

## **Brian Aspinall joins Actua's as Manager of Digital Skills and Training**

*Ottawa, September 6, 2017/* Today, Actua announced that Brian Aspinall, recipient of a Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence in Coding, will be joining its national team as Manager of Digital Skills and Training effective immediately.

A teacher and an expert in coding and computational thinking in the classroom, Brian is an internationally recognized thought leader in digital skills education. Brian is a three-time TEDx speaker on education reform and has delivered teacher training on integration of coding in the classroom nationally and internationally.

"We couldn't be more excited to have Brian join our team - his expertise, drive and passion for youth skills development in science, technology and innovation is one of kind and will hugely benefit Canada's STEM outreach community," said Jennifer Flanagan, President and CEO of Actua.

In his new role, Brian will lead Actua's Codemakers program and the development of coding content to be delivered in camps, clubs and workshops across Canada through Actua's network of university and college based members. He will also serve as a spokesperson for Actua, providing thought leadership on best practices for digital skills education in Canada.

"Joining such a high-impact organization as Actua is a unique opportunity to bring digital literacy to a wider national audience" said Brian. "I look forward to working with Actua's network members to reach youth in every corner of the country with experiential coding content."

To learn more about Actua's work in fostering digital knowledge and skills for youth through our national Codemakers program, visit [www.actua.ca/codemakers](http://www.actua.ca/codemakers).

**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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