MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD CHAIR

Transformation is underway in education and Let’s Talk Science is honoured to play a critical role in supporting this evolution. Across the country we help youth prepare for new citizenship and work demands that require creative, critical thinkers and knowledgeable people who will thrive in a world shaped by science and technology.

Thanks to a landmark investment from the Government of Canada, we focused this year on growing our diverse programs while maintaining our commitment to quality and impact. As you’ll read in this year’s report, we enhanced our capacity to engage youth, educators and volunteers in Let’s Talk Science’s programs, which are designed to develop universally important skills and attributes such as critical thinking, a desire to learn, communication skills and more. Building on our historical commitment to ensuring access and equity, our volunteers and staff travelled to hundreds of communities and 25% of our work was in rural and remote communities.

With input from many jurisdictional Ministries/Departments of Education, teachers’ associations and Indigenous organizations, we offer science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) based programs that are engaging for all learners.

During 2015-16, nearly 40% of schools across Canada accessed at least one program offered by Let’s Talk Science.

We remain deeply committed to working with others to achieve large-scale and sustained change. This year, we worked closely with 43 post-secondary partners, Frontier College, TV Ontario, Mitacs, MaRS and others. We supported several national public awareness initiatives, including Science Odyssey, Science Rendezvous and Science Literacy Week. We were also honoured by invitations to share our expertise in many venues, including as Chair of Information and Communications Technology Council’s (ICTC) national education taskforce on digital literacy.

The year was one of internal building. We welcomed talented new staff, redesigned programs and laid the foundation to launch Canada 2067. This bold nation-building initiative will support the reshaping of STEM education for the next fifty years by engaging youth, parents, educators, industry, community partners and governments in developing a national learning framework. We invite you to get involved at www.Canada2067.ca.

Finally, we are indebted to our board of directors, staff, volunteers and partners for their ongoing commitment. Together we are inspiring futures. Without our many – and growing – supporters, our work would not be possible.

Let’s Talk Science is proud to be a partner in education. It will take collective effort to develop the innovators, entrepreneurs, discoverers and citizens to power Canada’s future. Join us on the journey.

Bonnie Schmidt, CM, PhD
President

Rick Dobson, PEng
Chair
Let’s Talk Science motivates and empowers youth to fulfill their potential and prepare for their future careers and roles as citizens. We support learning and skill development with a diverse suite of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) based programs for youth, educators and post-secondary volunteers.
For over 20 years, Let’s Talk Science has worked with youth and educators, helping to build capacity and interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). In a world increasingly shaped by science and technology, we continue to be a go-to organization for educators by adapting our programs to the evolving education landscape. This year, we continued to work with diverse partners to expand our programs for youth.
360° VIDEOS

Recognizing the critical need for career information and the growing popularity of virtual reality, we created three 360° videos allowing students to “Step inside their STEM Career.” Using cell phones and virtual reality viewers, the videos immerse students in the world of exciting STEM careers – raising awareness of non-traditional STEM jobs. Let's Talk Science unveiled the new videos to high school students at the Skills Canada National Competition and other events across Canada in spring 2016. Astounded students co-piloted a helicopter, explored a deep palladium mine in Northern Ontario, and enjoyed an exclusive look inside Ubisoft Toronto’s digital motion capture studio – all without leaving their chairs. Building on the success of the first videos, we plan to produce more to inspire students through our careers section on CurioCity. Visit page 16-17 of this report to learn more about our career resources.

3D SCANNING OF ARTIFACTS

With the growing availability of 3D printers and a lack of resources to help educators use this exciting technology in classrooms, we expanded our partnership with the Canada Science and Technology Museums Corporation (CSTMC) to provide access to customizable 3D printer files of artifacts in the Museums’ collection. Through these files, exact replicas of some of the Museum’s 40,000+ historical objects collection can be produced locally. Students can even alter the 3D models to produce modified objects, building their creative engineering design skills. To further support this unique initiative, Let’s Talk Science created resources to help educators connect 3D printing to the curriculum, and we’re making those available in 2016-2017.

