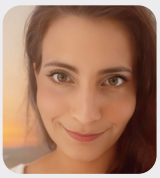
Ingenium Foundation
Fondation

SPRING-SUMMER 2024
SUPPORTER UPDATE



Amelia Puddifer
Executive Director,
Ingenium Foundation

Shaping Tomorrow Together

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Ingenium Foundation,

I am thrilled to welcome you to our Spring news release. At Ingenium, we cherish our past while shaping a brighter future. Museums like ours are vital in keeping people connected to science and inspiring the leaders of tomorrow.

Dive into this letter to learn more about our GoSTEAM initiative and the Queer Histories of Industrial Work project. These programs exemplify our mission to make science accessible and inclusive for all. With your support, we ensure that everyone finds a place in our museums, fostering a sense of belonging by sharing diverse stories and bringing our museums to marginalized communities.

Together, we are creating spaces where everyone feels valued and connected to the wonders of science.

With deepest appreciation,

Empowering Communities: Go STEAM's Impact in Action

In the heart of Ottawa, a remarkable initiative called Go STEAM is not just changing lives; it's transforming futures. Born from a vision to democratize STEAM education, Go STEAM is tearing down barriers and creating gateways to new opportunities within our city.

Imagine a group of eager children, from all different backgrounds, gathered in a familiar community space. Here, they're not just learning about science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics – they're living it. Thanks to Go STEAM, the barriers that once stood in their way – transportation challenges, financial constraints, and a sense of not belonging – are fading away.

Go STEAM aims to bridge this gap by bringing hands-on experiences and educational programs directly into communities, making them accessible within familiar and comfortable environments. By doing so, we ignite a sense of curiosity among children and youth, inspiring them to explore STEAM subjects and consider future careers in these fields.

Through partnerships with local organizations like Kids Up Front, Go STEAM is bringing the magic of STEAM directly to where it's needed most. By focusing on the unique challenges faced by equity-deserving groups—including youth experiencing housing instability and individuals with disabilities—Go STEAM champions inclusivity and empowerment. The children and youth who participate are finding their voices, exploring their interests, and discovering their future possibilities with STEAM.

Despite challenges such as growing demand and limited resources, Go STEAM's dedication to its mission remains unwavering. Each workshop, each new partnership, strengthens our community, ensuring every child has the opportunity to flourish.

As the story of Go STEAM continues to unfold, one thing is clear: Together, we can empower communities and cultivate a brighter future for all.

Interested in making a donation online? Scan this QR code with your phone to visit our online donation page.

WILL POWER

Change the world with a charitable gift in your Will, while still supporting those you love.

Leaving a Lasting Legacy

in Just One Minute

The idea of using your Will to give back is gaining traction. Yet, we understand the hesitation associated with navigating paperwork and legal processes. That's why we're excited to share a little-known, yet straightforward tip: you can leave a charitable gift without even amending your Will. How? Through your Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) or other registered funds.

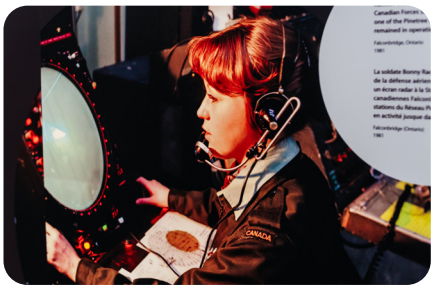
Many of us have RRSPs set aside for retirement, but did you know about their flexibility? You can designate beneficiaries to receive any unused funds upon your passing, and you can update these beneficiaries at any time without legal fees. This flexibility extends to naming a charity as one of your beneficiaries. Not only does this allow you to leave a generous contribution that will impact future generations, but it also benefits your estate with valuable tax credits.

It truly takes just a minute to make a lasting impact. If you consider naming the Ingenium Foundation as one of your beneficiaries, we would be deeply grateful. Please reach out to us, and we will provide you with the necessary legal information to ensure your gift is utilized effectively.

Thank you for considering this meaningful way to support our mission and leave a legacy that extends beyond a lifetime

5 Things to See at the New Cold War Exhibition

On April 5, 2024 the much-awaited permanent Cold War Exhibition opened its doors to the public at the Canada Aviation and Space Museum. This immersive experience invites visitors to journey through a tumultuous period marked by international tensions, espionage and the looming threat of a nuclear attack. It also marks a time of profound technological and social change within the Royal Canadian Air Force and throughout Canada, as well as globally.



Discover these 5 highlights while exploring the artifacts, interactive displays, and personal stories within the exhibition:

1. Step into a replica basement fallout shelter and ponder the supplies you would need for a two-week stay.

2. Discover a new interpretation of the Avro Arrow, featuring never-before-displayed artifacts such as ejection seats and a wing tip.

3. Celebrate the trailblazing women pilots who played vital roles during the Cold War era, breaking barriers and contributing to aviation advancements.

4. Experience the personal stories of families with service members deployed in Europe during the Cold War.

5. Investigate the lesser-known history of the Cold War era purge of the LGBTQ+ community, exploring its impact and resilience in the face of discrimination and persecution.

The Ingenium Foundation is proud to support this latest exhibition and invite you to explore Canada's involvement in the Cold War from various perspectives. Whether you are remembering old times or curious to learn something new, it's a chance to gain a fresh understanding of this important period in history.

Breaking Barriers, Opening Doors: Cultivating Fun and New Connections at the Museum!

The Canada Agriculture and Food Museum is a place where you can step into a bustling farm right in the heart of the city, where learning about animals, agriculture, and food transforms into an adventure for all ages. Yet, for some, a visit to this remarkable museum may seem out of reach due to transportation hurdles or the cost of admission. Acknowledging this challenge, the dedicated team at the museum embarked on a mission to remove that hurdle and extend a warm welcome to those who may not have been able to visit before.

