

Science North celebrates the premiere of their new film
Planting Hope: A Regreening Story.

(Sudbury, ON) - Science North is proud to announce the premiere of its latest production, *Planting Hope: A Regreening Story*, a powerful documentary that celebrates the transformation and resilience of Greater Sudbury. The premiere event took place on November 28, 2024, at Dynamic Earth, captivating audiences with the remarkable tale of one of the largest and most successful environmental reclamation projects in the world.

Through powerful imagery and inspiring stories, the documentary reveals how collaborative efforts, innovative regreening techniques, and a shared commitment to the land have revitalized Greater Sudbury. The film brings to life the journey from a desolate landscape scarred by pollution to the vibrant, thriving region it is today—an achievement that has set an example for global environmental restoration initiatives. *Planting Hope* highlights how community groups, educational institutions, local governments, private companies, and Indigenous advisors united to reverse a century of environmental devastation caused by mining and industrial processes.

In a historic first for Science North, *Planting Hope* has been produced trilingually, available in English, French, and Anishinaabemowin. This milestone emphasizes the organization's commitment to inclusivity and equity, ensuring the film is available to the diverse audiences of Northern Ontario.

As Sudbury continues to evolve, *Planting Hope* serves as a testament to the power of human determination and partnership in addressing ecological challenges. This legacy of regreening is a beacon of hope for communities worldwide facing similar struggles.

The film is more than just a documentary—it is a reminder that with dedication and a shared vision, a brighter, greener future is within reach.

Planting Hope showcases the exceptional talent of Northern Ontario's film professionals. Produced by Science North Senior Producer Rob Gagne, with the assistance of a team of Northern Ontario film professionals that included Sudburians David Lickley (Director/Writer) Chris Elliott (Director of Photography, Editor) Ryan Mariotti (1st AC/Drone Operator), as well as Jean Paul De Roover of Thunder Bay (Sound Design/Sound Editor). The music was composed by Amin Bhatia of Toronto, a long time Science North collaborator, and the Postproduction and mix was done at Canadore College in North Bay.

This regional expertise highlights the film's Northern Ontario roots and celebrates local talent dedicated to telling the inspiring story of Sudbury's regreening.

Notable participants in the film include Dr. Peter Beckett, botanist and Professor Emeritus at Laurentian University, Dr. John Gunn, Emeritus Professor in Stressed Aquatic Systems, Vale Living With Lakes Centre, Laurentian., Tina McCaffrey, B.Sc , Supervisor Regreening Program , Greater City of Sudbury and community leaders such as Art Petahtegoose from the Loon Clan of the Atikameksheng First Nation, who shares personal experiences of witnessing the land's recovery. Their stories underscore the importance of stewardship, long-term planning, and community involvement in ecological healing.

Planting Hope is available for public screenings at Dynamic Earth's Epiroc Theatre. For showtimes and tickets visit dynamicearth.ca.

Planting Hope is proudly supported by Vale, the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation, the Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario, and the City of Greater Sudbury.

QUOTES

"At its core, *Planting Hope: A Regreening Story* is a demonstration of what's achievable when a community comes together to do something good. It's an inspirational story that provides hope to communities around the world facing similar challenges to the ones Greater Sudbury successfully overcame," said **Stan Cho, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming**. "Congratulations to Science North, Greater Sudbury, and everyone involved in the creation of this made-in-Ontario documentary."

"Through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation, our government was proud to be a partner in the production of *Planting Hope: A Regreening Story*," said Greg Rickford, Minister of Northern Development and Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation. "We seized the important opportunity to work with Science North on this Northern and Indigenous-led project and look forward to sharing Greater Sudbury's story of sustainability with the world."

– Hon. Greg Rickford, Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation, Minister of Northern Development and Chair of NOHFC

"We are proud to support a project that highlights the remarkable resilience and talent of Northern Ontarians. Nature is our greatest ally in the fight against climate change, and *Planting Hope* is a powerful example of how environmental restoration can unite communities and drive meaningful, lasting change. This initiative reminds us all of the critical role we play in environmental stewardship and in building a sustainable future for our communities and the generations to come. Congratulations to everyone involved!"

– The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Indigenous Services and Minister responsible for FedNor.

“Planting Hope tells the incredible story of our community’s determination and resilience. The greening of Sudbury teaches us about the power of community and of collaboration, and what we can do, collectively, for the future of our environment. This film serves as a reminder of what we can accomplish together. I am thrilled to see our greening story being told through this incredible film.”

– Viviane Lapointe, Member of Parliament Sudbury

“The premiere of *Planting Hope: A Regreening Story* is a proud moment for our city and a powerful testament to the resilience and determination of the people of Greater Sudbury. This documentary captures the extraordinary transformation of our landscape and the collaborative spirit that has made it possible. From community groups and scientists to local governments and Indigenous leaders, this project reflects what we can achieve when we come together with a shared vision for a sustainable future. Congratulations to Science North and all involved in bringing this inspiring story to the world—it’s yet another example of Greater Sudbury’s leadership in environmental innovation.”

– Paul Lefebvre, Greater Sudbury Mayor

“Being able to tell the story of the rebirth of our home town and celebrate our local heroes was a gratifying experience for all of the crew, some of who grew up here and lived the story firsthand, and others who moved here in part because of the success of the greening efforts. I think Sudburians will come away proud of what their city has accomplished, while visitors will be amazed at how much things have changed in the last 40 years.”

– David Lickley, Director and Writer of *Planting Hope: A Regreening Story*

"*Planting Hope* is a moving tribute to the incredible journey of Greater Sudbury's greening—an achievement that speaks to the power of a united community with a vision for a brighter future. This film captures the resilience and dedication of the people who worked tirelessly to transform this land into a symbol of sustainability and renewal. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the cast and crew who brought this story to life on screen and to our funders whose support made this project possible. Together, we are showing the world that meaningful change begins with a shared commitment and collaboration."

– Ashley Larose, MSc, CEO of Science North

About Science North

Science North is Northern Ontario’s most popular tourist attraction and an educational resource operating the second- and eighth-largest science centres in Canada. Science North’s attractions include a science centre, IMAX® theatre, planetarium, butterfly gallery, special exhibits hall, and Dynamic Earth: Home of the Big Nickel. Science North also oversees an award winning International Sales unit, which develops custom and ready-

made exhibits and multimedia experiences for sale to science centres, museums, and other cultural institutions all over the world. Science North, in partnership with Laurentian University, offers North America's first and only comprehensive Science Communication program, a joint Master's and Diploma program. For more information, please visit sciencenorth.ca.

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