



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Prime Minister Justin Trudeau Participates in Actua-led Coding Activities at Google Waterloo Office Opening**

*Waterloo, Ontario, January 14, 2015/* Today Google welcomed Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to the grand opening of Google's Waterloo office, where Actua was on hand to lead a special Codemakers workshop.

The Prime Minister was greeted by a class of grade 7 students from Northlake Woods Public School who were participating in Actua and Google's Codemakers Program, a hands-on computer science and digital skills building program that helps youth develop strong digital skills to become tomorrow's technology innovators.

The grade 7 students, led by Actua's network members from the University of Waterloo's Engineering Outreach and from the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Engineering, had the opportunity to showcase their coding and 3D printing skills to the Prime Minister. In turn, the Prime Minister led the students on a virtual reality tour of Parliament Hill using Google Cardboard Expedition. On the virtual tour, the Prime Minister was able to show the students the inside of Canada's House of Commons, as well as his very own office.

"Today is just one example of how Actua and Google are working together to inspire the next generation of innovators through our Codemakers program," said Jennifer Flanagan, President and CEO of Actua. "We are thrilled to participate in today's event with the Prime Minister to highlight the critical importance of building digital skills in youth".

The event concluded with Google's Senior Director of Engineering, Steve Woods leading one of the students and the Prime Minister in a digital ribbon cutting game using Scratch and Makey-Makey, two digital tools used in the delivery of Codemakers programs across Canada.

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**About Actua:** Actua is Canada's leading science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) youth outreach network. Over 3 million young Canadians have been inspired through their participation in Actua's positive, hands on educational workshops, camps and community outreach initiatives. Each year, Actua's growing network of member organizations reach over 225,000 young Canadians in over 500 communities nationwide. Actua's major funders include: Google Canada, Suncor Energy Foundation, GE Canada, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and Shell Canada. For more information about Actua, visit [www.actua.ca](http://www.actua.ca).

**About Codemakers:** Codemakers is a 3-year project, powered by a grant from Google.org that transforms the way youth think about computer science and technology. The project features dynamic new computer science (CS) and technology experiences that will inspire more than 100,000 young



Canadians including girls, Indigenous youth, Northern youth, and those facing socioeconomic challenges, to become the innovative computer science technology builders of tomorrow.

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