

# Transforming Healthcare Education Your Support at Work



Labelle Innovation and Learning Centre  
Impact Report Spring 2025

**TOGETHER**<sub>FOR</sub>**YOU**  
*in Research Excellence*

Fondation  
**HSN**  
Foundation

The Labelle Innovation and Learning Centre at Health Sciences North (HSN) is transforming the delivery of healthcare education by making it more accessible and integrated into clinical environments.

The Centre has expanded the number of training events over the past year – delivering more than **15,000** hours of high-quality education to over **2,500** aspiring and current doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals. This incredible impact is made possible by donors like you. Your generous support helped bring this state-of-the-art, accredited training facility to life, and continues to strengthen the skills of healthcare professionals providing quality patient care today and for generations to come.

At the heart of the Centre is the Simulation Lab, where hands-on, immersive training takes place across the classroom, simulation suites, debriefing and multi-skills rooms, as well as clinical areas. Over **70** in-department simulation activities took place – more than double the number from the previous year. This demonstrates the growing impact of the Centre on both learners and patient care.

Complementing the interactive simulation space on the fourth floor is a home away from home on the third floor for learners. There are two classrooms for lectures and presentations, a lounge, locker rooms, offices for quiet study, and 10 sleep rooms for medical learners on call. Together, these offerings help support learners working in a high-paced hospital setting.

Thank you for your investment in creating one of the leading learning centre's across the province. High-quality training contributes to better care and improved patient outcomes – with a healthcare team ready to lead in the moments that matter the most to patients.



Anthony Keating  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Health Sciences North Foundation

*"The Labelle Centre's Simulation Lab has been a cornerstone of my training and development as an emergency physician at Health Sciences North."*

**Dr. Nicholas Fortino, Emergency  
Department Physician**



# Simulation Lab: Impact at a Glance



## 262 Events Held 2,500+ Learners Trained

- 2,100+ from HSN
- 400+ from NOSM University
- 50+ from Laurentian University

### 15,000+ Learning Hours Delivered

Learners engage in realistic clinical scenarios using advanced equipment that mirrors real healthcare settings.

### 24 Health Disciplines Represented

Nurses, physicians, pharmacists, respiratory therapists, security personnel, and more.

### 200+ HSN Staff Certified in Lifesaving Skills

Enhancing care for neonatal, pediatric, and adult patients through continued professional training.

### 35 Interprofessional Education Events

Promoting collaborative practice by training healthcare professionals together across disciplines.

### 72 In-Department Simulation Events

Bringing training into clinical environments to enhance accessibility and patient safety.

### 6 Active Research Projects

Driving innovation in simulation-based education to improve learning outcomes and support evidence-based care. An example of one of the projects is the development of a high-fidelity Resuscitative Thoracotomy Trainer to enhance the clinical skills of Canadian postgraduate medical learners. The procedure is a time-sensitive and potentially life-saving procedure for patients with penetrating chest trauma.





## Impact on Healthcare Professionals

*“Engaging in simulation throughout my education allowed me to build and refine critical skills in a safe environment while practising realistic patient scenarios using cutting-edge simulation manikins. As a staff physician, continued simulation training helps me stay sharp, current, and fully prepared to manage any emergency that may arise. It remains one of the most effective ways for our team to maintain readiness and deliver the best possible care to our community. The Simulation Lab team and facilities are truly outstanding and indispensable.”*

— Dr. Nicholas Fortino, Emergency Department Physician

*“At the HSN Simulation Lab, immersive learning is a cornerstone in preparing our current and future healthcare professionals to meet the diverse needs of patients in our community and across Northern Ontario. Our approach to interprofessional education brings participants together to engage in realistic, hands-on training that reflects the unique challenges of regional and remote healthcare. Our simulation lab offers a safe and supportive environment, allowing all learners to build the clinical skills, confidence, and team-based mindset necessary to deliver high-quality, culturally competent care. This commitment to immersive education ensures a better-prepared workforce, equipped with the skills needed to enhance the safety and quality of healthcare across our region.”*

— Alexander Wood, Manager, Simulation Lab



# Celebrating the Heart of Learning at the Centre

## Spring Simulation Fair 2025

On March 12, the Simulation Lab hosted its annual Spring Fair, welcoming approximately 80 staff, physicians, learners, and volunteers for an interactive day of hands-on simulation activities. Participants gained a deeper understanding of how simulation training saves lives and how donor support continues to make this possible. The event featured:

- **Skills Stations:** ultrasound, laparoscopic skills, airways, and more
- **Sim Set-Ups:** realistic scenarios with manikins and equipment
- **Innovation Station:** showcasing in-house creations and special effects
- **CPR Competition:** test skills with real-time feedback
- **Games:** engaging, simulation-based activities designed to educate and motivate
- **Information on Services:** staff available to answer questions and share insights

## Learner and Preceptor Appreciation Day

On February 28, the Labelle Innovation and Learning Centre welcomed over 170 learners and preceptors for a special day of recognition and celebration. The event fostered a sense of community and gratitude for those shaping healthcare education and delivery. It featured the following mix of activities and treats that attendees enjoyed:

- Hands-on experiences with simulation task trainers
- The calming presence of pet therapy dogs
- Soothing foot massages
- A fun and interactive photo booth
- A hot chocolate bar paired with cookies
- An appreciation station, where attendees could write thank-you notes to those who made a difference





## Donor Impact on Novice Nurse Training

Onboarding the next generation of nurses is another area where donors are making an impact. Since May 2024, 101 nurses have attended the new Novice Nurse Workshop, made possible by a generous \$250,000 donation from the RBC Foundation. Before the end of 2025, 100 additional novice staff are expected to participate in this monthly simulation training, gaining valuable hands-on experience and learning opportunities.

This donation helps to address the unique challenges faced by new graduates and internationally educated nurses by supporting consistent, high-quality onboarding programs such as the Novice Nurse Workshop and SIM-2-You (where simulation and learning take place at the unit level). Since the launch of Sim-2-You monthly education topics and on-unit sessions in January this year, over 500 nurses have received hands-on training, further advancing nursing competencies and strengthening the workforce at HSN.

*"Simulation training plays a crucial role in strengthening our nursing workforce by allowing nurses to practice and refine their skills in a safe, controlled environment. By supporting training of our novice staff, we are closing experience gaps, building a more resilient workforce and ultimately improving the patient experience."*

— Julie Allen, Professional Practice Nurse Manager at HSN



## Thank You!

The impact of the Labelle Innovation and Learning Centre on healthcare education would not be possible without your support. This \$27.9 million facility stands as a testament to what can be achieved when a community comes together to champion excellence in learning and patient care.

Thank you to the Marcel and Frances Labelle Foundation (\$5 million), Crosstown Chevrolet (\$500,000), BMO (\$400,000), TD (\$250,000), and the countless others whose generosity helped bring this vision of exceptional learning to life.

Together, we are building a healthier future for our community and beyond.