



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SCIENCE NORTH ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

(SUDBURY, ON) Science North is pleased to announce the appointment of Jeff Smith as Chair and Ray Mantha as Vice Chair of its Board of Trustees. Both appointments are effective immediately.

“These appointments reflect the strength and continuity of Science North’s governance,” said Ashley Larose MSc, CEO of Science North. “Jeff and Ray bring exceptional governance experience, deep community roots, and a strong understanding of public service, infrastructure, and organizational leadership. We are confident they will help guide Science North as it continues to deliver meaningful impact across Northern Ontario.”

Jeff Smith brings extensive business, governance, and community leadership experience to the role of Chair. He is Vice Chair of Manitoulin Transport and the Manitoulin Group of Companies, a family-owned transportation firm founded in 1960 that has grown into a national network with 85 terminals across Canada. In his role, Smith oversees quality management, continuous improvement, and environmental initiatives.

Smith previously served as Chair of Cambrian College’s Board of Governors after joining the board in 2018 and was named Executive of the Year by the Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce in 2024. He continues to serve on the boards of the Sudbury Food Bank and the Nature Conservancy of Canada’s Regional Ontario chapter. Deeply rooted in Northern Ontario communities including Sudbury and Gore Bay, Smith is a strong advocate for philanthropy and community development.

Ray Mantha has served on Science North’s Board of Trustees since 2020 and brings decades of senior public service and engineering leadership to the role of Vice Chair. He has served at the Assistant Deputy Minister level with both the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario, where he was Chief Engineer and Provincial Highways Management Executive Director, responsible for provincial roadway policies, standards, and investment strategies.

Mantha is past President of the Transportation Association of Canada and has received numerous national honours, including the Ministry of Transportation's Lifetime Achievement Award, Professional Engineers Ontario's Engineering Medal for Management, and Engineers Canada's Meritorious Service Award for Community Service. In 2013, he was named a Companion in the YMCA Fellowship of Honour by then Governor General David Johnston. Ray currently serves a board member for the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers and also serves on the Board for the Technical Standards and Safety Authority.

Science North extends its sincere appreciation to Jim Lundrigan and Ian McMillan for their leadership and service as outgoing Chair and Vice Chair. During their tenure, Lundrigan and McMillan have played a critical role in shaping Science North's direction and long-term strategy. Since joining the Board in 2018 and 2020 respectively, both have been highly engaged, thoughtful, and solutions focused contributors, providing steady leadership through periods of organizational growth, renewal, and change. As Chair and Vice Chair, they worked closely with management to guide strategic priorities, strengthen governance, and champion Science North's role as a leader in science education, tourism, and community impact across Northern Ontario. Their deep belief in the organization and its mission has been evident in their advocacy, leadership, and unwavering support for the work Science North does every day.

"Jim and Ian have been outstanding stewards of Science North," added Larose. "Their leadership, commitment, and strategic guidance have strengthened the organization and supported its ongoing evolution. We are deeply grateful for the foundation they have built."

A full list of Science North's Board of Trustees can be found at sciencenorth.ca.

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 scienccenorth.ca.

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