SAMSUNG’S SOLVE FOR TOMORROW CHALLENGE

In 2015, Samsung invited us to help launch its national education challenge in Canada. Designed to inspire students to improve their communities, the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Challenge asked them to identify an existing local challenge or issue and use STEM to help solve it. Seeing the competition as a way to drive student-centred, technology-based learning in a meaningful, curriculum-aligned way, we were pleased to join as the STEM education partner for the inaugural challenge, which received hundreds of entries from schools all across the country.

LET’S TALK SCIENCE SCHOOLS

This year, we continued to evolve our capacity to support schools that partner with us; we’re helping them grow and strengthen their STEM programs. By working with local communities, we are finding new ways to blend the use of our programs across grades and develop a transferable school model that supports youth development. With a goal of sustained impact, nine schools, several of which are in remote communities, are now in the project. Building on last year’s success, we continued to support schools in Northern British Columbia, Alberta, Newfoundland and Labrador and Nunavut. This important project is building educator confidence and capacity as well as youth skills and interest in STEM.

Funding from Raytheon Canada Limited also helped us continue our northern trips to Inuvik, Cambridge Bay, Hall Beach, Iqaluit and the Happy Valley-Goose Bay regions this year. During these trips, we facilitated 215 sessions in 19 schools and 11 communities resulting in 3,390 youth interactions and 248 educator interactions.

➡ Thanks to our wonderful partnership with the Canadian Space Agency, astronaut David Saint-Jacques skyped with Arnaqjuaq School in Hall Beach, Nunavut to show his support of their school-wide Let’s Talk Science project and inspire youth to think big.
“What an inspiring and common sense approach to extend and enrich learning through elaboration and exploring.”

– Eunice Hurd, Grade 2-3 Educator, Brandon, Manitoba and IdeaPark professional learning workshop participant
Let’s Talk Science has demonstrated a historic commitment to supporting early learning with well over a decade of experience that led to the development of IdeaPark. Addressing a critical need, this program supports early years, Kindergarten and Primary grade educators in establishing a strong learning foundation in young children. With its suite of planning tools, skills-based resources and professional learning opportunities, IdeaPark invests in the long-term success of our youngest citizens – helping them develop the skills and attributes needed to become our next generation of innovators, discoverers and citizens.

**SUPPORTING EARLY YEARS AND PRIMARY TEACHERS**

This year, Let’s Talk Science was invited by the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District (NLESD) and Le Conseil scolaire francophone provincial de Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador (CSFP) to assist with the rollout of the province’s new Grade 1 science curriculum. There was ongoing collaboration with the School Districts and the Department of Education as Let’s Talk Science staff worked with 10 District Program Specialists to plan, support and facilitate 16 sessions across the province. In total, 316 Grade 1 educators participated in sessions facilitated by Let’s Talk Science.

These sessions had a significant impact. They resulted in a 22% increase in educators’ confidence to do hands-on/minds-on, skills-based exploration with students. Seeing the value of our IdeaPark resources for educators, NLESD also included hyperlinks to IdeaPark in the Grade 1 curriculum guide.

“Today has both inspired me and given me the confidence to develop a Grade 2 program that is more inquiry based.”

– Laura Erola, Grade 2 Educator, Carleton Heights Public School, Ottawa, Ontario

With the success of the Grade 1 rollout, the NLESD and CSFP requested the assistance of Let’s Talk Science for their Grade 2 and 4 curricula rollout in 2016-2017.

**GRADE 1 ROLLOUT**

**SUMMER INSTITUTES FOR EDUCATORS**

IdeaPark’s Summer Institutes continued this year with six sessions taking place in Ontario and Newfoundland and Labrador. With a focus on using children’s literature to develop questioning and problem-solving skills, educators gained effective learning strategies and IdeaPark skills-based resources to support early learning. In total, 196 educators from 130 schools attended our Institutes, collaborating with their colleagues and gaining confidence and tools to engage young students in inquiry-based learning.

“One of the best, most useful PD sessions I have been to in a long time. I’ve never had PD in science and since I’m not a real lover of science in general, I really enjoyed learning easy ways to bring excitement and inquiry to my K-1 science class.”

