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Canadian Museum of Nature joins ORION and global grid of research networks

TORONTO – The Canadian Museum of Nature is connecting to the Ontario Research and Innovation Optical Network (ORION), and CANARIE, Ontario's and Canada's ultra high-speed fibre optic networks that connect research and education institutions to one another, and to partners throughout Canada and around the world. By joining ORION, the Museum taps into a global pool of researchers, scientists, educators, and students, increasing research opportunities and supporting advanced educational programs.

"We're excited to be part of this growing network," says Joanne DiCosimo, President and CEO of the Canadian Museum of Nature. "Not only does this increase our ability to reach out to audiences across the country, it offers new opportunities to work with partners on many levels."

"ORION is proud to support and enhance the Canadian Museum of Nature's delivery of educational programs to students and to increase opportunities for cross-institutional, collaborative research. This is truly an exciting development," says ORION President/CEO Phil Baker.

As Canada's museum of natural history and natural sciences, the Canadian Museum of Nature strives to connect people with nature and to provide them with a means to understand their place in it. Located in Ottawa, it promotes awareness and understanding of the natural environment through public exhibitions and educational programs.

The Museum has been piloting Web-based tools and applications to enhance its national outreach. These include online specimen records and the Agora Research Initiative, an online collection of lesson plans on climate change and the Arctic. Videoconference programs for schools enable students to remotely visit the Museum's research labs and collections and interact with scientists, making the Museum more accessible to greater numbers of students.

About ORION

The Ontario Research and Innovation Optical Network (ORION), a not-for-profit organization, is Ontario's ultra high-speed research and education network which connects all of Ontario's universities, most colleges, several medical and other public research facilities and a growing number of school boards to one another and to the global grid of research and education networks. Stretching 5,800 kilometres over 21 communities throughout Ontario, ORION connects over one million Ontario researchers, scientists, students, teachers and staff to critical infrastructure for research, education and innovation. Visit www.orion.on.ca.

About the Canadian Museum of Nature

The Canadian Museum of Nature is a federal Crown corporation and Canada's national museum of natural history and natural sciences. It promotes awareness of Canada's natural heritage through permanent and travelling exhibitions, public education programs, active scientific research, and the maintenance of a 10-million-specimen collection. Visit nature.ca.

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