

2020-2021 BUDGET QUÉBEC GOVERNMENT REITERATES ITS CONFIDENCE IN GÉNOME QUÉBEC

Montréal, March 12, 2020 — Génome Québec commends the vision of the Québec Government, which has once again recognized the strategic importance of genomics research. By allocating \$81 million to genomics research and clinical research – a substantial portion of which is earmarked for Génome Québec – the Government has chosen to focus on this disruptive technology as a way to develop a knowledge- and technology-based economy.

Québec is recognized as a global leader in the field of genomics. Over the last twenty years, we have developed a well-organized pool of expertise and high-performance infrastructure. The time has now come to leverage this knowledge for the benefit of our economy and community. For Daniel Coderre, President and CEO of Génome Québec, “This renewed sign of confidence in Génome Québec strengthens our resolve to foster even more partnerships, enhance our competitiveness and promote excellence in order to boost our performance, both nationally and internationally, which in turn will help attract talent and foreign investments.” Proven models, for example in England, have shown that genomics can serve as an important strategic magnet when it comes to the creation of value.

The budget presented on March 10, by the Minister of Finance, Éric Girard, sends a very encouraging message to the research and innovation community, particularly in life sciences, with many indications in the budget pointing to a solid commitment to knowledge. These include measures to:

- accelerate the adoption and integration of innovative solutions into healthcare systems;
- offer innovative treatments, including CAR T-cell therapy for people with leukemia;
- increase the number of clinical trials conducted by Québec businesses, facilitate cooperation among stakeholders of the life science sector and accelerate the development of innovative treatments;
- promote the increased use of artificial intelligence in life sciences;
- boost the development, promotion and commercialization of innovations to support the recruitment of foreign researchers and experts.

Lastly, several measures in the budget have confirmed the Government’s commitment to addressing environmental challenges and climate change. In this respect, Génome Québec is looking forward to the imminent release of the related policy framework.

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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