



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Prime Minister announces transformational funding for Let's Talk Science**

GUELPH, ONT. – The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, today announced \$2 million in funding for Let's Talk Science, a national, non-profit science outreach organization dedicated to bringing science to life for children and youth across Canada.

The grant funding, which is part of the Youth STEM initiative launched in November by the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario), was announced by the Prime Minister during an assembly of students at St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic School in Guelph.

"Let's Talk Science is extremely appreciative of the Government of Canada for this transformative investment in our work," said Let's Talk Science President & Founder, Bonnie Schmidt, PhD. "FedDev Ontario's Youth STEM initiative is a critical investment in Ontario's future."

The Youth STEM initiative aims to enhance or expand educational science and technology outreach programs that increase young people's awareness about the rewards of pursuing an education or career in the sciences.

With this funding, Let's Talk Science will engage southern Ontario youth in their sphere – online and mobile – by evolving CurioCity.ca, an interactive, relevant web-based platform where teens can explore the science in their lives. Let's Talk Science will also connect southern Ontario youth with outstanding role models in the fields of science, engineering and technology to provide relevant science-based experiences and showcase career opportunities.

"This grant allows Let's Talk Science to dramatically increase our reach in southern Ontario – connecting many more children and youth to enthusiastic role models in the fields of science," said Schmidt. "Our volunteers bring science to life, demonstrate that it is relevant to our everyday lives and help build skills and knowledge that prepare youth for their futures."

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**MEDIA CONTACT:** Krista Habermehl, 519-870-7335, [khhabermehl@letstalkscience.ca](mailto:khhabermehl@letstalkscience.ca)

**ABOUT LET'S TALK SCIENCE:**

Let's Talk Science is an award-winning, national, charitable, science outreach organization. We deliver science learning programs and services that turn kids on to science, keep them engaged in learning and develop their potential to become 21st century stewards, innovators and citizens. Through our Science Outreach, we engage more than 2,200 enthusiastic post-secondary student volunteers at 33 universities and colleges across Canada to turn more than 110,000 kids on to science, engineering and technology each year. For more information about Let's Talk Science, visit [letstalkscience.ca](http://letstalkscience.ca).