



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

The Montréal Planetarium hits the road!

Montréal, September 20, 2011 - The Planetarium, a Space for Life, is hitting the road! During the 2011-2012 school year, the Planetarium's experts will be touring schools in the Drummondville, Granby, Quebec City, Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, Shawinigan and Greater Montréal regions to share their enthusiasm for all things celestial in a fun and stimulating way. The centrepiece of the presentation is an enormous inflatable planetarium, in which students can watch a projection explaining the treasures of the universe, just as if they were at the Montréal Planetarium! Members of the public in Quebec City, Saguenay, Lac Saint-Jean and Shawinigan can also take part in stargazing evenings and astronomical discussions in local parks. These special activities will be offered for only one year, and have been made possible by our partner Rio Tinto Alcan.

The Planetarium is on its way to your school ...

"This is a first for the Montréal Planetarium. It is travelling around to different schools, to carry out its educational mission while the planetarium on rue Saint-Jacques is closed," explains Pierre Lacombe, Director of the Montréal Planetarium. "Who knows? Maybe, by sparking children's interest in the stars, we can encourage them to consider a career in science!"

Erik Ryan, Senior Vice-President, Communications and External Relations, Rio Tinto Alcan, agrees: "We believe that this tour will awaken an interest in science among many young people and encourage them to stay in school. Reducing the school drop-out rate is one of our priorities and we are proud to be associated with initiatives aimed at this goal."

The Planetarium on the Road is intended for preschool and elementary Cycle 1, 2 and 3 students. A specific program has been developed and adapted for each level. Students will discover some of the mysteries of the starry skies. It's an experience they're sure to remember for years to come! And what is an inflatable planetarium? Take a look at the video on planetariumontheroad.ca to get a better idea.

... and to a park near you!

Members of the public will also be able to learn from the Planetarium's experts. During their visit to four of the main cities in the program, they will introduce people to the pleasures of stargazing, with telescopes and binoculars. It will also be the perfect opportunity to learn to use a star finder and to ask all kinds of questions about astronomy.

Go to planetariumontheroad.ca to find out when the Planetarium will be giving presentations in your region.

The Montréal Planetarium and Rio Tinto Alcan are proud to be taking the necessary steps to obtain Événement carboneutre certification from Carbone boréal and Événement écoresponsable certification from the Bureau de normalisation du Québec (BNQ).

Space for Life

The Biodôme, Insectarium, Botanical Garden and Planetarium are launching a daring, creative urban movement, urging everyone to rethink the bonds between humankind and nature. The Space for Life is also a place where people come together to create and to cultivate a new way of living, shaped by Montrealers and people from around the world.

Rio Tinto Alcan

With close to 22,000 employees in 27 countries, Rio Tinto Alcan is a world leader in the aluminum industry. The company is headquartered in Montréal.

Information

Nadine Fortin
Communications Co-ordinator
514 868-3053
nadine.fortin@ville.montreal.qc.ca

Anik Robichaud-Gauvin
Marketing Representative
514 868-3123
anik.robichaud-gauvin@ville.montreal.qc.ca

Media representatives wishing to meet the Planetarium's experts while they are in the region, to talk about astronomy, The Planetarium Is Coming to Your School program or outdoor stargazing in local parks are invited to contact Nadine Fortin or Anik Robichaud-Gauvin

Made possible with the support from

RioTintoAlcan