

For Immediate Release: July 29, 2009

Nunavut Youth Discover Their Inner Scientist!

Youth throughout Nunavut will discover their potential as electrical engineers, chemists, environmental scientists and health researchers this summer! They will learn how astronauts recycle their own sweat as well as water from the shower by building a water filtration system to filter “grey water” into clean drinking water! They will construct miniature robots, extract and analyze DNA samples, and learn how the body absorbs nutrition by constructing a model digestive tract! If there is time left over, they will dissect an owl pellet, build a trebuchet, or engineer a glider.

These are just a few of the many fun and exciting opportunities that youth will have to explore the world of science around them at summer science camps that are being held in Rankin Inlet, Gjoa Haven, Igloolik, Hall Beach and Iqaluit. The camps are delivered by Actua, a national non-profit organization that inspires youth through hands-on science, engineering and technology programming across Canada.

For over ten years, Actua has delivered science workshops and camps throughout many isolated and remote communities in Nunavut, Northwest Territories and the Yukon. “Our goal is to build confidence and interest among youth in the areas of science and technology whether or not they actually go on to study science. By engaging youth in experiences that demonstrate how science is exciting, fun, and related to every day life, they start to see the potential role that science can play in their lives,” says Jennifer Flanagan, Actua President and CEO.

The camps have been very well received in the host communities, with many requesting repeat program for next summer. “The best part about the camp was the fact that all the activities were hands-on, and that my child not only had an amazing time, he came home with something new that he learned everyday!” says one parent. The campers have been equally impressed with the programming. “On the first day of our camp in Gjoa Haven only 10 campers were present. By the second day, campers were waiting on the porch for us before we arrived for camp, and we reached over 50 youth!” says an instructor from the Gjoa Haven camp.

Wherever possible, Elders and community members are invited to take part in local programming and enhance Actua’s curriculum with Traditional Knowledge. At this summer’s camp in Igloolik, campers were visited by an Elder from the community who spoke to them about the importance of education and planning for one’s future. The youth this summer have been inspired by their science camp experience, and their enthusiasm is shown in what they

had to say at the conclusion of camp “I like this...I love this! I want to do this forever!” – camper, Igloodik.

Actua is Canada’s leading science, engineering and technology youth outreach network. Over 2.9 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 450 communities nationwide. Actua’s major funders include: GE Canada, Synapse – CIHR Youth Connection, Suncor Energy Foundation, NSERC and Shell Canada. For more information about Actua visit www.actua.ca.

- 30 -

Contact Information:

Leslie Cuthbertson, Director of Partnerships and Communications, Actua
Claire Bellefeuille, Communications and Fundraising Coordinator, Actua
15 York Street, Ottawa ON K1N 5S7
Tel: (613) 234 4137 Fax: 613 234 4779
E-Mail: leslie.cuthbertson@actua.ca
E-Mail: claire.bellefeuille@actua.ca
Web: www.actua.ca