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MEDIA RELEASE

\$60 MILLION DOLLAR RENEWAL OF CANCODE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED IN FEDERAL BUDGET

Ottawa, March 19, 2019/ Today the federal government released its 2019 Budget, which included a \$60 million renewal of CanCode over two-year period, CanCode is a government initiative that supports accessible coding and digital skills experiences for youth in K-12 to prepare them for the future of work.

“We are happy to see CanCode renewed, and look forward to participating in the next application process. I’m incredibly proud of what Actua and its network members have accomplished to date with support from this program. We know there’s still a lot of work to do to equip youth with the digital skills and literacy needed to thrive in the workforce.” said Jennifer Flanagan, CEO, Actua

Actua received \$10M dollars in CanCode funding in 2017 which ends on March 31st, 2019. In that time, Actua engaged half a million youth and 13,000 educators in hands-on coding and digital skills building experiences.

“Memorial Engineering Outreach was able to almost double the number of participants that it could reach as a result of the Actua’s CanCode funding,” said Andrew Fisher, Associate Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science at Memorial University. “In addition to expanding our traditional youth programs, there is no way that we could bring hands-on technological literacy experiences to Labrador and to a host of under-represented groups on the island without this critical support.”

“I am delighted to see the CanCode program renewed. The impact of this funding on SCI-FI Science Camps’ engagement of urban and Indigenous young people is significant. Our Indigenous leaders have told us this is making a real difference their youth,” said Dr. Suzanne Kresta, Dean of the College of Engineering, University of Saskatchewan.

Actua’s coding and digital skills programming is also supported by Google, Suncor, RBC Foundation, TD, Microsoft, Finning, Toyota Canada Foundation, Imperial, Mastercard, Lockheed Martin, GE Canada, and Rogers.

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About Actua: Actua is Canada's leading science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) youth outreach network representing [37 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, Finning, Toyota Canada Foundation and Lockheed Martin. For more information about Actua, visit actua.ca.

[View full list of Actua Network Members at: www.actua.ca/allprograms](http://www.actua.ca/allprograms)