

Génomique Québec welcomes the new SQRI **An ambitious and visionary strategy for a prosperous, innovative Québec**

Montréal, May 12, 2017 — Génomique Québec warmly welcomes today's announcement on the new Québec Research and Innovation Strategy (SQRI) presented by Québec Premier Philippe Couillard and Dominique Anglade, Minister of Economy, Science and Innovation.

After extensive consultation, the Québec government has unveiled the main targets of the ambitious strategy, which by 2022 aims to position Québec as one of the top ten research and innovation leaders of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). By 2030, the government hopes to make Québec one of the world's most innovative societies. Génomique Québec is extremely pleased with the strategy, developed to stimulate the entire innovation chain – from basic research to commercialization.

As part of this strategy, the government has allocated \$40 million to our organization to boost Québec's performance in large-scale Genome Canada research programs.

According to Daniel Coderre, President and CEO of Génomique Québec, this support will help us to capitalize on our major strengths and focus on cooperation to establish Québec as a global leader for change: "This move is sending a clear message regarding the role of genomics as a force for innovation and economic prosperity in Québec. Advances resulting from the disruptive technology pave the way for new approaches in a variety of fields and serve as a remarkable hotbed of innovative solutions. In this respect, Québec has already made major strides in recent years. We will keep up our efforts on building strategic partnerships in four promising sectors: precision medicine, agrifood, forestry and the environment. We will also continue to capitalize on the tremendous potential of two sectors of excellence, artificial intelligence and genomics. Their convergence will help Québec attain a unique position on the world stage, attract foreign investments and contribute to the development of a new industrial sector."

To promote access to competitive infrastructures, the government will also provide special support to technology platforms. Such investments are necessary for the optimal operation of technological facilities, so they may be used to their full capacity. According to Génomique Québec, the support will promote access to high-performance technologies in genomics and provide the scientific community with the tools it needs to respond to the challenges resulting from international competition, among others.

Finally, the government's focus on talent development and succession planning aligns with Génomique Québec's priorities in keeping with its strategic plan. Faced with complex technologies and the need to integrate them into society, one of our challenges is to successfully implement the transfer of knowledge by supporting the uptake by users of these technologies. To that end, we fully support the government's desire to stimulate interest in science and innovation and to develop the capacity of citizens and institutions to make decisions based on scientific knowledge.

About Génomique Québec

Génomique Québec is an economic development organization that contributes to strengthening the competitiveness of the genomics innovation system in order to maximize its socioeconomic impact in Québec. It does so by funding major research initiatives in genomics and putting in place the tools necessary for scientific and strategic development in the field.

The funds invested by Génomique Québec are provided by the ministère de l'Économie, de la Science et de l'Innovation du Québec (MESI), the Government of Canada, through Genome Canada, and private partners.

To learn more, go to www.genomequebec.com.

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