager of Marketing & Communications
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- Adam Brown
Senior Science Educator of Youth Climate Action
- Josh Bulgin
Staff Scientist, Ocean
- Chenille Callender
Staff Scientist
- Margaret Campbell
Content Developer
- Will Cool Gaudin
Exhibits Specialist
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- Madeleine Stanley
Human Resources Generalist
- Malcolm van Stralen
Staff Scientist
- Kyle Sveinson
Exhibits Technician

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Halifax
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Pamela & John Crace

Michele Sherman

David Wicks

Steve Ashton

Mary Haggerty

Helen Dolan

Linda Laurence

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Mary Anne White has been involved with Discovery Centre for nearly four decades, first serving on the board of directors and later chairing the exhibits committee. She helped create and fundraise for the original Bubble Room exhibit, which was first part of "A Question of Chemistry" and is now a beloved exhibit in the new facility. Mary Anne's expertise in materials science, chemistry, and physics earned her a place in the Discovery Centre's Science Hall of Fame in 2003.

In addition to volunteering her skills, Mary Anne is a long-standing donor to Discovery Centre. Her contributions have played a significant role in the Centre's success and have helped inspire generations of young minds.




Mary Anne is most proud of "adopting a school," so that classes at a local elementary school could access Discovery Centre without worry of financial constraints. "I always feel the greatest pride when I see a school bus outside," Mary Anne says.



The kids just love it, and it's a different view of science from what they get in the classroom."

Mary Anne's commitment to Discovery Centre goes beyond her years of service, as she remains a loyal friend and supporter. The Centre deeply appreciates her continued dedication, we are honored to have Mary Anne as part of our community, and we thank her for her enduring generosity and spirit of giving.



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Financial statements of Discovery Centre

March 31, 2023

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of
Discovery Centre

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Discovery Centre (the "Centre"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2023, and the statements of revenue and expenditures, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies (collectively referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Centre as at March 31, 2023, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards ("Canadian GAAS"). 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 are independent of the Centre in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

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 GAAS 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 GAAS, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism 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.

Deloitte LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants
June 16, 2023

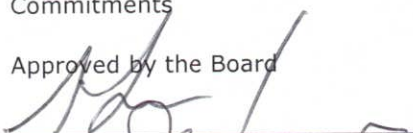
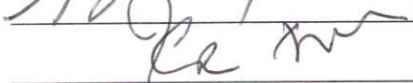
Discovery Centre
Statement of financial position
As at March 31, 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and short-term investments	10 and 11	2,009,705	2,594,242
Accounts receivable		145,194	109,923
Government contributions receivable		240,729	339,024
Prepaid expenses		178,672	74,927
Inventories		14,223	26,097
		2,588,523	3,144,213
Long-term investment	3	1,000,000	1,000,000
Property and equipment	5	15,784,972	17,159,000
		19,373,495	21,303,213
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities		1,008,543	820,714
Deferred revenue and deferred contributions	12	733,227	1,277,187
Current portion of long-term debt	6	445,287	414,999
		2,187,057	2,512,900
Long-term debt	6	2,449,080	2,886,915
		4,636,137	5,399,815
Net assets			
Investment in property and equipment		12,890,608	13,857,088
Internally restricted reserve	10	100,000	100,000
Endowment fund	11	72,000	72,000
Unrestricted		1,674,750	1,874,310
		14,737,358	15,903,398
		19,373,495	21,303,213

Commitments

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Approved by the Board

 , Director
 , Director

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

Discovery Centre
Statement of changes in net assets
Year ended March 31, 2023

	Investment in property and equipment \$	Internally restricted reserve \$ (Note 10)	Endowment fund \$ (Note 11)	Unrestricted \$	2023 \$	2022 \$
Net assets, beginning of year	13,857,088	100,000	72,000	1,874,310	15,903,398	16,159,483
Transfers	770,384	—	—	(770,384)	—	—
Excess of expenditures over revenue for the year	(1,736,864)	—	—	570,824	(1,166,040)	(256,085)
Net assets, end of year	12,890,608	100,000	72,000	1,674,750	14,737,358	15,903,398

