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## MEDIA RELEASE

### GOOGLE.ORG ANNOUNCES \$1.5 MILLION RE-INVESTMENT IN ACTUA

*Waterloo, April 17, 2018/* Today, Actua attended the official opening of Google's new community space in Kitchener-Waterloo. At the event, Google.org announced a \$1.5 Million re-investment in Codemakers, Actua's coding and digital literacy program for youth across Canada.

"We are incredibly grateful for Google's significant re-investment in Actua's coding and digital literacy programming for youth across Canada. This support will help provide hundreds of thousands of youth with the critical knowledge and skills they need to become Canada's future innovators," said Jennifer Flanagan, President and CEO, Actua

This is Google.org's first ever re-investment in a Canadian charity. In the first three years of the partnership (2014-2017), the Codemakers program engaged over 165,000 youth in coding and digital skills programming (including over 31,000 Indigenous youth and 22,000 youth facing socio-economic challenges). This re-investment will help Actua reach an additional 75,000 Canadian youth, bringing the total to a quarter of a million Canadian youth.

"We're thrilled to continue our investment in Actua's Codemakers program. Through our funding renewal, we'll have helped a quarter of a million young Canadians learn about the technology that is shaping our world. We need more students pursuing an education in Computer Science, particularly those who have historically been underrepresented in the field, and today's announcement will help make that a reality," said Steven Woods, Senior Engineering Director, Google Canada.

Google.org also announced today a 1-year \$200,000 grant for Actua's network member Engineering Science Quest (ESQ), through the University of Waterloo's Engineering Outreach Program, to deliver programming that will help youth build computational thinking and digital skills as well as provide parents and teachers access to information and resources.

**About Actua:** Actua is Canada's leading science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) youth outreach network representing 35 university and college based members. Each year 250,000 young Canadians in over 500 communities nationwide are inspired through hands-on educational workshops, camps and community outreach initiatives. Actua focuses on the engagement of underrepresented youth through specialized programs for Indigenous youth, girls and young women, at-risk youth and youth living in Northern and remote communities. Actua's major funders include: Government of Canada, Google Canada, Suncor Energy Foundation, GE Canada, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Finning, Toyota Canada Foundation and Lockheed Martin. For more information about Actua, visit [actua.ca](http://actua.ca).

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