

SCIENCE NORTH TO DELIVER CODING PROGRAMMING ACROSS NORTHERN ONTARIO WITH SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

SUDBURY, ON – The Government of Canada is investing in Science North to engage students and teachers across Northern Ontario and in First Nation communities in coding and digital skills programming through CanCode 3.0. After four successful years of Science North delivering CanCode programming to over 100,000 students and teachers across the region and beyond, the Government of Canada is providing Science North with \$2.5 million to continue furthering its educational reach.

CanCode is a Government of Canada program that aims to equip Canadian youth with the skills they need to be prepared for further studies including advanced digital skills and science, technology, engineering, and math courses. CanCode support also provides thousands of Canadian teachers with the tools needed to educate Canadian children and youth on these skills.

Over the next three years, Science North’s CanCode programming will provide bilingual, hands-on learning experiences to 70,000 students, including 22,650 Indigenous students. More than 1,000 teachers will be engaged in curriculum-linked experiential learning workshops, including 300 educators from First Nations schools. An additional 5,000 teachers will have access to online resources.

“To drive our economic success for years to come, we must support young Canadians in the digital world. By investing in resources that teach students things like coding and data analytics, we are helping them gain the skills needed to succeed in the 21st century economy. These are the skills that will help them transition from the classroom to research labs, shop floors and boardrooms.”

- The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry

“Science North continues to be an extraordinary leader in interactive education throughout Northern Ontario. Through the Government of Canada CanCode funding, Science North will continue to equip educators and students across Northern Ontario and in First Nation communities with vital digital skills to adapt to the changing technology climate. As the labour market continues to evolve, we need to inspire our students and make them aware of the growing opportunities in STEM related fields.” – Viviane Lapointe, Member of Parliament Sudbury

“This \$2.5 million will help build upon the success of past CanCode investments which supported thousands of local youths and teachers and created more opportunities for rural and Indigenous communities. This is an important initiative that provides Nickel Belt – Greater

Sudbury's next generation with the tools they need to prepare them for tomorrow's job market and to ignite their passion for science and technology.”

- Marc G. Serré, MP for Nickel Belt and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Official Languages

“Congratulations to Science North on receiving CanCode funding to continue delivering coding programs across our region. With this funding, Science North will continue to engage and inspire an appreciation for science while building foundational skills. Creating equal opportunity for all communities in Northern Ontario to learn and explore is fundamental to unlocking the potential of our region.”

-Hon. Patty Hajdu, Member of Parliament Thunder Bay-Superior North

“Providing resources for students in Nipissing-Timiskaming to learn about the economic realities of living in a digital age is so important. Our economy will be dependant on this next generation of workers who can thrive in science, technology, engineering and math. Giving training opportunities to Indigenous and rural students will further enhance Canada's position as a global leader in having a workforce that is diverse, inclusive and on the leading edge of new technologies. I encourage all students in Nipissing-Timiskaming to take part in the programs provided by Science North this year.”

- Hon. Anthony Rota, Member of Parliament Nipissing-Timiskaming

"Our students in Northern Ontario are a key cornerstone for our future and we will continue to invest in their opportunities.”

- Terry Sheehan, Member of Parliament Sault Ste. Marie

“We are honoured to receive CanCode funding. Building on a strong foundation, Science North will bring experiences and informational coding workshops to more children and youth around Northern Ontario. Science North has a mandate to serve all of Northern Ontario. This funding helps Science North engage with Indigenous peoples and help kids get hands-on with technology when they might not otherwise be able to.”

- Guy Labine, Science North CEO

Science North's previous CanCode programming reached 95,000 students, including more than 24,000 Indigenous students and youth from rural, northern, and remote communities. Students were introduced to coding, computational skills, robotics programming and other digital skills. Over 11,700 teachers participated in educator workshops and accessed online resources.

CanCode 3.0 will develop and deliver new hands-on, in-person and virtual programming experiences in more than 160 communities across Northern Ontario. Programs will provide unique opportunities for girls, youth with disabilities, Indigenous youth, and youth in rural, remote and Northern communities to build digital skills and be exposed to information technology career pathways.

About Science North

Science North is Northern Ontario's most popular tourist attraction and an educational resource for children and adults across the province. Science North maintains the second – and eighth-

largest science centres in Canada. Science North's attractions include a science centre, IMAX® theatre, digital Planetarium, butterfly gallery, special exhibits hall, and Dynamic Earth: Home of the Big Nickel. Science North, in partnership with Laurentian University, offers North America's first and only comprehensive Science Communication program, a joint Master's and Graduate Diploma program. As part of its mandate, Science North provides science experiences throughout Northern Ontario including outreach to schools and festivals, summer science camps and more, and has a permanent base in Thunder Bay providing outreach to the Northwest. Science North is an agency of the Government of Ontario. For information, visit sciencenorth.ca.

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