



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Illusions Unveiled, Impact Revealed: Science North's 2026 Bluecoat Ball Raises Over \$150,000**

**(SUDBURY, ON)** — On Saturday, February 21, 2026, Science North welcomed guests to their annual fundraising gala, The Bluecoat Ball: Illusions Unveiled. Inspired by PHENOMENA: The Exhibition and the science of perception, the event raised over \$150,000 in support of Science North, helping expand access to hands-on science experiences and programs across Sudbury and Northern Ontario.

This year's Bluecoat Ball invited supporters to step into the extraordinary, exploring how science shapes our reality and revealing the surprising ways our minds interpret the world around us. The evening brought together sponsors, donors, and community leaders in a shared commitment to ensuring science and life-long learning remains within reach for everyone.

### **2025 IMPACT ACROSS THE NORTH**

Science North sparks curiosity in children and families across the North. In 2025, Science North reached 15,919 participants through in-school outreach, 1,933 students and 1,255 public participants through First Nation outreach, 38,872 participants through public outreach, and 9,365 participants through science festivals.

Proceeds from the Bluecoat Ball support work like this by helping extend Science North programming beyond the science centre and into communities across the region.

### **THANK YOU TO OUR 2026 SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS**

Science North extends sincere thanks to the sponsors and partners who helped make Bluecoat Ball: Illusions Unveiled possible.

### **QUOTES:**

“Science North brings innovative and engaging science programming to hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. It is a hub for learning and entertainment that fosters a lifelong love of science – encouraging young people across Northern Ontario to seek a bright future in the STEM disciplines. Our government is grateful to Science North for its unwavering commitment

to fostering a love for science and learning, and thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's gala."

**- Stan Cho, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming**

Science North is a vital part of the Northern Ontario community, welcoming hundreds of thousands of visitors each year and serving as a hub for learning, entertainment, and inspiration for locals and tourists alike. We are grateful to our community and supporters that help keep Science North accessible for all. A place for all children and families across Northern Ontario to pursue curiosity and a love for learning that isn't limited by circumstance. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's gala and for helping to build a sustainable future for people in Sudbury, Northern Ontario, and beyond.

**-Ashley Larose MSc, CEO - Science North**

## **ABOUT SCIENCE NORTH**

Science North brings science to life by connecting people through stories, curiosity, and shared exploration. As Northern Ontario's premier science destination, it offers immersive, hands-on experiences at two dynamic science centres in Greater Sudbury: Science North and Dynamic Earth. At Science North, visitors explore world-class exhibits, an IMAX® theatre, a digital Planetarium, a butterfly gallery, and four floors of interactive STEM experiences. Dynamic Earth, home to the iconic Big Nickel, features earth sciences exhibits, a lapidary lab, and an underground mining tour. Beyond its walls, Science North sparks curiosity across Northern Ontario with dedicated satellite offices in Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie. Through these hub locations Science North provides innovative outreach programs, long-term exhibitions, school visits, festivals, and summer camps across the North. Science North also creates and tours award-winning exhibitions and immersive experiences worldwide. In partnership with Laurentian University, it also delivers North America's only comprehensive Science Communication graduate program. Science North is an agency of the Government of Ontario. For more information, visit [sciencenorth.ca](http://sciencenorth.ca).

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*Science North is an agency of the Government of Ontario and a registered charity #10796 2979 RR0001.*