

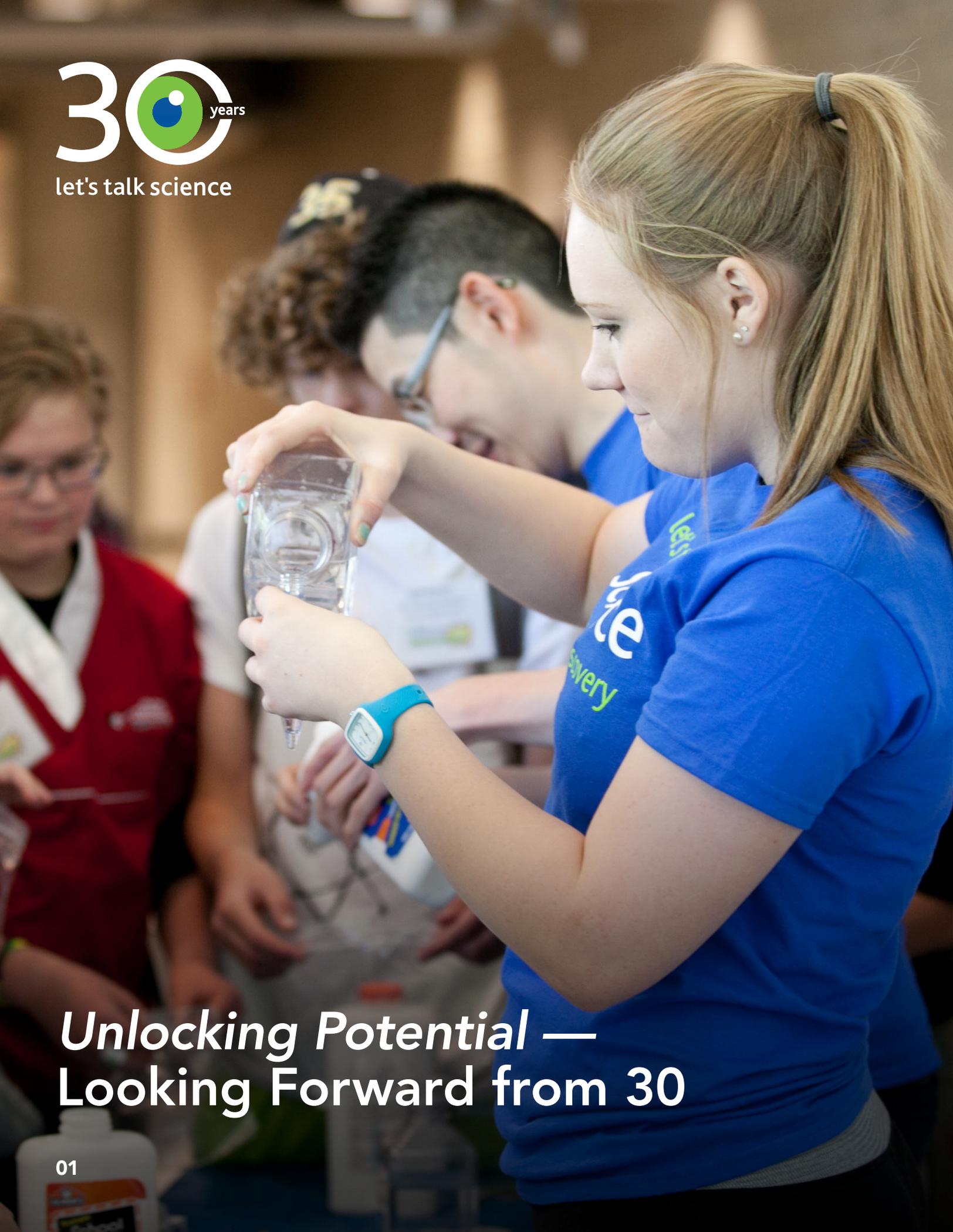


Unlocking Potential: Looking Forward from 30

Annual Impact Report 2023-2024

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let's talk 
science
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Unlocking Potential —
Looking Forward from 30

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Board of Directors 2023-2024

Let's Talk Science's Board of Directors provides our organization with strategic guidance, ensuring we fulfill our mission to prepare youth for a world that is underpinned by science, technology and innovation.



Bruce Archibald
Chair



Hilary Foulkes
Vice Chair



Michele Noble
Secretary



Warren Granger
Treasurer



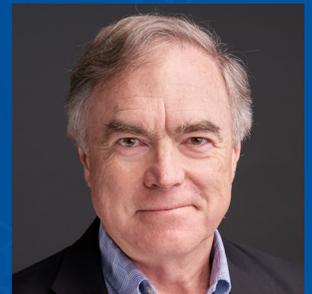
Debasis Bhaumik
Director



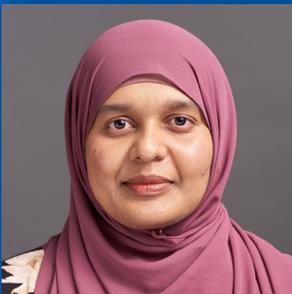
Eric Bosco
Director



Pauline Clarke
Director



Paul Johnson
Director



Farah Qaiser
Director



Deborah Saucier
Director



Craig Wellington
Director



Janice Williams
Director



Gabriel Woo
Director



Bonnie Schmidt
President & Founder

Letter from the President and Board Chair

As a national partner in education, Let's Talk Science plays an important role in preparing youth for their future. We develop creative, critical thinkers with resilient, innovative mindsets through our programming. We empower educators with meaningful, multi-disciplinary professional learning and resources. We inspire youth to explore diverse careers. We foster scientific literacy and trust in science, which are necessary for informed and engaged citizenship in a democracy. Let's Talk Science continues to evolve while remaining relentless in delivering on our founding promise to help youth develop the critical skills and attributes needed to thrive in a world shaped by science, technology and innovation.

As highlighted in this annual report, *Unlocking Potential: Forward from 30*, this was a year of celebration, renewal and loss.

