

The Canadian Museum of Nature - Quick Facts

The Canadian Museum of Nature (CMN) is Canada's national natural history museum. Its purpose is to increase, throughout Canada and internationally, interest in, knowledge of, and respect and appreciation for the natural world.

- **History:** The CMN originated in the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC), which dates from the mid-19th century. The year 2006 marked the 150th anniversary of the Act in Parliament that empowered the GSC to create a national museum for Canadians. By 1912, the GSC's collections were put on display in the Victoria Memorial Museum Building (VMMB) in downtown Ottawa. In 1927, the museum became the National Museum of Canada, which later divided into natural history, human history and science and technology branches that became distinct museums. In 1988, the VMMB became the exclusive home of the Canadian Museum of Nature, which became a Crown corporation on July 1, 1990.
- The **VMMB** was the first building in Canada constructed to house a national museum. This historic building is now being renovated, but is still open to the public. The multi-year project, is upgrading the infrastructure, enhancing visitor amenities and developing new gallery spaces that meet modern museum standards. The grand reopening of the newly renewed museum will take place in May 2010.
- In 1997, the CMN's administrative offices and collections were moved to the **Natural Heritage Building** in Gatineau, Quebec. It was built to consolidate and preserve the national collections, replacing 13 older buildings.
- Fiscal year 2008-09 was a transition year for the Museum during which its new Strategic Plan was finalized in consultation with partners, clients and key stakeholders. The Museum's new strategies and objectives emphasize a new institutional direction – one that encourages environmental responsibility through scientific discovery and debate. In following this direction, our Museum will remain socially relevant and promote itself as a leader in its field.
- The CMN's **collections** comprise over 10 million specimens, including plants, animals, minerals and fossils from Canada and the world. Our collections of fish, tropical beetles, freshwater clams, arctic plants, horned dinosaurs and lichens are considered among the best in the world. The collection contains many holotypes (or type specimens) – specimens that were first used to describe new species.
- CMN **research** scientists conduct collections-based research to understand environmental change over time. These studies in systematics research take place in the field and in the laboratory, and cover the Earth Sciences (fossils and minerals) and Life Sciences (plants and animals).
- The CMN **partners** with community, national and international organizations to enhance its national service. In 2004, the CMN became a founding member of the Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada (ANHMC). In 2008-09, the CMN partnered with the ANHMC and Students on Ice to co-ordinate Polar Perspectives, a national lecture series and youth forums connected with International Polar Year.
- This year, the Museum's 11 full-sized travelling exhibitions were showcased at 21 Canadian museums and science centres and reached approximately 350,000 people. *Fatal Attraction* and *Ice Age Mammals* toured on behalf of the ANHMC and reached approximately 60,000 people. As well, the Museum's **suitcase exhibitions** were displayed in 25 venues (libraries, community centres, museums and schools).
- Through public programmes, the CMN creates new and innovative ideas to stimulate an appreciation of nature. **Educators** provide school workshops, videoconferences, gallery interpretation and hands-on activities. They also co-ordinated a public lecture series for International Polar Year, and an ongoing Café Scientifique series.
- In the fiscal year 2008-09, the CMN reached an estimated **audience** of close to 3.6 million through attendance, website visits, television programming, travelling exhibitions and published books and products.
- The CMN **library and archives** holds more than 44,000 books and AV materials, including several thousand rare books and pre-20th century serials; the archives have an extensive holding of institutional and private records. The CMN also has a large collection of nature art, video footage and photographs.
- **nature.ca**, received 2.96 million individual visits in 2008-09. The website has an extensive collection of dynamic resources about nature. It also provides information about visiting the museum and its exhibitions, collections and research activities, and products and services.
- The CMN has an **operating budget** of \$31.5 million in 2009-10. Of this amount, \$28.8 million comes from the federal government; the remainder is self-generated. The CMN also received \$3.6 million in Parliamentary appropriations for the VMMB renovations in 2009-10. In 2008-09, the CMN has 180 full- and part-time **staff** and is supported by 178 **volunteers** and more than 5, 212 **members**.

