



PRESS RELEASE

Montréal, September 5, 2023

The Montréal Science Centre celebrates diversity!

Come admire a marvellously illustrated mural by Élise Gravel.

- The latest social responsibility initiative by the Montréal Science Centre.
- **New mural celebrating diversity** by Québec's own author and illustrator **Élise Gravel** to be unveiled on September 17, 2023, at the Montréal Science Centre.
- The **next Peaceful Morning event** takes place on Sunday, September 17. [Learn more!](#)

The Science Centre's Commitment to Social Responsibility on Display!

Since its very beginnings, the Montréal Science Centre has kept social responsibility front and centre in all it does. Be it diversity, inclusion, or accessibility, the Science Centre has worked to be responsive to the needs of its guests and visitors. The new mural by illustrator Élise Gravel now helps showcase the diversity that defines our world and celebrates how diversity makes our experiences richer.

At the Science Centre, promoting universal accessibility is about welcoming everyone to enjoy its activities and programming, no matter who they are and what their circumstances may be. This was precisely the goal it had in mind when a special change room was installed in 2021 for visitors of all ages with multiple disabilities, which was then fitted last November with a patient lift. This innovative new equipment, still rarely seen in public spaces in the province, is a natural fit with the Centre's universal washrooms designed for anyone and everyone, no matter their gender identity, their family composition, or mobility status. Illustrations from the Gravel's mural are in fact featured in these universal washrooms.

The Montréal Science Centre's New Mural by Artist Élise Gravel

In tune with its commitment to social responsibility, the Science Centre is a discrimination-free environment that celebrates diversity and inclusion. Teaming up with Élise Gravel to produce an illustrated mural aligned perfectly with this

commitment. The mural will help stir dialogue about diversity and help bring it front of mind. Gravel is a young, Québec-based author and illustrator whose books take on issues of diversity, consent, gender stereotypes, and open-mindedness. She was an ideal partner for this initiative. The mural will be installed at the Science Centre in an area leading to the universal washrooms and change room. The mural will be unveiled for all visitors to enjoy this month, on September 17. As always, the Centre's mission is to offer visitors opportunities to explore, understand, and make science and tech their own with programming that is both fun and educational and geared towards helping future generations build their future.

"Our team is extremely proud to have been able to partner with Élise Gravel. This project allowed us to celebrate our shared values, all for the benefit of our visitors."

- Cybèle Robichaud, Montréal Science Centre Director

Peaceful Mornings: A Custom Experience for Visitors With Special Needs

Peaceful Mornings are events inspired by the Science Centre's desire to make itself more inclusive and responsive in very concrete ways to visitors with special needs. Held on a Sunday morning every two months, these events are designed exclusively for families with one or more children with special needs. These custom visit experiences feature smaller crowds and reduced stimulus levels and are designed to reduce visit barriers. A special visit guide was produced to help those accompanying these visitors familiarize themselves with the Centre's exhibition halls and facilities. Films presented during the events have a shorter 20-minute runtime and are presented with reduced volume and lighting. The Peaceful Morning visit experience also features quiet areas inside the exhibition halls where young visitors can take time for themselves on their own as they need.

About the Montréal Science Centre

The Montréal Science Centre, a division of Canada Lands Company, is a complex dedicated to science and technology that welcomes more than 600,000 visitors annually. It is best known for its accessible, interactive approach and for showcasing local innovation and know-how. **Its major partners are Amazon Web Services, Énergir, The Beat 92.5, TELUS, and La Presse.**

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