



MEDIA RELEASE

The Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science addresses Actua's National Conference

Ottawa, Ontario, January 22/ Today, Actua welcomed the Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science to its annual National Conference to speak on the State of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) in Canada.

Minister Duncan was greeted by a room of 60 delegates representing Actua's network members from universities and colleges across Canada. The Minister was introduced by Actua's CEO, Jennifer Flanagan, who expressed gratitude for the genuine support and enthusiasm the Minister has shown for Actua to date.

"What I love about Minister Duncan's background is how steeped her experience is in the scientific community and her obvious long-held passion for and commitment to STEM outreach," said Flanagan.

Canada's new Minister of Science emphasized the importance of engaging girls and women in STEM, noting only 22% of Canadians working in STEM fields are women. The Minister also pointed out that she is only the second woman in Canadian history to have the word "science" in their Ministerial title.

"We want to help create a vibrant science culture in Canada and to do that, our young people need a solid STEM foundation, so they can take on the knowledge-based jobs of the future. I look forward to working with organizations like Actua to help our young people get excited about science and research and to encourage them to pursue careers in STEM fields and take on these challenges for the betterment of all Canadians," said Minister Duncan.

Dr. Mario Pinto, the President of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), which supports Actua through its PromoScience program, was present to thank the Minister and deliver remarks.

"With the help of organizations like Actua, NSERC will achieve its vision of a scientifically-engaged Canada," said Dr. Pinto.

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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.

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