



**SASKATCHEWAN
SCIENCE CENTRE**

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Saskatchewan Science Centre Celebrates Earth Day with a Pledge to Reduce Plastic Use

(April 23, 2018) – Regina, SK – As part of an Earth Day event with students from Ruth M. Buck School in Regina and volunteers from The Co-operators, the Saskatchewan Science Centre announced new initiatives to reduce the use of single use plastics in its facility.

“Each year more than 8 million tons of plastic enter our oceans,” stated Sandy Baumgartner, CEO of the Saskatchewan Science Centre. “And, while we may not live near an ocean, our waterways eventually lead to an ocean, and they are just as important to protect. Reducing plastics in our landfills, waterways, and oceans is a responsibility we all share and there are simple things we can all do to help.”

“Our Earth Day pledge and the first step to reducing single use plastics in the facility, the Saskatchewan Science Centre will no longer sell bottled water at either the front desk or in the Kramer IMAX Theatre,” announced Baumgartner. “We encourage all of our visitors to bring their own re-fillable bottle or purchase one of our unique reusable water bottles,” she said.

The Science Centre has installed a water filling station in the Kramer IMAX Theatre and will replace the other fountains in the building in the next few months. The stations provide clean, refrigerated water and a special spigot that accommodates the filling of reusable water bottles. Since installing the first fountain last year the Science Centre has already eliminated more than 5,000 single use water bottles.

The next step is to examine other ways to reduce plastic consumption from the building. For the past several years, the Science Centre has been using compostable potato-based cutlery and recyclable plates for special events and birthday parties. “We are also looking at options to replace plastic straws, including the use of paper straws or sip through lids that would negate the need for straws completely,” says Baumgartner.”

Each year tens of thousands of visitors enjoy a Science Centre experience, which includes a variety of food and beverage services. “We want to maintain a high standard of quality and enjoyment for our visitors while demonstrating environmental stewardship in our community,” concluded Baumgartner.

Following the announcement, students and teachers participated in a live video chat with staff from Ocean Wise, a conservation program lead by the Vancouver Aquarium. Their new Plastic Wise program tackles the global crisis of plastic waste in our oceans which endangers the ocean food chain.

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About The Saskatchewan Science Centre

The Saskatchewan Science Centre is a non-profit, non-governmental educational facility with the mission of igniting scientific curiosity and innovation in Saskatchewan communities through interactive, dynamic and engaging opportunities. Our vision of the future, in fulfilling that mission, is inspired minds through science and innovation. The Science Centre is one of Saskatchewan's largest family tourist attractions with more than 5 million visitors since its opening in 1989.

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