– Corylyn Dimmer, Educator, Truman Eddison Memorial, Griquet, Newfoundland and Labrador

With the success of the Grade 1 rollout, the NLESD and CSFP requested the assistance of Let’s Talk Science for their Grade 2 and 4 curricula rollout in 2016-2017.
TAKING ON THE CHALLENGE

Now in its 11th year, the Let’s Talk Science Challenge has become a key annual event for many Grade 6-8 classrooms across Canada. The team-based competition uses a study handbook to help students prepare for the one-day competition that includes exciting Q&A rounds and an unknown engineering design challenge. In 2016, the Let’s Talk Science Challenge took place at 23 Let’s Talk Science Outreach sites across Canada.

The Let’s Talk Science Challenge is more than just a competition for students. It is an enriching event that connects Grades 6-8 students to the STEM community; they join competitors from other schools along with professors, Let’s Talk Science volunteers and industry professionals who come together to make the day possible.

When studying for the Challenge, students learn STEM content beyond their curriculum and grade level. This year, the study handbook included a new career profile section where students explored future career options related to STEM.

GREETINGS FROM NOTABLE CANADIANS

On competition day, the Challenge begins with video messages from notable Canadians who welcome students and encourage the competitors to continue exploring their interest in STEM. This year, two prominent Canadians, Minister of Science, Dr. Kirsty Duncan and Canadian Space Agency astronaut, Jeremy Hansen recorded videos for the competitors.

➡️ “I encourage you... to continue exploring STEM connections and you’re going to find that following that passion is going to lead to amazing opportunities in your life.”

– Jeremy Hansen, Canadian Space Agency astronaut

➡️ “One day our country will rely on you and your scientific skills to tackle our future challenges. I encourage you to keep exploring, keep asking questions about the world, and keep chasing new discoveries... because you never know where they might take you.”

– The Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science
CONNECTING WITH OUTREACH VOLUNTEERS

The Let's Talk Science Challenge is possible because of hard working Let's Talk Science Outreach volunteers. This year, 594 post-secondary students volunteered at the 23 Challenge events across the country. In total, 3,291 Grade 6-8 students from 287 schools had an opportunity to engage with these role models and learn about the programs they are studying at university or college.

The Let's Talk Science Challenge gets students excited about STEM, but more importantly, it encourages them to explore, experiment, learn concepts beyond their curriculum and practice their teamwork, creativity, critical thinking and analytical skills.
Through the Let’s Talk Science Outreach program, volunteers across Canada visit classrooms and community settings to engage children and youth in hands-on STEM learning experiences. These volunteers are powerful role models for youth, inspiring them to remain engaged in STEM and fostering an interest in post-secondary learning.

This year, our roster of 4,187 Let’s Talk Science Outreach volunteers donated more than 55,000 hours to bring STEM to life with over 260,000 children and youth and over 62,000 parents and adults across Canada.

Our volunteers’ enthusiasm for STEM is contagious and can impact a young person’s path into post-secondary education. Preema Sarkar, currently a Let’s Talk Science Outreach Coordinator at the University of New Brunswick, first connected with Let’s Talk Science as a high school student. Her encounter with the Let’s Talk Science Outreach program kicked her love of science into high gear. As a coordinator, Preema is able to share her passion for STEM education while completing her undergrad in biochemistry.
NEW OUTREACH SITES

This year, two new sites were added to our national network, increasing our ability to inspire youth across the country. The Université de Moncton became the 42nd site allowing us to reach Francophone students in New Brunswick. It was followed by Brock University, which expanded our offerings in the Niagara, Ontario region.

In total, the 43 Let’s Talk Science Outreach sites across Canada delivered over 5,900 hands-on/mind-on STEM programs in 490 unique communities this year, increasing the number of communities we reached with this program by 31%.

COLCLEUGH LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Let’s Talk Science Outreach sites are able to reach so many youth across Canada thanks to the hard work of local Outreach coordinators. To recognize their outstanding work, we celebrate one coordinator each year who demonstrates exceptional leadership to create positive change through STEM outreach. This year, the second annual Colcleugh Leadership Award went to Emily Ng, the Outreach site coordinator at the University of Calgary, for her work to expand the site.