Celebrating our 30th anniversary, we launched our first-ever fundraising campaign, *Inspire – Educate – Innovate*, which will continue into 2026. Thanks to investments from industry, foundations, individuals and governments, Let's Talk Science programming is available to youth and educators in English and French at no charge, honouring our commitment to equity and inclusion. Our impact fostering diversity was celebrated with awards from WXN and Charity Village.

We are deeply grateful to the Government of Canada for renewing its support through the Strategic Science Fund, and to Visionary Supporters, Amgen Canada and Hibernia for their significant renewals, which provided more cause for celebration.

Our Board welcomed two new directors, Pauline Clarke and Craig Wellington. Hilary Foulkes completed her tenure as Chair, during which time we achieved many significant milestones from launching innovative programs to building new partnerships and tripling the organization's annual

reach. We are indebted to her (and the entire Board's) ongoing commitment to our work. Richard Longtin M.Ed, CFRE joined the staff leadership team as Vice President, External Relations.

We refreshed our strategic plan and renewed many partnerships that enable a national approach to programming with locally responsive implementation. Our Teacher Leader network grew to 100 and our postsecondary volunteer-driven Outreach network continued its post-pandemic recovery. Collaborations with the Science, Technology & Innovation community expanded to welcome the Perimeter Institute and Institute for Quantum Computing (IQC).

Amidst the positive events of the year, deep loss was felt with the passing of our dear friend and long-standing collaborator, Dr. Jeremy McNeil. A renowned entomologist, Jeremy was also an award-winning science communicator. Amongst his many contributions to Let's Talk Science, he forged our partnership with the Royal Society of Canada to create climate education programming. He also co-authored two of our children's books and left us his extensive photo library along with a legacy gift. His contributions will continue to make positive change for years to come.

Navigating a complex year for charities, Let's Talk Science demonstrated resilience, innovation and adaptability. With unwavering support from staff, volunteers, Teacher Leaders, partners, and supporters, we continued to build on our legacy of impact as a national education partner. Together, we're empowering youth in Canada through the powerful platform of STEM. Join us in unlocking their potential.

Bruce Archibald, PhD

Chair

Bonnie Schmidt, CM, PhD, FRSC, ICD.D

President & Founder

Engagement 2023-2024



Over 2.7 million interactions with youth and educators

Nearly 800,000 people accessed digital resources



55 Outreach sites across Canada



Programming used in over **6,300 schools** in nearly **1,800 communities** in every province and territory



Nearly **330,000 youth interactions** through action projects

More than **1.2 million** online sessions



Statement of Operations

Year ending August 31, 2024 with comparative figures for 2023.

Revenue	2024	2023
Federal government and agencies	\$2,768,000	\$2,477,000
Corporate	7,930,000	9,505,000
Individuals and foundations	37,000	101,000
Interest and other income	1,969,000	1,701,000
Provincial governments	277,000	376,000
	\$12,981,000	\$14,160,000

Expenditures	2024	2023
Wages and benefits	\$8,347,000	\$8,525,000
Program delivery and development	2,688,000	3,094,000
Marketing and communications	486,000	675,000
Training, development and conferences	146,000	163,000
Information systems and technology	617,000	691,000
General and administrative	672,000	853,000
	\$12,956,000	\$14,001,000

Excess of revenue over expenses	\$25,000	\$159,000
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STEM is all Around

STEM is all around us, constantly shaping our world in fascinating ways. Let's Talk Science is at the forefront of **making STEM topics relevant** and engaging by connecting them to real-world events. On April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse swept across North America, perfectly capturing the intersection of science and natural wonder. Meanwhile, the Artemis space missions continue to push the boundaries of human exploration and innovation. These events underscore how STEM is not just a field of study but a dynamic force that influences our everyday lives and **inspires future discoveries.**



Driving Innovation: Students Operate Lunar Rover

This year, we celebrated the winners of the third season of the Lunar Rover Research Challenge. Students from Markham, Mississauga, Abbotsford, and Kanata had the opportunity to remotely control a lunar rover prototype in a Moon-like environment, allowing them to interact with technology that will be part of the upcoming Artemis space missions. One of the winners, a grade 6 class from Lisgar Middle School in Mississauga, ON, took over the controls this past January. For one afternoon, their classroom became mission control, as students performed different tasks related to operating the rover (physically located in Stratford, ON), such as navigating, driving, and recording information.

The Lunar Rover Research Challenge, created in partnership with Canadensys and Avalon Space, capitalizes on the excitement surrounding the Artemis II mission to encourage students to explore space science and take on new challenges. With a strong emphasis on digital literacy, this program helps youth develop the design thinking, teamwork, and communication skills needed to thrive in our ever-changing world.

A Once in a Lifetime Astronomical Event

On April 8th, 2024, a total solar eclipse passed over parts of eastern Canada, including parts of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland, providing a once-in-a-lifetime astronomical event for many children and adults alike. To help facilitate this amazing learning and community bonding opportunity, Let's Talk Science sent out 100,000 safety-certified eclipse viewers to schools, community groups, and post-secondary partner sites, along with developing many safety resources for teachers and families, to help enable more people the opportunity for safe eclipse viewing. Events like the eclipse serve as examples of the boundless opportunities for exploration and remind us to always stay curious about the world around us.



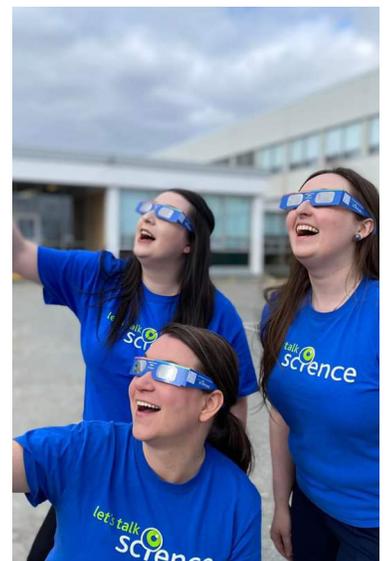
It was so wonderful to have reliable, excellent material at my fingertips! It engaged both the students and the staff - encouraging everyone to enjoy the eclipse!"

