



MEDIA ADVISORY
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Indigenous Tourism Ontario and Science North Celebrate the Successful Completion of Indigenous Ingenuity Travelling Exhibition

Sudbury, ON – Indigenous Tourism Ontario and Science North are excited to announce the successful conclusion of the travelling exhibition *Anishinaabewin Maamnindimowin: Pane Gii-Bite (Indigenous Ingenuity: Timeless Inventions)* with a special closing ceremony held at the Waasakwa Children's Centre in Atikameksheng Anishnawbek on Monday, October 7. The event marked a fitting celebration of this remarkable two-year journey, which has reached 19 communities across Ontario, and welcomed over 21,000 visitors.

This groundbreaking exhibition, presented in partnership with Indigenous Tourism Ontario, and produced by Science North in consultation with Montréal Science Centre, has provided an invaluable platform for sharing Indigenous knowledge, science, and culture across the province, deepening cultural understanding and fostering meaningful connections.

Over the past two years, *Indigenous Ingenuity* has captivated audiences by showcasing the innovative spirit of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples through interactive and educational displays. Visitors of all ages have had the opportunity to explore how Indigenous ingenuity has shaped the world, from ancient inventions to modern-day contributions. This journey has not only been a celebration of Indigenous culture but also a crucial reminder of the importance of Indigenous knowledge in understanding and addressing today's global challenges.

"We are pleased to have partnered with Science North and the 19 host communities on this important travelling exhibit. From Kenora to Chapleau to M'Chigeeng, it has had a positive impact on people right across Northern Ontario. It was a well cultivated visual and immersive experience that helped share the traditional practices and science of the first scientists of these lands. We look forward to working on other initiatives to help bring all of our communities together." -Kevin Eshkawkogan, President & CEO, Indigenous Tourism Ontario

Ashley Larose, CEO of Science North, shared her thoughts on the successful tour: *"This exhibition has been an extraordinary journey of cultural exchange and learning. Through our partnership with Indigenous Tourism Ontario, we have been able to share Indigenous stories and contributions with thousands of people across Ontario. The*

experience has brought communities together and highlighted the importance of Indigenous science and culture in shaping our collective future."

As Science North celebrates the success of this tour, the organization remains committed to continuing its role in promoting cultural education and supporting Indigenous tourism. The *Indigenous Ingenuity* exhibit serves as a lasting testament to the power of collaboration and the significance of sharing Indigenous knowledge with a wider audience.

"From Kenora to Cochrane, and Nipigon to North Bay, over the last few years Indigenous Ingenuity has highlighted the diversity, creativity, and innovativeness of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples, informing and inspiring audiences all across Northern Ontario," said Stan Cho, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming. "Our government is proud to have helped fund the exhibition. Congratulations to Science North and Indigenous Tourism Ontario on the success of this multi-year initiative."

"On behalf of the Ontario Government, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Indigenous Tourism Ontario and Science North for a successful two-year journey of presenting Indigenous Ingenuity: Timeless Inventions to tens of thousands of visitors," said Greg Rickford, Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation. "This has certainly deepened our collective understanding of Indigenous culture in Ontario, and our government was proud to support this important exhibition that reached numerous communities across Ontario."

The *Indigenous Ingenuity: Timeless Inventions* travelling exhibition is proudly supported by the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation and the Government of Canada.

About Indigenous Tourism Ontario

Indigenous Tourism Ontario (ITO) is the province's first and only dedicated Indigenous tourism organization that focuses on uniting communities, Indigenous organizations, and industry leaders to support the growth of Indigenous tourism in Ontario. Through product development and marketing of authentic Indigenous experiences, ITO establishes a platform for Indigenous cultural expression and preservation through tourism. ITO is recognized by the Chiefs of Ontario (COO), the Government of Ontario and ministries for their work therein. For more information about ITO and their initiatives please visit: indigenoustourismontario.ca

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 more information, visit sciencenorth.ca.

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