



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TSX Venture Exchange: FYT

FYTOKEM ANNOUNCES POSITIVE TEST RESULTS

--Canadian Willowherb™ Proven Effective in Killing Acne Bacterium--

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, June 18, 2002 – Fytokem Products Inc. (Fytokem), a leading producer of *Function-Certified™ plant-based ingredients*, today announced that its Canadian Willowherb™ extract and the active molecule, Oenothein-B, contained in it have been scientifically proven to kill *Propionibacterium acnes*, a bacterium that is associated with acne. Unlike a number of existing acne treatments, Canadian Willowherb™ has no known side effects.

Recent independent laboratory tests conducted by Consumer Product Testing Co., in Fairfield, New Jersey revealed that 99.9% of the bacteria were eliminated upon application of a variety of the Company's Canadian Willowherb™ products, including the active molecule, Oenothein-B in time frames as short as 2 minutes.

Fytokem has filed for patent protection for the use of Canadian Willowherb™ and Oenothein-B for skin disorders caused by *Propionibacterium acnes*.

Existing acne treatments, such as benzoyl peroxide and topical antibiotic therapies have numerous side effects including irritation, burning, erythema (redness), peeling, dryness and itching of the skin. Another drawback of these therapies is the fact that they are only effective after extended periods of time. Canadian Willowherb™ and the active molecule Oenothein-B are fast acting and have already been scientifically proven to be effective in *preventing* these same side effects. Fytokem's earlier patent application on Oenothein-B clearly demonstrates this. A variety of brand name cosmetics around the world have included Canadian Willowherb™ for this same anti-irritation and anti-inflammation property.

“These test results not only give our Canadian Willowherb™ and Oenothein-B product offerings a new multi-billion dollar market opportunity,” says Art Hesje, President and CEO. “But it also greatly enhances these products marketability in the international cosmetics business as a whole. Many cosmetics actually cause or contribute to the acne problem. Our Canadian Willowherb™-based products are all-natural solutions that both reduce redness and irritation and also effectively kill the acne bacterium. Efforts are currently underway to confirm these results under a variety of conditions and to begin developing the product as an acne treatment.”

About Acne

Statistics have shown that approximately 85% of all teenagers in the US have been or will be affected by acne to some degree. It is interesting to note that 53% of acne remedy users are beyond their teen years. The US acne prescription and OTC (non-prescription) market is currently valued in the region of US\$2.5 billion (Lehman Brothers, 2001). According to the American Academy of Dermatology, acne has become

the most commonly treated skin abnormality; acne sufferers constitute the largest single category of dermatology patients.

The elimination of the *Propionibacterium acnes* bacterium and reduction of inflammation and associated redness are all part of an effective acne treatment.

About Fytokem Products Inc.

Fytokem Products Inc. is a Canadian life sciences company engaged in the discovery and commercialization of novel *Function-Certified*[™] plant-based substances – extracts, phytochemicals and bioactive molecules – for use as ingredients in personal care, nutraceutical, pharmaceutical and bio-industrial products, both domestically and internationally. Fytokem has applied for several scientific patents, and has developed a proprietary commercial scale manufacturing process.

Fytokem's common shares trade on the TSX Venture Exchange under the symbol FYT; the Company has 14,462,121 shares outstanding.

The TSX Venture Exchange has neither approved nor disapproved the information herein contained.

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Art Hesje

President and CEO

Fytokem Products Inc.

306-668-2552 tel.

306-978-2436 fax

ahesje@fytokem.com

www.fytokem.com

Acne Backgrounder

Acne is a very common skin disorder. It is caused by plugging of the sebaceous follicles or pores. Milder forms are characterized by blackheads or whiteheads, and more severe acne causes cysts and nodules, which may lead to serious scarring. The disorder affects skin areas where the sebaceous glands are most active, and a mixture of sebum (oil) along with shedding skin cells causes proliferation of bacteria. Although several bacteria may be involved, most commonly the resident bacteria, *Propionibacterium acnes*, is increased. This, in turn, produces inflammation. The result is the disorder called acne, characterized by redness, inflammation, and pus on the skin's surface. Although acne is most common in teenagers, adults in their 20s and even 40s and older may suffer from acne. Control of acne is an ongoing process and is difficult because the disorder is caused by a multitude of factors. Treatments most often work by preventing new acne, such as by reducing the number of *P. acnes* bacteria or by reducing inflammation. Acne may be resistant to these measures, and often no single treatment, or even multiple treatments, are effective in controlling this complex skin disorder.