In 2019, they devised an ingenious solution: Welcome Wednesdays. Once a month during the summer, on Wednesdays in June, July, and August, the museum extends a warm invitation to all with special programming crafted to entertain and educate. Group transportation is pre-arranged for those in need, and admission is free for all visitors during the extended evening hours.

This initiative is aimed at dismantling financial barriers and extending a heartfelt welcome to groups, fostering a sense of belonging.

The response to Welcome Wednesdays has been overwhelmingly positive. In 2023, the museum welcomed over 1850 guests during these special evenings, providing transportation for seven groups who may not have otherwise had the chance to visit. What's even more inspiring is the relationships created with community organizations, who now feel empowered to return for subsequent visits.

Your Support Makes a Difference!

> **"Experiences like this live with kids as they figure out their place in this world and I am grateful they had this opportunity to explore."**
>
> – Child and Family Worker whose group participated in Welcome Wednesday

Welcome Wednesday's success is made possible through the generous support of the Ingenium Foundation and our community donors. Every donation helps us continue to open doors and ensure that everyone can explore and learn at the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum. We invite you to be a part of this impactful journey—your support will help us bring even more exciting offerings in 2024.

Researching Queer Histories of Industrial Labour

Since its opening in 1967, the National Museum of Science and Technology's railway collection has fascinated visitors with its comprehensive display of locomotive advancements from the 1850s through the late 1980s. As a cornerstone of curatorial research and collection development, this exhibit has captivated a broad audience while fostering an understanding of technological progress and its societal impacts.

Our curatorial approach has recently evolved, with an increased focus on uncovering a wider array of stories that connect science, technology, and society. This shift is part of our commitment to engaging diverse communities and viewing our collections through the lenses of historically marginalized groups.

Supported generously by the Ingenium Foundation, we are proud to announce the Queer Histories of Industrial Work fellowship. This pioneering five-year initiative aims to re-examine three significant locomotives, revealing the often-unseen narratives of queer industrial laborers and their roles during the era of deindustrialization. This research will enrich our understanding of the complex interplay between labor, identity, and technological change.

Notably, this project will rely on oral history interviews which will allow our dedicated research fellows to connect with individuals and communities associated with the artifacts in our care. These firsthand accounts will offer invaluable insights into the lived experiences connected to this collection, capturing a spectrum of emotions ranging from joyful memories to recollections of very difficult experiences. We believe that all of these stories are significant in order to better appreciate the complexity of this history.

Queer Histories of Industrial Work seeks to reconsider the decline of the steam railway industry by exploring the untold stories of labour and identity politics in Canada. By emphasizing these diverse perspectives, we not only honour the past but also pave the way for a more inclusive and equitable future.

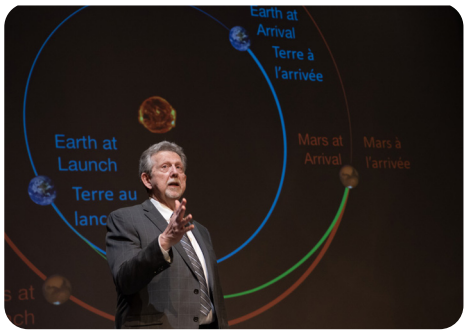
Emily Gann, PhD Candidate
Director, Curatorial Division
Ingenium

Exploring New Frontiers:
A Journey through Lunar Exploration

In an enlightening collaboration, the Ingenium Foundation, Curiosity on Stage, and the Canada Aviation and Space Museum brought together two captivating lectures that ventured deep into the realm of lunar exploration. From historical achievements in space to the thrilling uncharted territories of the Solar System, this event was a cornerstone of cosmic discovery.

On January 25, 2024, a passionate crowd of aviation and space enthusiasts gathered at the Canada Aviation and Space Museum set on uncovering the secrets of our celestial neighbor, the Moon.

Guiding the audience through this journey was the museum's Science Advisor, Dr. Cassandra Marion, whose insightful moderation set the stage for an enlightening evening. Dr. James Green, former Chief Scientist at NASA, provided an in-depth exploration of the moon's history and formation, unraveled its enduring mysteries, shared the latest ground-breaking advances in lunar science, and shed light on the motivation for future missions to the Moon and Mars.



Throughout his presentation, Dr. Green also highlighted the many similarities and differences between Earth, the Moon, and Mars, emphasizing how we can study and learn from Earth to build onto our knowledge of these other celestial bodies.

Dr. Caroline-Emmanuelle Morisset, a Program Scientist at the Canadian Space Agency, brought a uniquely Canadian perspective to the discussion, showcasing Canada's pivotal role in space exploration and upcoming Moon missions. From ground-breaking initiatives such as Canada's Lunar Rover mission to Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen's milestone flight around the Moon aboard Artemis 2 in 2025, Dr. Morisset illuminated the path ahead for Canada.

The event was also a heartfelt testament to community engagement and support. Through a nominal registration fee from guests, 100% of proceeds supported the Canada Aviation and Space Museum's 'Wheel's Up' program. This initiative ensures that financial obstacles do not stop children from experiencing the wonders of the museum, providing them with either admission or transportation to the museum. In doing so, it ignites boundless enthusiasm for aviation and space exploration, fostering a curiosity that will endure a lifetime.

As the evening drew to a close, we learned that the pursuit of knowledge is an ongoing journey, and together, we are on the brink of new discoveries. With the Moon as our stepping stone, we are equipped to explore even farther into space, armed with the insights and innovation gained from exploration. As we look ahead, we recognize that the pursuit of knowledge never ends, and the mission to unravel the mysteries of Earth orbit will endure for years to come, shaping the future of aerospace and inspiring curiosity in generations yet to come.

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