“In my first year as a coordinator, I saw how much the role had developed my sense of confidence, organizational skills and solidified my understanding that science is empowering.”

Emily Ng, Let’s Talk Science Outreach Coordinator at the University of Calgary

The Let’s Talk Science Outreach program benefits students who are engaged in meaningful hands-on/minds-on STEM activities. It also benefits the coordinators and volunteers who develop leadership, teamwork, communication and time management skills, while they build confidence working with youth.

Over the summer in Newfoundland and Labrador, three full-time Outreach assistants travelled across the province working with youth at summer camps and community resource centres. Hibernia Management and Development Company Ltd. and Nalcor Energy provided funding resulting in 11,419 youth reached over the 16-week summer project.
Let's Talk Science Outreach Site Partners

Over 25 Years
Western University

Over 20 Years
Queen's University
University of Ottawa
Simon Fraser University
University of Victoria

Over 15 Years
Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's campus
The University of British Columbia
McGill University
University of Alberta
University of Winnipeg
McMaster University
University of Toronto, St. George campus
University of Guelph
Dalhousie University
University of Manitoba

Over 10 Years
Carleton University
University of Calgary
University of Toronto, Mississauga campus
University of New Brunswick, Fredericton campus
The University of Saskatchewan
University of Toronto, Scarborough campus
Cambrian College
Laurentian University

6-10 Years
York University
Université du Québec à Montréal
University of Waterloo
Confederation College
Fleming College
University of Prince Edward Island
Cape Breton University
University of Lethbridge
University of New Brunswick, St. John campus
Université de Sherbrooke

1-5 Years
Concordia University
University of Ontario Institute of Technology
Fanshawe College
Mount Allison University
Memorial University of Newfoundland, Grenfell campus
University of Windsor
Loyalist College
Ryerson University

New 2015-2016
Université de Moncton
Brock University

Let's Talk Science Outreach Sites
Outreach Visits (2015-16)
Let’s Talk Science Outreach in 2015-2016:
➡ reached more than 260,000 children and youth
➡ partnered with 2,600 educators
➡ delivered over 5,900 hands-on/minds-on activities
➡ visited 490 unique communities
➡ travelled to many remote communities including Chetwynd, B.C.; Ross River, Yukon; Taloyoak, Nvt.; Rapid Lake, Que.; Kejick, Ont.; Hopedale, N.L.
Since 2014, Let’s Talk Science has operated Tomatosphere™ in Canada. Through Tomatosphere™, classrooms receive two sets of tomato seeds — a set flown in space (or exposed to space-like conditions) and a control, untreated set. Kindergarten to Grade 12 students plant the tomato seeds to investigate the effects of outer space on seed germination. Tomatosphere™ fits well into Let’s Talk Science’s suite of programs as it builds students’ inquiry skills and teaches them to think critically.

The popularity of Tomatosphere™ continued this year with over 7,900 educators receiving seeds for use in more than 17,700 classrooms. The program reached over 400,000 youth in over 1,400 communities across Canada.
2016 marked the 15th anniversary of Tomatosphere™. To better understand how the program is used in classrooms, Let’s Talk Science connected with educators across Canada to learn more about their experience. Don Flaig, a retiring teacher from Lethbridge, Alberta shared his.

“Tomatosphere™ was the tree trunk and branches on which I hung so many concepts from several curricula. Tomatosphere™ is, by far, the most successful and enduring activity I have undertaken in my classrooms in my career.”

Educator feedback also informed the development of new Tomatosphere™ teaching resources that support inquiry-based learning and the processes of science.

“I appreciate the program and what it does for students to help build that sense of curiosity and inquiry in them. I also like how it can be applied to a variety of different grades and classrooms.” – Sophia, Educator, William Watson Elementary School, Surrey, British Columbia

As Tomatosphere™ resources received a refresh, the website was also overhauled to provide better support to educators. Released at the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year, it has received very positive feedback.

Let’s Talk Science is a part of a consortium of partners that support Tomatosphere™ including the Canadian Space Agency, HeinzSeed, Stokes Seeds and the University of Guelph.
Teens disengage with science and math when they don’t see its relevance to their lives. Let’s Talk Science’s CurioCity program was developed to engage Grades 8-12 students in relevant, issues-based STEM learning opportunities and build career awareness.

