

Federal government invests \$40 million in research to combat COVID-19

***Génome Québec commends the federal government's contribution to research***

**Montréal, April 23, 2020** — The President and CEO of Génome Québec, Daniel Coderre, applauds Ottawa's decision to invest \$40 million in research on sequencing the genomes of the virus and of patients to better understand the behaviour and evolution of the virus, as well as the different immune reactions by patients. The initiative is part of a \$1 billion package of measures announced today by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in support of medical research into COVID-19.

With Canadian genome scientists playing a leading role in research on combatting the pandemic, Mr. Coderre expressed his gratitude for this significant gesture from the Canadian government. Concretely, the funding will be used to sequence the genomes of 10,000 patients and 150,000 viral samples, across Canada, in order to create a "virus-to-patient" database. This database will serve as a decision-making resource for public health authorities and support the development of therapies and vaccines. The federal investment, which will be coordinated by Genome Canada and its Genome Centres, will have direct benefits for Québec.

In the past twenty years, Génome Québec has built a solid reputation, and today it is recognized for its expertise in genomics and its quality technological services. "We are waiting for information on the distribution of these funds and are currently in discussion with the Québec public health laboratory to establish the collaborative plan on initiating the sequencing work," said Daniel Coderre.

Génome Québec operates the Centre d'expertise et de services recognized globally for the excellence of its services. Based at the CHU Sainte-Justine, the Centre is already working with health authorities. The Québec government has consistently expressed its confidence in Génome Québec, most recently in its 2020-2021 budget. "Our teams of qualified experts are ready to work with public health authorities on this major collective effort, which will build our capacity to respond and manage future outbreaks of COVID-19 or other pandemics," added Daniel Coderre.

To learn more about this major announcement by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, we invite you to read [the press release issued by Genome Canada](#).

**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](http://www.genomequebec.com)

- 30 -

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