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

Discovery Centre
Statement of revenue and expenditures
Year ended March 31, 2023

		2023	2022
	Notes	\$	\$
Revenue			
Campaign funding	9	—	202,000
Admissions, memberships and workshops		1,564,039	759,334
Government contributions	8	3,689,748	3,769,449
Fundraising and donations		661,593	875,711
Retail income		197,931	111,137
Special events	7	176,137	99,898
Other		221,522	36,657
		6,510,970	5,854,186
Expenditures			
Exhibits, programs and administration		3,055,722	2,151,388
Salaries and benefits		2,449,324	1,929,726
Rent and common area charges		201,378	210,358
Retail cost of goods sold		123,083	61,166
Special events	7	110,639	67,246
		5,940,146	4,419,884
Excess of revenue over expenditures before the following expenses		570,824	1,434,302
Amortization of property and equipment		1,565,388	1,580,766
Interest on long-term debt		171,476	109,621
		1,736,864	1,690,387
Excess of expenditures over revenue for the year		(1,166,040)	(256,085)

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

Discovery Centre
Statement of cash flows
Year ended March 31, 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Operating activities			
Excess of expenditures over revenue for the year		(1,166,040)	(256,085)
Changes to excess of revenue over expenditures not involving cash			
Amortization of property and equipment		1,565,388	1,580,766
		<u>399,348</u>	<u>1,324,681</u>
Net changes in non-cash working capital items related to operations			
Accounts receivable		(35,271)	145,166
Government contributions receivable		98,295	(275,790)
Prepaid expenses		(103,745)	(34,819)
Inventories		11,874	13,860
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities		187,829	479,433
Deferred revenue and deferred contributions		(543,960)	199,712
		<u>14,370</u>	<u>1,852,243</u>
Financing activities			
Proceeds of long-term debt		2,968,581	—
Repayment of long-term debt		(3,376,128)	(710,333)
		<u>(407,547)</u>	<u>(710,333)</u>
Investing activity			
Acquisition of property and equipment		(191,360)	(126,548)
Net change in cash and short-term investments during year		(584,537)	1,015,362
Cash and short-term investments, beginning of year		2,594,242	1,578,880
Cash and short-term investments, end of year		<u>2,009,705</u>	<u>2,594,242</u>

Non-cash transactions

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

1. Description

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. Significant accounting policies

The financial statements of the Centre are prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations ("ASNPO") in Part III of the CPA Canada Handbook applied within the framework of the accounting policies summarized below.

(a) Inventories

Inventories are recorded at the lower of cost and net realizable value. The cost of inventory is determined using the first-in, first-out basis.

(b) Property and equipment

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 attributed to the construction of exhibits are capitalized.

Amortization of property 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:

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

(c) Long-term investments

The Centre accounts for its investment in The Discovery Centre International Inc. ("DCI"), a controlled non-profit entity, at cost. The Centre determines whether there are indications of possible impairment. When there is an indication of impairment, and the organization determines that a significant adverse change has occurred during the period in the expected timing or amount of future cash flows, a write-down is recognized in income. If the indicators of impairment have decreased or no longer exist, the previously recognized impairment loss shall be reversed to the extent of the improvement. The carrying amount of the financial asset may not be greater than the amount that would have been reported at the date of the reversal had the impairment not been recognized previously. The amount of the reversal is recognized in income.

(d) 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.

2. Significant accounting policies (continued)

(d) Revenue recognition (continued)

Restricted contributions for the purchase of property and equipment are deferred and amortized to revenue on the same basis as the amortization on the purchased property and equipment. A restricted contribution may be provided for a certain area of activity, without the contributor specifying which portion is to be used to acquire property and equipment. In order for a contribution to be accounted for as a contribution restricted for the purchase of a property and equipment, the contributor must specify the portion of the contribution that is to be used to purchase property 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 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.

(e) Pledges

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

(f) Use of estimates

The preparation of the financial statements in accordance with ASNPO requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported assets and liabilities and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses for the period then ended. Significant estimates used in these financial statements include allowance for doubtful accounts, useful lives for the amortization of tangible capital assets, deferred revenue and certain accruals. Actual results could materially differ from those estimates.

(g) 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.