This year more than 110 volunteer writers contributed 745 hours of time to deliver high-quality online content for CurioCity. Written to showcase the science behind everyday issues for teens, topics included bullying, why junk food is so addictive, the importance of a good night’s rest and more.
CAREER RESOURCES

Through CurioCity, teens also get a glimpse into the lives of real Canadians working in obvious and not-so-obvious STEM fields. The CurioCity career profile is unique; it asks experts to reflect back on their interests in high school. This approach helps teens relate to the expert while exploring a possible career option they may never have considered.

“I didn’t know I wanted to be a carpenter. I knew I wasn’t interested in an academic program so I looked for jobs that were hands-on.”
– Kirstene Reyes, carpenter, St. John’s, Newfoundland

This year, an additional 62 career profiles were added to the program, along with 15 Mitacs fellowship profiles.

CurioCity’s ability to connect students with the STEM community extends to virtual and in-person events.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP WORKSHOPS

This year, Let’s Talk Science held a series of school-wide entrepreneurship events and workshops that connected high school students with local entrepreneurs. Taking place in Sudbury and Hamilton, Ontario, the events were live streamed on CurioCity to high school audiences across the country. Let’s Talk Science partnered with MaRS Discovery District to develop entrepreneurship resources for educators, available at ExploreCurioCity.org

“My favourite element of entrepreneurship is I get to do something different every day. We use science, math and technology on a daily basis.”
– Spencer Turbitt, former UOIT student, entrepreneur and CEO, iApotheca Healthcare Inc.

DNA DAY

For the sixth straight year, DNA Day - an in-person and virtual event - was hosted on CurioCity. Developed by Let’s Talk Science and Genome Alberta, DNA Day offered students an opportunity to connect with the STEM community. Held in April, DNA Day helps young Canadians explore the world of genetics and genomics by connecting them with the science community. This year, the event consisted of two live-streamed lectures and Q&A sessions focusing on the topics personalized medicine and DNA Barcoding. The day’s events took place at the Ontario Science Centre and the Biodiversity Institute of Ontario at the University of Guelph, and featured experts from Ontario Genomics, DNAStack, the Ontario Science Centre, SickKids, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and the University of Guelph.

CurioCity’s diverse range of resources makes STEM relevant to teens. The program encourages them to stick with science and math to keep doors open to their future careers.

Actors at Ubisoft’s motion capture studio demonstrate how video games are made in a CurioCity 360° video.
The Honourable Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport, Kate Young, Member of Parliament and Amy Castell, Formula 1600 race car driver discuss the CurioCity Energy4Travel action project with Grade 7 and 8 students at Arthur Ford Public School in London, Ontario. Energy4Travel is a citizen science data collection project where students explore the energy it takes to get from one place to another. Minister Garneau and Amy Castell provided space travel and race car transportation data to act as comparators for students participating in the project.
SHAPING THE FUTURE OF STEM LEARNING

Let’s Talk Science strives to catalyze national awareness about the importance of youth STEM engagement for Canada’s future. To that end, we conduct and share research, speak publicly and convene conversations to help shape the future for youth.

SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE LEARNING

Since 2011, we have conducted annual studies to explore STEM learning in Canada. Our research not only drives the decisions we make, it also supports the work of our partner organizations, supporters and others who care about youth development.

This year, our Spotlight on Science Learning report, made possible by Amgen Canada, examined parents’ beliefs and attitudes when it comes to influencing their child’s academic and career choices. The report, titled Exploring Parental Influence: Shaping teen decisions regarding science education, discovered that 75% of Canadian parents think that most or all jobs of the future will require at least a basic understanding of math and science, yet only 28% of parents polled said they often discuss the value of taking optional science courses in high school with their children. More surprisingly, one-third (31%) of Canadian parents think that science is a mandatory academic requirement through high school, when in fact, there is no Canadian jurisdiction that requires a Grade 12 science course as a graduation requirement.