Tamara Awad Lobe, Grades 4-6 Educator, Waterloo, Ontario



When I was really little, I wanted to do stuff like this and it's like a dream come true."

*Aubrey Smale, Gr. 6 student
on CTV News Toronto*





“

The Challenge served as a platform to nurture curiosity and creativity, allowing students to explore scientific concepts in a hands-on and engaging manner. The interactive nature of the Challenge not only captivated my students' interest but also **encouraged them to think outside the box** and approach scientific inquiries with a sense of wonder and excitement.”

Educator, British Columbia

Championing STEM Learning with the Let's Talk Science Challenge

After several years of virtual-only competitions, the Let's Talk Science Challenge welcomed back students to in-person Grand Finale events where they could demonstrate team spirit and showcase creative costumes. After training for months with the Let's Talk Science Challenge Handbook, students from all over the country competed in STEM content and an Engineering Design Challenge. The Challenge blends the best aspects of virtual and in-person formats, featuring 10 weeks of online competition open to students nationwide, regardless of location. Participation in the Let's Talk Science Challenge encourages students to expand their knowledge, explore future STEM education and career opportunities, emphasize teamwork, and engage with role models and post-secondary campuses.



Students explore STEM opportunities



Training from The Challenge Handbook



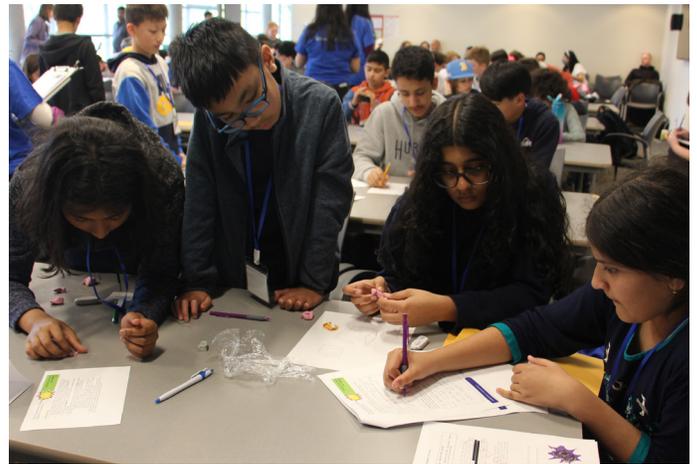
Virtual and in-person formats available



10 weeks of online competition available



Encourages teamwork



Engaging Early Years to Grade 12 Students

Let's Talk Science is dedicated to supporting **skills development in children across Canada** through STEM education, regardless of age, background, or location. Our fulsome suite of in-class and virtual programming is tailored to different age levels and aligns with curricula across all 13 provinces and territories. Whether it's STEM Storytime, where young students can develop their reading and comprehension skills, or Visionary Symposiums, where high school students can engage in meaningful conversations with peers and experts, Let's Talk Science programming has something for everyone.



STEM Storytime

From turning trash into toys to learning about different animal habits, STEM Storytime builds curiosity in young students and encourages them to discover the world around them. This year, students across the country joined Let's Talk Science staff and volunteers live or on-demand to learn about their world through books and engaging hands-on STEM activities. STEM Storytime combines reading and literacy with STEM learning to help students thrive early in their learning journeys.



Combines reading and literacy with STEM learning



Encourages STEM early in learning journey

STEM Club

Born from the pandemic-era Horizon project, when Let's Talk Science developed and delivered 75,000 packages containing activities and supplies to food banks across Canada, STEM Club uses the same premise to provide programming to Grades 4 to 6 classrooms nationwide. For each session of six weeks, students join weekly live webinars with a STEM mentor, who guides them through fun and interactive activities that challenge their curiosity and build critical thinking skills. In addition to the webinars, Let's Talk Science offers free materials to enable participation in STEM Club activities to educators in equity-deserving schools, ensuring access for all students.



Weekly live webinars with a STEM mentor



Support for equity-deserving schools

Mission : Innovation

Designed and curriculum-aligned for Grades 7 to 10, Mission : Innovation immerses youth in human-centred design processes, in which student teams collaborate to dream, design, create, and put a working prototype to the test. Throughout the program, students develop critical and creative thinking skills, strengthen collaboration strategies, and refine communication techniques. Mission : Innovation is the latest addition to Let's Talk Science's suite of innovation-focused programming, which nurtures youth's sense of agency and ability to adapt and encourages them to propose creative solutions to solve complex challenges in our ever-evolving world.



Students develop critical and creative thinking skills



Helping students explore career pathways

Visionary Symposiums

Visionary Symposiums bring together youth from Grades 9 to 12 and expert speakers to discuss current STEM topics. Partnering with the Canadian Space Agency, the Royal Society of Canada, the Stem Cell Network, ArcticNet and Genome Canada has allowed Let's Talk Science to host talks centred around everything from the role of Science Fiction in STEM research to the connections between forest management, wildfires, and climate change. These talks fuel critical thinking while helping high school students explore different career pathways. This year, Let's Talk Science hosted many engaging guests, including David Hewlett (Stargate Atlantis actor) and The Hacksmith (engineer and YouTuber), and thousands of students to engage in meaningful conversations about how STEM can open doors and impact our future.



let's talk science
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Let's Talk Science Fiction
A Virtual Symposium
Grades 9-12 | February 29th



Hosted by
David Hewlett
Actor (*Stargate Atlantis*)
and STEM Advocate

Fostering Classroom Leaders

“Anytime I have the opportunity to learn about or discover new techniques and then use the shared resources; **enables me to improve** the way that I introduce concepts and help students develop their skills.”

Rachelle Ward, Educator, Prince Edward Island



Pathways to Success

Educators are key to sustained youth development. With a historic commitment to supporting educators, Let's Talk Science continues to evolve our offerings. With Learning Pathways, Let's Talk Science provides ongoing support to educators throughout their entire educational journey with offerings geared to their specific teaching assignment.

