

1.2 MILLION CONTRACT FOR QUEBEC

Montreal, May 17, 2004 – The McGill University and Genome Quebec Innovation Centre has announced the signing of a service agreement with GenoMed, a US company located in St. Louis, Missouri that specializes in using genomics to practice better medicine. The Illumina genotyping solution drove this \$1.2 million contract win for Quebec. The McGill University and Genome Quebec Innovation Centre is one of the rare centres in the world to have integrated this exclusive technology; it will guarantee optimal ROI via a complete, fully integrated solution providing the capacity, cost-effectiveness and flexibility life sciences researchers need to further develop the field of genomics and proteomics. Said David Moskowitz, Chairman and CEO of GenoMed, "Our genotyping consists of two stages: screening a very large number of SNPs, and validating relatively few of them. Only Illumina's genotyping technology lets us screen tens of thousands of SNPs simultaneously. We think we've gotten literally the best deal in the world by having the Montreal Genome Centre perform this large-scale screening project." In the words of Paul L'Archevêque, President and CEO of Genome Quebec, "This service agreement clearly illustrates the organization's desire to make scientific research more credible by creating a favourable, attractive environment that will make Quebec a centre of research excellence." Its reputation, expertise and high-quality services mean that the McGill University and Genome Quebec Innovation Centre can attract clients from Quebec, the rest of Canada, New England and elsewhere across the US. Genome Quebec was created to make Quebec a member of the privileged ranks of international leaders in genomics and proteomics research. In combining considerable financial resources with a system for managing major research projects, Genome Quebec represents a new development model that makes it especially possible to support the best teams of researchers from academic, industrial and government settings. Its mission is to mobilize the research and business sectors to continue growing Quebec's presence and role in the life sciences sector. Genome Quebec manages a portfolio worth some \$220 million. -30- Source: Marie-Kym Brisson Director, Communications and Public Relations (514) 398-0668 – mkbrisson@genomequebec.com