

Science Centre announces 2026 Science Fellow, Dr. Paulina Johnson

EDMONTON, AB — February 24, 2026 — Each year, through its Science Fellowship, the Edmonton Space and Science Foundation (the registered charitable organization that operates TELUS World of Science – Edmonton) recognizes an outstanding young researcher or innovator in Northern Alberta. Today, the Science Centre is proud to announce Dr. Paulina Johnson as the 2026 award recipient.

Dr. Paulina Johnson, Sîpîhkokîsikowiskwêw, *Blue Sky Woman*, is Nêhiyaw (Four-Spirit/Plains Cree) and a citizen of Samson Cree Nation from Maskwacîs, Alberta. She is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Alberta, and Co-Research Director for Braiding Knowledges Canada. She also hosts *The Auntie Is In* podcast and leads the Blue Sky Research Lab, where her work centres Indigenous research methods, protocols, and community-based practices in academic research. Currently, she is working on “Relational Accountability of Mother Earth: Revitalizing and Restoring the Land and Water,” funded by the New Frontiers Research Fund, International Joint Initiative for Research in Climate Change, Adaptation and Mitigation. This \$2.75 million research project highlights Indigenous voices on climate change.

“We are honoured to recognize Dr. Paulina Johnson as the 2026 Science Fellow,” said Constance Scarlett, President & CEO of TELUS World of Science – Edmonton. “Her work powerfully demonstrates how Indigenous knowledge is foundational for addressing some of the most complex challenges of our time. Through this fellowship, our community will be enriched by perspectives that strengthen connection and broaden how we approach innovation. Our Indigenous Initiatives team, our entire Science Centre team and our guests will have the opportunity to learn, share, and engage with these perspectives in meaningful ways.”

As the Science Centre’s 2026 Science Fellow, Johnson will receive a monetary award and professional development scholarship opportunities through the program. Throughout the year, she will participate in community outreach programs and events hosted at TELUS World of Science – Edmonton, sharing her expertise in Indigenous methods and worldviews.

For more information about the Science Fellowship, visit twose.ca/sciencefellow

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About TELUS World of Science – Edmonton

TELUS World of Science – Edmonton’s mission is to be a catalyst for lifelong learning, creating a community of curious minds through immersive experiences and connections with the wonders of science. We are the trusted hub of science engagement for all, pushing boundaries and igniting



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curiosity. The Edmonton Space & Science Foundation is a registered charitable organization that operates TELUS World of Science - Edmonton.