Learning Pathways offers a robust variety of micro-credentialed programming organized into four areas:

- ✓ **STEM Cross-Curricular Learning**
- ✓ **STEM Focused Learning**
- ✓ **Technology Enhanced Learning**
- ✓ **Globally Connected Learning**

This experience is built to fit teachers' schedules with various modes of delivery that include virtual webinars, self-paced courses, live in-person sessions, online communities of practise and more.

5,600 Badges Awarded

Badges that lead to certification are awarded to educators upon completion of a course or session. In 2023/2024, more than 5,600 badges were awarded.





Journey into an Indigenous Community (virtually)

Nurturing Our Relationship with the Land

Learn about the interconnectedness of all things from culture teacher Norlaine Greyeyes alongside students from kihiwaciston School in Muskeg Lake Cree Nation.

Following the lesson, join the class for a walk and learn directly from the land.

📅 March 27

🎒 Grades 4-6

🕒 1 pm EST

45 minute session.

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Register Now!

LIVE STEM

Connected to Learning Pathways, LIVE STEM co-learning broadcasts are professional learning opportunities for educators to learn alongside their students. Each broadcast features a Let's Talk Science facilitator who leads students through—and model for educators—learning strategies and activities designed to introduce and reinforce STEM concepts. This year, LIVE STEM saw 2,850 educator interactions!

This year, Let's Talk Science hosted our most popular LIVE STEM to date. Nurturing Our Relationship with the Land saw classrooms participate in an experience where they learned how to make observations and inferences based on their senses. Participants also heard from culture teacher Norlaine Greyeyes from Muskeg Lake Cree Nation about the interconnectedness of all things and the importance of land-based teaching.



Coffee and a Keynote

Coffee and a Keynote sessions feature experts across a wide range of pertinent educational topics, from Indigenous Ways of Knowing, Building Inclusion to Artificial Intelligence. These talks are perfect for teachers who want to broaden their knowledge and stay up to date on relevant STEM education topics. This year, we welcomed several charismatic speakers, such as Dr. Samantha Yammine, also known as Science Sam, electrical engineer and one of Canada's Top 25 Environmentalists Under 25 Samia Sami, Educational Technology specialist Ken Shelton, and 11-year-old 'Simon the Scientist' from Opaskwayak Cree Nation.

Creating Educator Communities

Let's Talk Science Teacher Leaders are dedicated, passionate individuals from across the country who share their experience and knowledge through facilitated sessions within local professional learning communities. This year, there were over 75 Teacher Leaders across the country, spanning locations from the bustling cities of Montreal and Calgary to the small communities of Île-à-la-Croix, Saskatchewan, and Westport, Newfoundland.

This June, one of our Teacher Leaders from Newfoundland, Jennifer Riggs, was a recipient of the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence. Jennifer joined the Teacher Leader Program in 2022, bringing her innovative mindset and passion. Jennifer works constantly with peers and colleagues to help develop new and exciting curricula and consistently seeks students' feedback on lessons, giving them a voice in their education paths. With Let's Talk Science, her contributions have been invaluable, especially in her role as a Cohort Leader. Jennifer is the seventh Teacher Leader to receive a Prime Minister Award.



I relish the opportunity to inspire the next generation by nurturing their curiosity and love of science. It's a privilege to be able to do this work and have a positive impact on my students."

Jennifer Riggs, Newfoundland



Community Roots, National Reach

At the heart of Let's Talk Science is a national network of over **1,800 dedicated outreach volunteers**. Primarily based out of our 55 outreach sites nationwide, they work tirelessly to deliver hands-on STEM learning experiences directly into classrooms and community settings, playing a pivotal role in inspiring and mentoring youth across Canada. Their unwavering commitment and endless enthusiasm empower students to explore and embrace new ideas and skills crucial for being an engaged citizen in our rapidly changing world.



Youth Engagement 2023-2024



Almost **850,000**
interactions with
youth and children

More than **55,000**
Indigenous youth
interactions



Delivered almost
6,400 hands-
on/minds-on
experiences

Engaged youth
from over **1,100**
communities
nationwide



While leading a lesson on tree-ring research and describing sample collection, a young girl in the classroom asked me if I used chainsaws in the field, and was excited to learn that I had and that anyone can with the correct training. Forestry and wildfire science continue to be male-dominated disciplines; through moments like these, I aim to empower youth from diverse backgrounds to visualize and pursue STEM careers.”

Jen Baron, University of British Columbia



What inspires us most about volunteering with Let's Talk Science is seeing the excitement and curiosity ignite in young minds. As twins passionate about STEM education, we've grown up volunteering and have always found joy in sharing our love for science with kids. It's amazing to be part of their journey, helping to build their confidence and encouraging them to pursue their dreams.”

Abeer Abeer and Aeman Aeman, Cambrian College



This one time that I was delivering an activity on natural disasters in an elementary school classroom with students who had handicaps/challenges. The activity genuinely helped the students better understand a subject that would have otherwise been difficult for them: sciences. I truly believe that the interactive and hands-on activities helped them to understand and apply the material.”

Laurence Gagnon, Université du Québec à Chicoutimi



I am always so inspired to watch the students work through STEM problems together. Seeing the gears turn as they think through ideas and come up with intriguing questions, watching the lightbulbs go off, and the excitement when they think of new and interesting solutions—it's amazing to be a part of.”