Discovery Centre
Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2023

3. Long-term investment

The Centre has 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. No net revenue was recognized in the current year.

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

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
	(unaudited)	(unaudited)
Total assets	443,486	525,266
Total liabilities	53,784	22,296
Net assets	389,702	502,970
Revenue	305,821	202,842
Expenses	419,090	288,850
Cash flows from operating activities	(63,030)	(111,457)

4. Bank indebtedness

The Centre has an authorized revolving demand facility in the amount of \$500,000 which bears interest at prime plus 0.25% and the Centre has provided a general security agreement over all assets as security for the operating line facility. \$500,000 (\$500,000 in 2022) was undrawn at year-end

5. Property and equipment

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2023 Net book value	2022 Net book value
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Exhibits	9,488,623	5,192,844	4,295,779	5,080,785
Equipment and fixtures	369,341	308,482	60,859	45,307
Computer equipment	209,209	202,739	6,470	12,941
Leasehold improvements	15,107,377	3,685,513	11,421,864	12,019,967
	25,174,550	9,389,578	15,784,972	17,159,000

Of the additions to property and equipment during the year \$38,809 (\$80,501 in 2022) 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

	2023 \$	2022 \$
CIBC non-revolving instalment loan, repayable in monthly principal installments of \$37,107 plus interest, bearing interest at the bank's prime rate plus 0.25%, amortized to September 2029. Secured by first-priority security interest in all assets of the Centre.	2,894,367	—
CIBC non-revolving term loan, repaid during the year.	—	2,897,581
CIBC non-revolving term loan, repaid during the year.	—	404,333
	2,894,367	3,301,914
Less: current portion	445,287	414,999
	2,449,080	2,886,915

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 fiscal years ending March 31 are as follows:

	\$
2024	445,287
2025	445,287
2026	445,287
2027	445,287
2028	445,287

7. Special events

During the year, the Centre held one special event. The event resulted in a net excess of revenue over expenditures of \$65,498 (\$32,652 in 2022).

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Sponsorships and registration revenue	176,137	99,898
Expenditures	110,639	67,246
	65,498	32,652

8. Government contributions

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

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Government of Canada	3,116,139	2,889,812
Government of Nova Scotia	220,000	537,500
Halifax Regional Municipality	145,000	145,000
Employment grants	208,609	197,137
	3,689,748	3,769,449

8. Government contributions (continued)

During the year, the Centre was eligible for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy ("CEWS") and Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy ("CERS"). These programs were implemented by the Government of Canada to support businesses and employees through the COVID-19 pandemic. The Centre received \$22,229 (\$647,649 in 2022) as a reimbursement for direct salaries and payroll expenses and nil (\$144,507 in 2022) for rent expenses. The Centre has a government contribution receivable of nil (\$61,063 in 2022) and nil (\$77,628 in 2022) as at March 31, 2023, related to CEWS and CERS, respectively.

9. Campaign funding

Campaign funding was complete in 2022 and as a result the Centre received funding from private donors to support the construction and operations of the new Centre in the amount of nil (\$202,000 in 2022).

10. Internally restricted revenue

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 2023. As a result, \$100,000 (\$100,000 in 2022) 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

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Deferred private and public sector contributions received	614,522	1,169,826
Deferred revenue	115,955	103,111
Deferred deposits	2,750	4,250
	733,227	1,277,187

13. Financial instruments

Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of the Centre's financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk is comprised of currency risk, interest rate risk and other price risk. The Centre is exposed to certain of these risks, as described below.

13. Financial instruments (continued)

Interest rate 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 the term loan, as outlined in Note 6. Fluctuations in the prime interest rate will have moderate impact on the Centre's result of operations.

Credit risk

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.

Liquidity risk

The Centre's objective is to have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when due. The Centre monitors its cash balances and cash flows generated from operations to meet its requirements. As at March 31, 2023, management believes the Centre has no significant liquidity risk as its assets are liquid in nature.

14. Commitments

The Centre is in a twenty-year lease with a five-year renewal option with Nova Scotia Power Inc. for the premises as 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.

Minimum annual lease payments for vehicle operating leases during the next three years are as follows:

	<u>\$</u>
2024	7,315
2025	7,315
2026	4,267