The report, available on our website, showcased the need for parents to discuss STEM education with their children to help them keep future career options open. We also discovered the need for an open and positive dialogue about STEM education amongst all Canadians.

This year, we undertook an exciting new project to help shape the future of STEM education in Canada. Launching in 2016 and culminating in 2018, Canada 2067 will engage educators, youth, business and government leaders, community groups and parents to collaboratively develop and implement an innovative framework for STEM learning for the next 50 years towards Canada’s bicentennial.

To get involved, please see canada2067.ca
SUPPORTER LISTING

Let’s Talk Science gratefully acknowledges gifts received between September 1, 2015 and August 31, 2016

VISIONARIES
Thank you to these Visionary donors for making a significant impact through cumulative support of at least $1,000,000 and annual gifts of at least $100,000.

INNOVATORS
($100,000+)

CHAMPIONS
($75,000-99,999)

DISCOVERERS
($50,000 - $74,999)

Thank you for the in-kind support for Tomatosphere™ from: HeinzSeed, Stokes Seeds, the University of Guelph and the Canadian Space Agency.

Thank you to 3M Canada for their contribution of supplies for the Let’s Talk Science Challenge design challenges.

Thank you also to all donors who gave anonymously.

For information about contributing to Let’s Talk Science, please contact: Sara Steers at 1-877-474-4081 ext. 223 or email ssteers@letstalkscience.ca

Charitable BN: 88540 0846 RR0001
## LET’S TALK SCIENCE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Year ending August 31, 2016 with comparative figures for 2015

### REVENUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tr>
<td>Corporations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Government and Agencies</td>
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<td>Provincial Governments</td>
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<td>Individuals and Foundations</td>
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<td>Fees and Other</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
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<td><strong>4,168,000</strong></td>
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### EXPENDITURES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Wages and Benefits</td>
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<td>Program Delivery and Development</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
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<td>Increase in Resources</td>
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### EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM

- IdeaPark: 19%
- Let’s Talk Science Outreach: 15%
- CurioCity: 8%
- Tomatosphere™: 20%
- Research, Evaluation and Raising Awareness: 38%

### REVENUE SOURCES

- Corporate
- Federal Government and Agencies
- Provincial Governments
- Individuals and Foundations
- Fee for Service, Interest and Other

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Total Revenue $5,914,000
When Claire Trottier was a Let’s Talk Science volunteer during her graduate studies at McGill University, little did she know that her family would eventually become involved as well and have a transformative impact on the entire organization.

Ten years ago, Claire graduated and The Trottier Family Foundation provided its first grant to Let’s Talk Science, directed to the Let’s Talk Science Outreach program at McGill University. It was a natural fit for the Foundation and our partnership has since flourished.

Engineer, entrepreneur, philanthropist and self-proclaimed ‘science geek’, Lorne Trottier, created the Trottier Family Foundation to help build a science culture in Canada.

Lorne and his family – including his wife Louise, daughters Claire and Sylvie, son-in-law Eric, and brother Howard – have supported our organization in various and important ways over the decade. That support includes funding, program development and strategic guidance.

The Trottier Family Foundation was instrumental for our Quebec program expansion and increased reach into the Francophone community. The addition of our now-veteran Let’s Talk Science Outreach sites, l’Université du Québec à Montréal and Université de Sherbrooke was accomplished because of their support.

CurioCity featured topics, Sky Science and Spotlight on Energy, were also built with their assistance. Lorne’s love of space exploration transformed into content, including five guest blog posts about space science available on CurioCity. For Spotlight on Energy, Sylvie’s background in Environmental Studies contributed to the creation of articles, backgrounderers, various educator resources and an online calculator used by students to assess the impact of energy used in transportation.

The Trottier family continues to work closely with us to build our capacity and grow our programs. The Trottier Family Foundation is a founding partner for our newest, nation-building initiative, Canada 2067, which will develop a learning framework for the next 50 years of STEM education and culminate in a national summit in December 2017.

Lorne Trottier has long recognized the importance of STEM education for youth and our country’s prosperity. Let’s Talk Science is deeply grateful and honoured to continue our work with The Trottier Family Foundation to inspire the next generation of creative, critical thinkers.