Emily Williams, University of New Brunswick

Outreach Partners 2023-2024

30+ Years

Western University
Queen's University
University of Ottawa

25+ Years

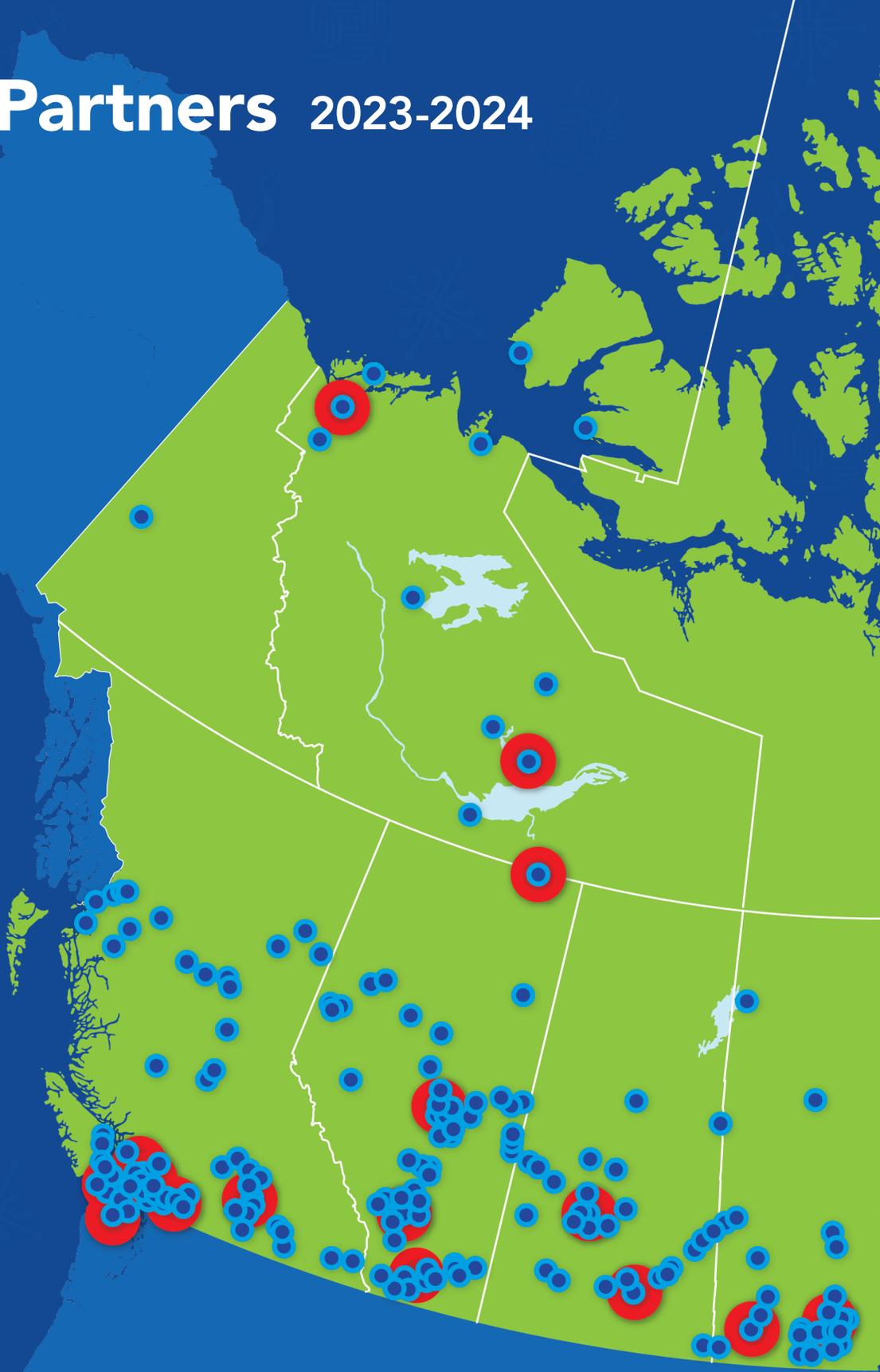
Simon Fraser University
University of Victoria
Memorial University of
Newfoundland, St. John's campus
The University of British
Columbia
McMaster University
University of Guelph
University of Toronto,
St. George campus
McGill University
University of Alberta
The University of Winnipeg

20+ Years

Dalhousie University
University of Manitoba
Carleton University
University of Calgary
University of Toronto,
Mississauga campus
University of New Brunswick,
Fredericton campus
University of Saskatchewan
University of Toronto,
Scarborough campus

15+ Years

Cambrian College
Laurentian University
York University
Université du Québec à
Montréal
University of Waterloo
Confederation College
University of Prince Edward
Island



 Let's Talk Science Outreach Sites
 Communities reached by Outreach (2023-2024)



10+ Years

Cape Breton University
University of New Brunswick,
Saint John campus
University of Lethbridge
Université de Sherbrooke
Concordia University
Ontario Tech University
Fanshawe College
Memorial University of
Newfoundland, Grenfell campus
Mount Allison University
University of Windsor
Loyalist College
Toronto Metropolitan
University

6-9 Years

Université de Moncton
Brock University
Brandon University
Lakehead University
The University of British
Columbia, Okanagan campus
First Nations University of Canada
Aurora Research Institute,
Western Arctic Research Centre
Université du Québec à
Chicoutimi

1-5 Years

Aurora Research Institute,
South Slave Research Centre
Vancouver Island University
Trent University
Aurora Research Institute,
North Slave Research Centre
Université du Québec à
Rimouski
Anishnabeg Outreach

STEM with All

“

The success of EDIA at Let's Talk Science is because of the commitment, dedication and vision of the leadership team, the staff, and the volunteers. As I continue my work in EDIA with Let's Talk Science, I look forward to building a more **equitable future** by working with others, learning from our mistakes, and overcoming the obstacles in our paths.”

Tammy Webster, Director of Equity at Let's Talk Science



Let's Talk Science Receives Charity Village Award

Let's Talk Science was thrilled to receive the Charity Village award for Best Nonprofit Employer - Volunteer Program (20+ Staff) which recognizes organizations that have found ways to overcome obstacles and create or maintain a strong volunteer program. The Charity Village Awards recognize organizations and professionals within the Canadian nonprofit and charitable sectors for their mission, purpose, community and recruitment initiatives. Let's Talk Science was also recognized as a finalist for The Best Nonprofit Employer - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (20+ Staff) award, which recognizes nonprofit organizations that are committed to socially responsible hiring and onboarding practices and are actively incorporating policies that encourage diversity, equity, inclusion, community outreach, and/or accessibility within their workplace.

