



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 24, 2017

LIGHT IN THE LAND: THE NATURE OF CANADA OPENS MAY 25 AT SCIENCE NORTH

(SUDBURY, ON) — A unique, new travelling exhibition, *Light in the Land ~ the Nature of Canada*, opens today at Science North. The exhibition, designed by The Roberta Bondar Foundation, has been curated to honour the 25th anniversary of Dr. Bondar's space mission. It features 14 oversized fine art photographs of the Canadian landscape from sea to sea to sea.

"My view from the spacecraft Discovery 25 years ago, forever changed my view of Earth, and it was on that flight that I committed to protect this magnificent planet," says Dr. Bondar, whose Foundation is committed to connecting people to nature through photography in order to promote good health and protect the planet.

Dr. Bondar is not only Canada's first woman and the world's first neurologist in space, she is also an award-winning photographer, who photographed each of Canada's National Parks for the book *Passionate Vision – Discovering Canada's National Parks*. Using her fine art images and video, she will illustrate her talk on Earth Matters at Science North later in the month sharing her unique perspective from space that made her appreciate Earth in a profound way.

The exhibition is part of a northern Ontario tour by Dr. Bondar. The tour is produced in partnership with Science North and is part of Ontario's 150th anniversary celebrations. Dr. Bondar is delivering inspirational talks entitled "Earth Matters" to school children and adults as well as launching the Ontario 150 Bondar Challenge in Sault Ste Marie, Sudbury, North Bay, Timmins, Kenora, Thunder Bay and Manitoulin.

The exhibition's photographic portraits are artistic interpretations of the unique and important landscape that is Canada. The collection is a consistent view of one artist, Dr. Roberta Bondar, explores the varied landscape in the singular light that is Canada's. No other photographer or astronaut who possesses the unique combination of her expertise as a scientist, researcher, medical doctor, neurologist and professional photographer has explored this land with a camera. Her images cultivate a sense of awe, pride, respect and understanding of the natural beauty, biodiversity and sustainability of our nation. Her strength comes from her unique fusion of art and science.

“We’re pleased to partner with The Roberta Bondar Foundation and host this wonderful exhibition here at Science North. We hope this exhibition helps illustrate to visitors how magnificent our natural landscapes are but also how delicate they are and why we need to protect them,” says Guy Labine, Science North CEO.

“Ontario’s 150th anniversary is an opportunity for people to recognize and celebrate the incredible resources our province offers,” says Eleanor McMahon, Ontario Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport. “Under the leadership of Dr. Bondar and Science North, the exhibition - *Light in the Land ~ the Nature of Canada*, *Earth Matters* and the Ontario150 Bondar Challenge will engage and help people connect with our natural world in an inspiring and impactful way.”

Visitors can experience *Light in the Land ~ the Nature of Canada* at Science North until June 26, 2017. For more information, visit sciencenorth.ca

About Science North

Science North is Northern Ontario’s most popular tourist attraction and an educational resource for children and adults across the province, operating the second- and eighth-largest science centres in Canada. Science North’s attractions include a science centre, IMAX® theatre, digital Planetarium, butterfly gallery, special exhibits hall, and Dynamic Earth – Home of the Big Nickel, a separate science centre focused on mining and earth sciences. In addition to the two science centres in Sudbury, Science North also oversees an award-winning-Large Format Film production unit, as well as an Exhibit Sales and Service unit, which develops custom and ready-made exhibits for sale or lease to science centres, museums, and other cultural institutions all over the world. Science North, in partnership with Laurentian University, has developed North America’s first and only comprehensive Science Communication program, a 10-month joint graduate diploma program. As part of its mandate, Science North provides science experiences throughout Northern Ontario including outreach to schools and festivals, summer science camps and more, and has a permanent base in Thunder Bay providing outreach to the Northwest. Science North is an agency of the Government of Ontario. For more information please visit sciencenorth.ca.

About the Roberta Bondar Foundation

The Roberta Bondar Foundation's mission is to build healthier lives by protecting the natural heritage of our planet. By connecting people to nature through photography, the Foundation aims to promote good health while protecting the planet. Programs include nature photography programs for youth, traveling exhibitions on biodiversity for all generations, research and a speaker’s series by Dr. Bondar. For more information, please visit www.therobertabondarfoundation.org.

About Ontario150

2017 is the 150th anniversary of Ontario as a province. To recognize this historically significant year, the government has launched Ontario150, a year-long commemoration that is honouring the province's past, showcasing the present and inspiring future generations. Through the Ontario150 grant programs and a series of signature initiatives, Ontario is engaging youth, encouraging cultural expression, promoting participation in sport and recreation, and creating economic opportunities across the province. Visit www.ontario.ca/150 or share [#Ontario150](https://twitter.com/Ontario150).

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