

\$20 million invested in genomics research
Québec excels with four promising projects in the fisheries,
agri-food, health and digital sectors

Montréal, July 23, 2019 – New federal investments were announced today as part of the Genome Canada competition *Genomics Solutions for Agriculture, Agri-food, Fisheries and Aquaculture* and under its *Genomic Applications Partnership Program (GAPP)*.

In Québec, four research teams received a total of \$20 million in funding for projects that will drive the development of genomics solutions in the fisheries, agri-food, health and digital sectors. The projects focus primarily on meeting specific industry and societal needs.

The *2018 Large-Scale Applied Research Project Competition: Genomics Solutions for Agriculture, Agri-food, Fisheries and Aquaculture* aims to support projects leading to solutions that advance the sustainability, productive capacity and competitive position of the agriculture, agri-food, fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

Congratulations to researcher **Louis Bernatchez (Institut de biologie intégrative des systèmes (IBIS) - Université Laval)**, for his project [*FISHES: Fostering Indigenous Small-scale Fisheries for Health, Economy and Food Security*](#).

The *Genomic Applications Partnership Program (GAPP)* encourages partnerships between university researchers and end users in order to meet the needs of key sectors (human health, agriculture, forestry, the environment). Initiatives funded under the program offer real-world solutions to current problems and build stronger bridges between industry and end users.

Congratulations to the three research teams:

- **Christoph Borchers (McGill University)**
[*Developing the Next Generation PD-L1 Assays Using Precision Mass Spectrometry*](#).
- **Steve Labrie (INAF - Université Laval)**
[*Genomic-based approach to optimize the development of texturizing bacterial strains in yogurt*](#).
- **Jérôme Waldispühl (McGill University)**
[*Crowdsourcing sequence alignments in a AAA game for microbiome research*](#).

Daniel Coderre, President and CEO of Génome Québec, wishes to recognize the excellence of the four selected research teams:

“The work of these researchers stimulates innovation in strategically important sectors for Québec and encourages the development of solid research partnerships that will help our economy and our communities thrive and prosper. Three of the GAPP projects, for example, have led to important collaborations with private sector companies, such as General Mills, MRM Proteomics Inc. and Massively Multiplayer Online Science. I would also like to acknowledge the work of Professor Louis Bernatchez, whose project was the first in Québec to be financed under Genome Canada’s large-scale competition

in fisheries. The aim of his FISHES research is to develop genomic resources for six species of fish that are critical to Canada's northern communities. The tools will be used to identify the genetic profile of fish populations and assess their vulnerability to climate conditions. It's a project that can greatly advance knowledge for the improvement of food security, sustainable fishing activities and the social well-being of Indigenous communities (Inuit, Cree and Dene)."

About Génome Québec

Génome Québec's mission is to catalyze the development and excellence of genomics research and promote its integration and democratization. It is a pillar of the Québec bioeconomy and contributes to Québec's influence and its social and sustainable development.

The funds invested by Génome Québec are provided by the ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation du Québec ([MEI](#)), the Government of Canada, through [Genome Canada](#), and private partners.

To learn more, visit www.genomequebec.com

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