Tammy Webster Receives EDI Leader Award

Tammy Webster, Director of Equity at Let's Talk Science, was honored at the 2024 Canadian Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (CEDI) Awards by the Women's Executive Network (WXN). She was recognized among 15 impactful leaders for her outstanding efforts in advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion in STEM education across Canada. Tammy's leadership at Let's Talk Science has resulted in new initiatives that empower underrepresented groups in STEM fields. This recognition celebrates her role as a trailblazer, inspiring others to contribute to a more inclusive society and champion equity in education. This award acknowledges both Tammy's and Let's Talk Science's unwavering dedication to promoting inclusivity and fostering systemic change within the Canadian educational landscape.



Best Nonprofit Employer - Volunteer Program



Best Nonprofit Employer - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



Tammy Webster receives Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Leader award



“

The Black Volunteer Collective continues to develop strong foundations for our various programming while growing our regional and national initiatives. This year, we supported CBSN at their youth science fairs in Guelph and Halifax, developed activities to add to Let's Talk Science's programming, and ran successful activities and symposia in Manitoba and Quebec. We look forward to growing our regional **impacts across Canada** by delivering Diversity in STEM symposia and launching new social media campaigns.”

Amaal Abdi, Outreach Coordinator, University of Ottawa

Amplifying Black Talent

Created in 2022 and officially launched in 2023, the Let's Talk Science Black Volunteer Collective (BVC) is dedicated to developing and implementing STEM outreach programs for Black youth, led by Black volunteers nationwide. Additionally, it strengthens the link between Let's Talk Science and the Canadian Black Scientists Network (CBSN). By involving Black volunteers as mentors and role models, the BVC aims to create a supportive learning environment that encourages curiosity and exploration and fosters hands-on learning and mentorship to empower the next generation of Black leaders, innovators, and problem solvers.



Black Volunteer Collective launched in 2023



Strengthened connection with Canadian Black Scientists Network

Inspiring Indigenous Voices

Let's Talk Science proudly partnered with the First Nations Education Administrators Association to sponsor their inaugural National Indigenous STEM Award. The award recognized the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre (MFNERC) for excellence in advancing Indigenous STEM education in First Nations schools. This new collaboration between Let's Talk Science and the First Nations Education Administrators Association is just one piece of a very focused Indigenous Strategy that meets youth where they are and helps them connect with Indigenous role models. Created with invaluable input from our National Indigenous Advisory Circle, along with the wisdom of Knowledge Keepers and relationships with Indigenous organizations, our Indigenous Strategy is a vital part of our Equity Plan and helped us impact over 85,000 Indigenous youth last year.



Sponsored National Indigenous STEM Award



Impacted over 85,000 Indigenous youth last year



Where Does STEM Lead?

STEM is not just about learning science, technology, engineering, and math—it's about **equipping youth** with the tools they need to navigate and solve complex issues. From the deepening climate crisis and rapid biodiversity loss to global health issues and the growth of misinformation and disinformation, meaningful STEM engagement helps students tackle the challenges of the 21st century by **fostering creative thinking** and innovative, resilient mindsets. Whether it is finding innovative solutions to environmental problems, contributing to breakthroughs in medicine or developing sustainable technologies, STEM education prepares students to make a **meaningful impact**.



The Future of STEM in Canada

In spring 2024, Let's Talk Science hosted the Future of STEM in Canada webinar, featuring a panel of education experts who engaged in an insightful discussion about the trends, challenges, and opportunities in STEM education. The webinar examined the current landscape of STEM learning in Canada and explored innovative and compelling approaches to enhance STEM teaching.



We have an opportunity to introduce more young people to the wonders of science. We must evolve how we teach STEM to make it more inclusive, accessible, and relevant to young people. This is about getting people ready for jobs and responsible citizenship. It's about building a just and sustainable future."

Dr. Bonnie Schmidt, Founder of Let's Talk Science

- ✓ **Let's Talk Science hosted the Future of STEM in Canada webinar in 2024**
- ✓ **We equip youth to tackle challenges of the 21st century**
- ✓ **We help prepare students to make a meaningful impact to environmental problems, medicine, and sustainable technologies**



Beyond the joy of sharing my passion for STEM, volunteering with Let's Talk Science played a crucial role in shaping my career and personal growth. I not only improved my communication skills but also developed empathy and patience when working with individuals from diverse backgrounds and abilities. These soft skills have proven invaluable in my career in biotech and marketing.”

Julia Wakulewicz, Former volunteer, Ontario



Meeting so many volunteers was a wonderful experience for me. Seeing someone talking to you, who's in university, studying something that you want to study, is a dream come true. It was like: 'Oh my gosh—she can do it, maybe I can do it too!'”

Namirah Quadir, Neuroscience student, Harvard University



I think that STEM programming can unlock a lot of untapped potential in people. Good STEM programming shows students the world around them in a way that makes sense. It builds relevance between theory and the real world. It can make challenging topics seem exciting.”

Ian Dimopoulos, Educator, Manitoba

Discovering Curious Careers

It's never too early to start thinking about the future, which is why Curious Careers targets students from Grades 6 to 8. In this series of monthly virtual panels, post-secondary students and industry and academic professionals share their career journey in STEM, what it's like to work or study in STEM and discuss future STEM careers. From the digital worlds of robotics and animation to deep dives into the skills and mindsets of innovators, Curious Careers explores diverse and relevant STEM fields, opening students' eyes to the endless possibilities their future holds.



Professionals share their STEM career journeys



Students dive into mindsets of innovators

Exploring Paths with Let's Talk Careers

Created in partnership with Skills Competences Canada, Engineers Canada, NGEN, and ChatterHigh, Let's Talk Careers is a national competition which encourages middle and high school students to explore different options for their future. Students spend time each day researching careers and post-secondary options to answer a ten question quiz, learning more about the diverse landscape that awaits post-graduation. This year, over 80+ days of competition, we had more than 14,500 students answer over 1.37 million career questions!