**The Canadian Museum of Nature, Box 3443, Stn D, Ottawa, ON K1P 6P4
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FACTS AND FIGURES 2009-2010



FACILITY SPACE

VMMB (18,757) sq. meters	Current	Post-Construction (October 2009 & Beyond)	NHB (20,428 sq. meters)	AUDIENCE REACHED 2008-09 (to March 31, 2009)
Under Construction	8,732	-	Collections pods (excluding hallways)	7,500
Exhibits and activity room	4,078	10,847	Labs and pest control areas	1,433
Office space	743	743	Science offices	1,185
Boutique	85	100	Administration wing	3,045
Salon	-	277	Library	1,100
Storage	855	855	Warehouse	695
Workshop	130	380	Exhibit prep. area	625
Lab (100 un-used)	166	166	Foyer, corridors, stairwells, loading dock, cafeteria, records, seminar room	4,845
Lunch space	85	365		
Technical & Tunnels space	3,883	5,024		
TOTAL	18,757	18,757	TOTAL	20,428

COLLECTIONS

(to March 31, 2009)
Computerized cataloguable records

CURRENT COLLECTION SIZE

Total specimens and lots:
(Each lot contains numerous specimens.)

over 10,571,534

EARTH SCIENCES	
Minerals, rocks & gems (specimens)	65,406
Fossils (specimens)	65,094
Palyology (specimens)	14,569
Paleobotany (specimens)	4,386
Palaecology (specimens)	1,100
INVERTEBRATES	
Crustacea (lots)	116,452
Molluscs (lots)	161,048
Faunal Assemblages (lots)	200,222
Parasites (lots)	49,852
Gen. invertebrates & annelids (lots)	73,707
Insects (specimens)	940,306

BOTANY

Vascular plants (specimens)	617,263
Lichens (specimens)	138,090
Algae (specimens & lots)	109,500
Bryophytes (specimens)	252,057

VERTEBRATES

Fish (lots)	90,007
Amphibians & reptiles (lots)	36,975
Mammals (lots)	83,915
Birds (specimens)	122,786
Skeletons (specimens)	4,667

LIBRARY

Books and AV holdings titles	36,700
Rare books	4,000
Serials titles	3,500
TOTAL	44,200

ARCHIVES & CORPORATE RECORDS

Nature Art Collection	1,800
Photos (prints, neg. trans.)	275,000
Archives Files	linear meters 1048
Corporate files	linear meters 259

PERSONNEL 2008-2009

Full Time Staff	168
Part Time Staff	12
TOTAL	180

2008-2009

VOLUNTEERS	178
MEMBERS	5,212

OPERATING BUDGET 2009-2010

FUNDING	
Parliamentary Appropriation for Operations	28,785,000
Parliamentary Appropriation for VMMB Renovations	3,600,000
Self Generated Revenues	2,745,000
TOTAL	35,130,000

EXPENSES

Personnel Salaries & Benefits	15,605,452
Real Property Costs	11,434,583
VMMB Renovations	3,600,000
Operating Costs	4,489,965
TOTAL	35,130,000

Travelling Exhibitions:
 Passionate Vision: Our Feathered Friends; Green Legacy; Fatal Attraction; From Crystals to Gems; Ice Age Mammals; The Geel In Genome;
Suitcase Exhibitions:
 Sila: Clue into Climate Change (2); On The Labrador; High Diversity Monarchs; Minerals; Whales; Sila: Clue into Climate Change; Crash Course in Genomics; Genetic Diseases and Heredity; From Dinosaurs to Mammals; Ice Age: Cold Facts about Climate Change (2).

Publications:

Produces TV, video products, books

Education:

School tours (guided and non guided), special events, workshops, etc.

Collections:

86,059 specimens donated in 2008-2009

