

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

PROVINCIAL BUDGET 2019-2020

A limited impact on the life sciences and health technologies sector

Montréal, March 21, 2019 – Montréal InVivo commends the Québec Government's balanced budget which gives priority to education and health and its ambition to reduce the economic gap between Québec and its neighbours and partners. "Even if the life sciences and health technologies sector is not listed as a priority in this budget, several measures that were announced could have an impact on our sector," said Frank Béraud, CEO of Montréal InVivo.

The life sciences and health technologies (LSHT) industrial cluster commends the \$85-million investment to support active venture capital funds, particularly in start-ups and in life sciences. This announcement addresses a specific need already identified in the *Québec Life Sciences Strategy*.

Montréal InVivo is also pleased with the significant investments announced in the area of artificial intelligence. The artificial intelligence applications dedicated to the life sciences and health technologies sector are growing. Investing in training and research, and the adoption of these technologies by companies will most certainly benefit the LSHT sector.

The issue of access to health data has come up many times and, for several years now, by the cluster and its members. The increased methods made available to the Institut de la statistique du Québec (ISQ) to facilitate this access to researchers associated with public bodies is good news. Montréal InVivo is nevertheless questioning the place that will be given to industrial researchers who would also wish to have easier and more secure access to anonymized health data in order to develop new products and services even better aligned with the needs of Québec's population.

Furthermore, Montréal InVivo has advocated for a long time that the healthcare network implement a procurement process based on value rather than cost. With this in mind, it wants to ensure that the industry will be well represented and adequately heard in the community

responsible for implementing the future government procurement centre whose purpose will be to combine in a single entity all government purchases.

"We are committed to maintaining a quality dialogue with the Government of Québec and to continuing to provide a coordinating role between all industry stakeholders, including our government partners," concluded Frank Béraud.

QUÉBEC'S LSHT SECTOR:

- 56,000 jobs
- 1.6% of the province's GDP
- R&D investments of 12% of sales in 2014
- Ranks 10th in North America
- \$3.5 billion in private investments in five years in the province

About Montréal InVivo

Montréal InVivo is the brand name for the life sciences and health technologies (LSHT) cluster of the Montréal metropolitan area. The cluster comprises almost 630 organizations, including more than 150 research centres, 80 subsidiaries of world-class companies, and 56,000 people employed in the sector. A wellspring of great ideas, the cluster includes four universities and ranks first in Canada for the number of research centres. Montréal InVivo is a non-profit economic development organization dedicated to the creation of wealth. Its activities are supported by funding from the Ministère de l'Économie, de l'Innovation et des Exportations (MEIE), the Secrétariat à la région métropolitaine reporting to the Ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'Occupation du territoire, the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal (CMM), Canada Economic Development (CED) and private and institutional sectors.

-30-

Contact:

Catherine Villeneuve
Communications Manager
Montréal InVivo
cvilleneuve@montreal-invivo.com
www.montreal-invivo.com