In partnership with Skills Competences Canada



80+ days of competition



14,000 students answered 1.37 million career questions



Building Climate Heroes Towards a Greener Future

“It is great to see youth engaged in environmental **activism projects** and able to take the knowledge gained and make positive changes in their day-to-day life at home.”

Casey Leszynski, Girl Guide Leader, Alberta



Clothing4Climate

Clothing4Climate encourages students to explore the environmental impacts of our clothing system and develop their own sustainable solutions. Throughout the project, students learn about climate change and water systems, then apply their knowledge to brainstorm personal actions to address climate change, fostering various life skills, including creative thinking, team building, and entrepreneurial spirit. Designed and curriculum-aligned for Grades 7 to 12, C4C is also great for extracurricular groups such as environmental clubs and Girl Guides.



Travel4Climate

Building on the success of Clothing4Climate, Let's Talk Science launched Travel4Climate in 2023. This project aimed at Grades 9 to 12, aligns with several of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and asks students to look at how our current transportation systems impact the climate and create their own innovative future-focused transportation proposal. Throughout the project, students learn more about climate change and emerging transportation technologies, gain valuable skills, such as critical thinking and scientific literacy, and explore various career opportunities related to transportation and climate science.



Evolving Programs

With the 2024/2025 school year, Living Space is relaunching with a fresh focus on climate and environmental science. The revamped program will emphasize a collaborative, data-driven approach to exploring how environments affect physical and mental health. Students will cultivate their planning, collaboration, and reflection skills, all while developing sustainable actions to create a meaningful impact on their health and surroundings.





With **over 2,000 youth interactions** nationwide, Let's Talk Forests was one of our most successful Visionary Symposiums to date!

Interactions from Let's Talk Forests, 2023-2024



Holding Meaningful Conversations

Let's Talk Forests brought together a panel of scientists and researchers focused on forests, wildfires, and climate change for an engaging discussion regarding the vital role forests play in our environment. The talk explored connections between forest management, wildfires, and the ongoing challenge of climate change. With over 2,000 youth interactions nationwide, Let's Talk Forests was one of our most successful Visionary Symposiums to date!

Reaching New Audiences

Several members of the Let's Talk Science Digital Development team worked with the TV production company Apartment 11 to help develop the 2024 Canadian Screen Awards Nominee, Green Squad. Green Squad is an educational television program which follows five passionate and environmentally-savvy young hosts as they challenge motivated kids and their families to make fun, eco-friendly choices for a healthier and greener future.

Collaborating for Success

“ Our work supporting youth, educators and families is more important than ever as STEM innovation transforms all aspects of our lives. We are grateful for this strategic, multi-year investment that recognizes our important contributions to the science, technology and innovation ecosystem. It will help us deliver on **our mission to prepare youth** for their future in a complex world.”

Bonnie Schmidt, President and Founder of Let's Talk Science



Strategic Science Fund

This year, Let's Talk Science was pleased to announce the Government of Canada's commitment to provide \$28.5 million in funding over five years through the Strategic Science Fund. This investment will help us in our mission to support innovation, productivity, and economic growth in Canadian by providing robust programming that builds early STEM skills and interest in STEM careers, which are necessary to ensure a diverse, talented workforce.



The Government of Canada is investing \$28.5 million in funding through the Strategic Science Fund



Desjardins

Let's Talk Science is always excited to welcome new partnerships, and this year, we are thrilled to celebrate a new collaboration with the Desjardins Foundation. Their donation will support the STEM-teaching initiatives of Let's Talk Science in three locations across Ontario and help provide engaging STEM experiences to youth.

Since 1970, the Desjardins Foundation has contributed to young people's academic success every year through student scholarships, grants to schools and organizations, and donations to partner organizations like Let's Talk Science. Let's Talk Science is grateful for their support.



Desjardins supports STEM-teaching initiatives in 3 locations across Ontario



The Desjardins Foundation has contributed to youth success since 1970





“

It is even more important today that **all youth** have quality STEM education in order that they are prepared with the essential literacy and critical thinking skills that they will need in the future. The youth of today are the citizens and talent for our future. I believe we must do all that we can to ensure that they **have the necessary foundations**. Let's Talk Science is committed to working collaboratively to build these foundations.”

Michele Noble



The Desjardins Foundation and Let's Talk Science have formed a valued **partnership dedicated to benefiting children and youth** across Canada through robust support of STEM education, including environmental and climate education. Together, we are advancing programs that inspire Canadian youth to explore the role of STEM in a variety of ways and prepare them for a rapidly evolving world. By supporting Let's Talk Science's outreach and educational initiatives, this partnership is preparing youth to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world, empowering them to participate and succeed as future innovators and active citizens."

*Nancy Lee, Executive Director,
The Desjardins Foundation*

Michele Noble

Michele Noble is a strong advocate for STEM education. She has been a proud supporter of Let's Talk Science for over 10 years and has served as a member of the Board of Directors since 2010.

Michele first met Bonnie about 20 years ago. Michele was working as a consultant on projects which were focused on improving the contribution of scientific research to the economy. The importance of STEM literacy for next generations was fundamental given the impact of technology that was being experienced.

Over the 20 years since, the pace of change and its impact has been exponential. The jury is out as to whether the benefit of changes will accrue to all whether individuals, organizations or economies.

Let's Talk Science is grateful to Michele for her support over the years.



