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MEDIA RELEASE

TRACKS Youth Program at Trent University becomes Actua's newest network member

Ottawa, August 9, 2018/ Today Actua announced TRACKS (Trent Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge and Science) Youth Program as its 36th network member. Based in Peterborough, Ontario, TRACKS Youth Program has successfully gone through Actua's network membership application process and has been approved by Actua's Board of Directors.

"We are very pleased to welcome TRACKS Youth Program at Trent University to the Actua network," said Jennifer Flanagan, CEO of Actua. "The TRACKS Youth Program has shown strong leadership in developing successful practices in STEM education for Indigenous youth."

TRACKS Youth Program is an award-winning youth outreach program at Trent University in association with the Indigenous Environmental Studies and Sciences Program (IESS) and the Kawartha World Issues Centre (KWIC). Working in partnership with local First Nations, school boards, and other not-for-profits both urban and rural, TRACKS Youth Program takes an Indigenous-and-environmental approach to science education, seeking to engage youth in meaningful, hands-on environmental STEM education that is culturally responsive and rooted in personal and community growth and relationship-building. The program was an inaugural winner of the UL Innovation in Education award, administered by the North American Association of Environmental Educators.

TRACKS engages over 7,000 youth annually through school workshops, outreach, camp events and a youth leadership program, Oshkwazin. Their mentorship-based approach allows the program to build long-lasting relationships with youth, families, communities and partners in the Peterborough and surrounding areas.

"In just six years of active programming, TRACKS Youth Program has grown far beyond what its founding committee at Trent University could have imagined. Each year, it is proven by our camps' high enrolment rates, ever-growing partnerships with First Nations, Indigenous organizations and school boards, as well as positive feedback from participants, parents and teachers, that TRACKS programming is necessary in the greater Peterborough area," said Dr. Chris Furgal, Associate Professor at Trent University. "As a member of Actua, TRACKS hopes to learn from other successful STEM camp programs how to sustainably grow while maintaining its commitment to excellent curriculum delivery and instructor training. TRACKS also hopes to share with other Actua members its vision and passion for bringing together Indigenous knowledge and science in educational programming."

About Actua: Actua is Canada's leading science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) youth outreach network representing 36 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.

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