

Peaceful Mornings

For young people with special needs



Montreal, November 8, 2021

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Accessibility and Inclusion

The Science Centre invites people with special needs to Peaceful Mornings

What are they?

- Peaceful Mornings are designed exclusively for young people with special needs and their families so that they can enjoy themselves in a safe environment with reduced visitor capacity.
- During these three trial mornings, we will be collecting participants' comments so that we can develop an experience that is inclusive and accessible.
- We have created a guide for companions and families to help them feel safe and secure about visiting the Centre.
- Book your spot now either [online](#) or by calling 514 496-4724

The **Montréal Science Centre** invites you to Peaceful Mornings, **an event exclusively for young people with special needs and their families**. These three trial events are designed to welcome these families while verifying that the facilities meet each of their needs. These events will take place on Sunday November 14, 2021, December 12, 2021 and January 16, 2022, from 9 to 11 a.m.

More about Peaceful Mornings

Everyone is welcome at the Science Centre at all times. However, the Peaceful Mornings reserve a time when young people with special needs can have fun discovering science in our four permanent exhibitions, in a safe environment controlled especially for them. During these mornings, the Centre will close its

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doors to the general public to make room for young people with special needs. The environment is adjusted during these mornings to create the best possible conditions to meet a variety of needs.

These special needs include: physical impairment, sensory impairment, intellectual disability, developmental, language, attention and learning disorders, autism spectrum disorder, giftedness, attention deficit disorder with or without hyperactivity, reduced mobility, visual impairment, hearing impairment, diabetes, epilepsy, sensory processing disorder, polyhandicap, and anxiety.

Quotes

"When we develop our exhibitions and create our spaces, we try to be as inclusive as possible, to ensure that we are accessible to everyone who wants to discover science and technologies in our institution. This new event lets us implement new measures to realize that vision concretely and help us to become even more inclusive for all."

— **Cybèle Robichaud, Director of the Montréal Science Centre**

"We have a clear vision and we want to give ourselves the means to achieve our ambitions regarding accessibility and inclusion. With this consultation, the Science Centre team is arming itself with an additional tool to keep moving the organization in the right direction. Our goal is to continue to progress by ensuring that we can receive our visitors in an environment that is welcoming for all, without compromise. Peaceful Mornings are a step in that direction, and we are very proud of them."

— **Isabel Dansereau, Executive Director Old Port of Montréal Corporation**

What measures will be adopted?

1. The [Companion Guide for People with Special Needs](#) has been developed and made available to those accompanying visitors with special needs in order to prepare them for the visit. It provides information about our public spaces and our services. It also describes all the exhibitions, and the interactive experiences are classified by activity type, including potential sensory triggers.
2. One free entry for the accompanying person on presentation of a Vignette d'accompagnement touristique et de loisir (VATL), a Companion Leisure Card or an Access 2 card.
3. Reduction of maximum visitor capacity to provide all the necessary space for the young visitors to have fun, without any hassle.
4. Staff trained and sensitive to the visitors' special needs.

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5. Accessories available on loan: wheelchairs, noise-cancelling headsets, timers, and the print version of the Companion Guide.
6. Quiet, sheltered rest spaces.
7. Reduction of stimuli in the IMAX® TELUS theatre.
8. All the exhibition halls are accessible to people with reduced mobility. An elevator is also available for transport between levels.
9. Toilets accessible to all:
 - One unisex toilet with several individual stalls as well as two family stalls accessible to people with reduced mobility.
 - A hygiene room accessible to people with reduced mobility, which includes a changing table for adults (max. 150 kg or 330 lbs).
 - A family bathroom in the Mini Mondo exhibition with a child's toilet and sink as well as the usual furnishings. It is equipped with a large changing table (147 cm/58 inches long) for children and adolescents. This is the only bathroom with manual rather than automatic flushers.
10. Parking spaces for people with reduced mobility who have a handicap sticker. Motorists with a handicap sticker can park free of charge in any spot on the King Edward Pier.

Movies for all at the IMAX® TELUS theatre

Two IMAX® film formats are offered, to meet the different needs of the young visitors. Three performances with two types of formats are now available during Peaceful Mornings:

- IMAX® movie 9:00 a.m.: Oceans 3D, English version, 20 minutes, reduced volume;
- IMAX® movie 9:45 a.m.: Oceans 3D, French version, 20 minutes, reduced volume;
- IMAX® movie 10:35 a.m.: Superpower Dogs 3D, French version 45 minutes, regular format.

Consultations prior to the Peaceful Mornings

To create the guide for accompanying people with special needs, the Science Centre collaborated with the Kéroul organisation (Tourism and culture for people with restricted physical ability); the Quebec autistic society; and a committee of experts comprising special needs teachers, occupational therapists, special

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education counselors, special education technicians in schools, and several stakeholders from organizations working with this clientele. To further our thinking, focus groups were also held with parents of children with special needs.

About the Montréal Science Centre

Welcoming more than 700,000 visitors annually, the Montréal Science Centre, a division of the Canada Lands Company, is a complex dedicated to science and technology. It is characterized by its accessible, interactive approach and its showcasing of local innovation and expertise. **Its partners are TELUS, Volvo, Energir, The Beat 92.5 and La Presse +.**

Information

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Source

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