Visionaries

Thank you to these Visionary donors for making a significant impact through current commitments of at least \$1,000,000

10+ years



10+ years



10+ years



10+ years

The Mitchell and Kathryn Baran Family Foundation

5+ years



10+ years



Catalysts

(\$500,000 - \$999,999)

5+ years



5+ years
Mobility Partner



Innovators

(\$250,000 - \$499,999)

New



10+ years



The Colcleugh Leadership Program

New



10+ years

Richard & Leigh Dobson

5+ years



Champions (\$100,000 - \$249,999)



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5+ years



10+ years



5+ years



5+ years



New



Explorers (\$25,000 - \$49,999)

5+ years



5+ years, In-kind



10+ years



New



5+ years



New



New



5+ years



Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Education

5+ years



10+ years



10+ years
The Young Fund at the HAMILTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



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New



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New



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New



HUT 8

5+ years

J.P. Bickell Foundation



McGill

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New



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Pratt & Whitney Canada
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STEM CELL NETWORK



RÉSEAU DE CELLULES SOUCHES

10+ years



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TECHNOLOGIES

10+ years, In-kind



New



5+ years



10+ years

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Pioneers (\$1,000 - \$9,999)

BC Hydro *10+ years*
Canada Life *10+ years*
Canadian Nuclear Association *New*
Centre for Commercialization of Regenerative
Medicine *5+ years*
CIBC Children's Foundation (Edmonton) *5+ years*
DuPont Canada *10+ years*
Enbridge Gas Inc. - London & District
Enterprise Mobility™ *10+ years*
Farm Credit Canada *New*
Gilead Alberta ULC *5+ years*
HP Development Company, L.P.
London Environmental Network *New*
L'Oreal Canada Inc.
QuestionPro
Raytheon Canada *10+ years*
Roche Canada *5+ years*
SickKids Research Institute *10+ years*
Stantec *10+ years*
United for Literacy *New*
University of Manitoba - Working for Inclusivity in
Chemical Sciences *New*
The HeinzSeed Company *10+ years, In-kind*
Scholar's Choice *5+ years, In-kind*
Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. *In-kind*
University of Guelph Department of Plant
Agriculture *10+ years, In-kind*
You Be The Chemist Canada *In-kind*
Bruce Archibald *New*
Cailin Clarke & John Greig *10+ years*
The Foulkes Family *5+ years*
Warren Granger *10+ years*
Michele Noble *10+ years*
Bonnie Schmidt *10+ years*
Craig & Cheryl White *5+ years*
Gabriel Woo

Friends

Alberton Health Centre *New*
Huron Community Foundation *New*
Pitter Patter Daycare *New*
Power Yoga West *New*
Royal Canadian Legion *New*
Shawna Agathos
Carolyn Anglin
Elmer Arsenault *New*
The Babenko Family
Lowell Barbour *New*
Sarah Beyea *New*
Sue Birtch *New*
Peter Bolo *New*
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Rupinder Boora
Jessica Bouchard
Jacques Bovet *New*
Alistair Boyle
Laura Brown *10+ years*
Susie Brown
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Nick Butt
Roger Campbell *New*
Stella Campbell *New*
Glenda & Darren Casimir *10+ years*
George Charchuk *New*
Kelly Corcoran *New*
Gordon Cotton *New*
Lona Crane *New*
Erika Dowell *New*
Mike Drabik *New*
Sonia Dupte *New*
Vance Easter *New*
Mike Ellsworth *New*
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Harry Hitsman *New*
Lauren Hollis *5+ years*
Lone Jensen *New*
Kristen Joffe
Paul Johnson *New*
Megan Kumar *New*
David Lapides & Rabbi Ilana Krygier Lapides *5+ years*
Pierrette LeBlanc *New*
Richard Longtin *New*
Jonathan Lucas
Lorraine MacLean *New*
Shannon MacKay *New*
Erin Macpherson *5+ years*
Jeffery Malone *New*
Meghan Matthies
Vanessa McVicar *5+ years*
Christine Meharg *10+ years*
Sol Meyer *10+ years*
Dennis Milligan *New*
Julie Misener & Leon Levin *10+ years*

Lindsey Moen *New*
André & Susan Motuzas *10+ years*
Philip Nelson *New*
Vanessa Nelson *5+ years*
Desiree Newhook *10+ years*
Louise Nicaise
Cindy Ochieng *New*
Jessica Olford *New*
Chika Ozimi *New*
Lisa and Shane Paugh *New*
Shawna Percy *New*
Tim Phillips *New*
Elaine Preston *New*
Charles Reid *New*
Tara Rintoul *New*
Justin Rogers *New*
Bernard Roitberg
Kyle Ruttan *New*
Don Sancton *10+ years*
Joanna Sanders *5+ years*
Deborah Saucier
Rebecca Schad *New*
Aleen Shakeel
Moira Shaw *New*
Vanessa Sheppard

Mike & Tracy Simpson *5+ years*
Toni-Marie Skinner *5+ years*
Joan and Jeff Slivocka *New*
Verna C. Smallman *New*
Tamara Smith
Melanie Souliere *New*
Jillian Steele *10+ years*
Kim & Scott Taylor *10+ years*
Martha Tobe *New*
Julia Turgeon *New*
Mattea & Joseph Turnbull *10+ years*
Melissa Valdez
Glen Wallace *New*
Jennifer Wallace *New*
Tim White
Heather Williams *10+ years*
Susan and Bob Woodley *New*
Sohee Yoo

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For more information about contributing to Let's Talk Science, visit: www.letstalkscience.ca/Support
Charitable BN: 88540 0846 RR0001

About the Writer

Gray Brogden began interning with Let's Talk Science in 2023, contributing frequently to our Let's Talk News page and social media. You may recognize her style from our series of 30th anniversary stories highlighting inspiring individuals who embody the spirit of our organization. Gray is a passionate writer, poet, and performer whose work has been published in over a dozen publications and won numerous awards. She was the 2023/24 Student Writer-in-Residence at Western University, where she is now completing her Master of Arts in English.





Thank You for 30 Years

From a small handful of graduate students in London, Ontario, to a national network of STEM outreach centers, Let's Talk Science has come a long way over the past 30 years. Today, we maintain our steadfast commitment to **making STEM education accessible to all youth** across Canada and helping to prepare them for future careers and citizenship demands in a rapidly changing world. With partnerships with over 55 universities, colleges and research institutes, a world-class volunteer network, over 100 full-time staff, and over 21 million interactions with youth, educators and parents since 1993, Let's Talk Science is ready to tackle the next 30 years.

