

## Local students explore, compete and celebrate at 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Let's Talk Science Challenge at McMaster University

Hamilton, ON (Thursday, May 21, 2015) – Approximately 220 Grade 6, 7 and 8 students from Hamilton and area schools will unite to explore, compete and celebrate today at the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Let's Talk Science Challenge at McMaster University where it first began. The event is hosted by Let's Talk Science, an award-winning national charitable youth development organization.

The Let's Talk Science Challenge is a fun, team-based competitive event that ignites students' interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and invites them to develop and apply their knowledge, teamwork, leadership, critical thinking and problem-solving skills in a fun learning experience. With more than 70% of Canadian jobs demanding STEM knowledge or expertise by the time these students graduate, Let's Talk Science is helping to prepare youth to live and work in an increasingly scientific world with this event and its other innovative education programs.

The Let's Talk Science Challenge at McMaster University will feature: inspiring key note remarks by former astronaut Dr. Robert Thirsk; hands-on science demos and activities, a giant team-based science quiz-show, a mystery design competition for student teams, a chemistry magic show and closing ceremonies with prizes and a 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Many students have been preparing for the quiz show element since January. Let's Talk Science organizes and runs the event with student volunteers, faculty and staff at McMaster University as part of the national Let's Talk Science Outreach program.

McMaster University is one of 23 universities and colleges across Canada hosting the Let's Talk Science Challenge in April and May with 3,500 students participating nationally. To date, 141 Challenge events have been held in 26 different institutions reaching 18,054 students in Grades 6, 7 and 8, coast to coast. Through its free programs, Let's Talk Science supports youth literacy by engaging students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) from Kindergarten to Grade 12. CH2M, Honda Canada Foundation, Takeda Canada, Shaw (Broadcast Partner), Symantec Canada Corporation and 3M Canada are national supporters of this year's competition and Bonavista Energy Corporation, CH2M Foundation, Dow Chemical Canada are the regional supporters.

### About Let's Talk Science

Let's Talk Science is an award-winning, national, charitable organization focused on education and outreach to support youth development. The organization creates and delivers unique learning programs and services that engage children, youth and educators in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Let's Talk Science strives to prepare youth for their future careers and role as citizens in a rapidly changing world. Let's Talk Science was founded in London, Ontario in 1993. From its office located in London, it serves national audiences. For more information about Let's Talk Science, visit [www.letstalkscience.ca](http://www.letstalkscience.ca).

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