# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

# BIODUÉBEC

The Quebec Bio-Industries and Life Sciences Business Network



Throughout history, the shores of the St. Lawrence River have served as both the starting point and the last stop for many explorers, adventurers, and fishermen of all kinds. BIOQuébec's members are their kindred spirits: they, too, have a strong desire to discover, develop, and share the results of their discoveries with the public: tests, drugs, vaccines, and other life sciences related products and services focused on health.

The pandemic has had a catastrophic effect. Metaphorically speaking, uncontrollable elements came together and unleashed the power of the sea. The storm created many upheavals that forced our industry to adapt quickly. Despite the uncertainty and all the unknowns, life sciences companies worked hard and rode the wave through a most turbulent period.

During this tumultuous year, BIOQuébec proved to be a reference point and beacon for its members. The association was proactive in highlighting pitfalls, obstacles, and struggles. In the face of adversity, it remained steadfast and determined to reaffirm its relevance by making the voice of life sciences organizations heard, connecting key people, and fostering a healthy business environment in which they can continue their operations.

Now that brighter days seem to be on the horizon - thanks in part to the vaccines that are the fruit of many of our companies' labour – it is the right time to recognize and celebrate the socio-economic contribution of both BIOQuébec and its members. Our accomplishments will serve as the cornerstone upon which we will build a stronger foundation as we move towards economic recovery.

Thank you to our members, partners, and collaborators for your commitment and support.

Enjoy!



Michel Fortin President of the Board of Directors



Anie Perrault Executive Director

MESSAGE FROM THE **PRESIDENT** AND THE **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** 



Like the explorers, adventurers, and fishermen who have travelled the St. Lawrence, BIOQuébec's members relentlessly face the elements in their quest to discover, develop, and commercialize tests, drugs, vaccines, and other life science products and services. Their innovations have the potential to improve everyone's health and quality of life. Thank you for your vital contribution.







The Quebec Bio-Industries and Life Sciences Business Network

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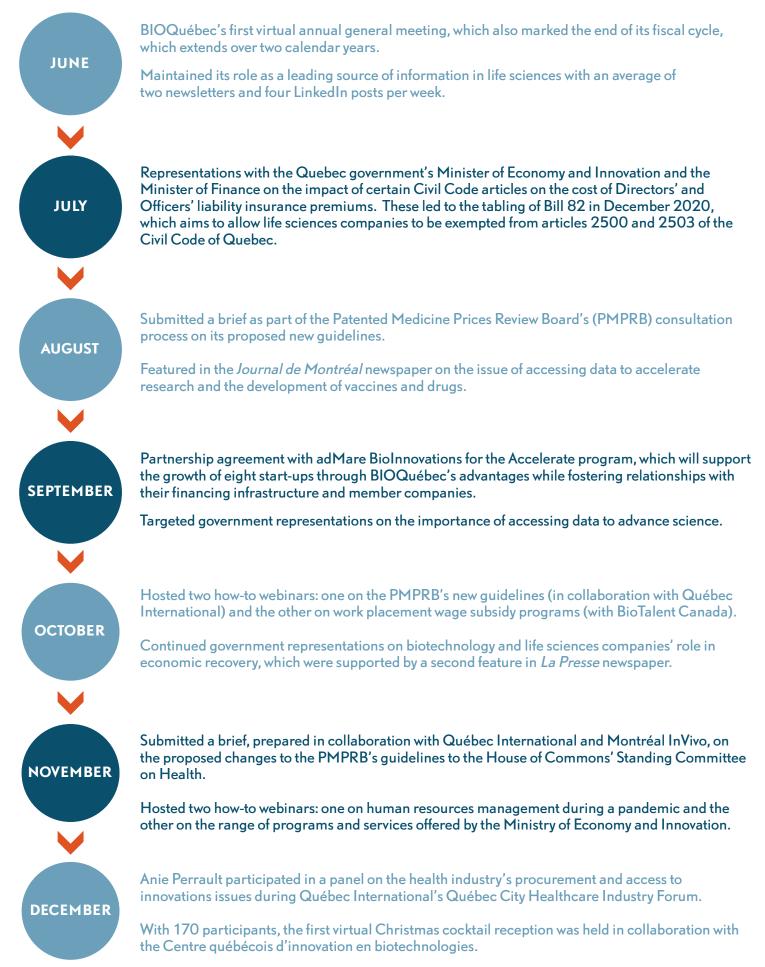
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**2020** HIGHLIGHTS

### MOST WILL REMEMBER 2020 FOR MULTIPLE REASONS, INCLUDING THE PROACTIVE ROLE BIOQUÉBEC PLAYED IN DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF ITS MEMBERS.







# BIOQUÉBEC **PROFILE**

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

BIOQuébec is a not-for-profit organization committed to supporting the growth of Quebec's biotechnology and life sciences industry to position the province, on an international scale, as an undeniable key player in the field.

### THREE CHARACTERISTICS UNIQUE TO BIOQUÉBEC



Its financial independence allows it the freedom to serve as its members' voice with government officials.



Its provincial presence in 10 of Quebec's 17 administrative regions, making it the most prominent industry representative in the province.



Its governance and operational flexibility enable it to act quickly and proactively in ways that greatly benefit its members

### A COMMITTED **TEAM**

Like lighthouse keepers, BIOQuébec's team and their close collaborators have worked throughout these chaotic times to support the association's members. Without their steadfast dedication, far less would have been accomplished.



Anie Perrault Executive Director



Linda Gagnon Executive Assistant



Stéphanie Bilodeau Communications and Marketing Consultant, and the entire OROKOM team

### A DEDICATED BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board of Directors members held **eleven regular** board meetings and one annual general meeting, the Audit Committee members met **five times**, and the Governance Committee convened one meeting.

Michel Fortin CHAIR OF THE BOARD Chief Executive Officer, EVAH Corp

Luc Tanguay TREASURER OF THE BOARD Consultant Yves Roy VICE-CHAIR OF THE BOARD President, Corealis Pharma Pierre Falardeau VICE-CHAIR OF THE BOARD President, Consultation Pharm-Asset

#### Mounia Azzi Vice-President, Program Development and Partnerships, adMare BioInnovations

Pavel Hamet President, Medpharmgene

François Laflamme Director, Government Relations and Innovation, Eli Lilly\*

Suzie Talbot President, DIEX Research

#### OBSERVER

Frank Béraud Chief Executive Officer, Montréal InVivo Véronique Bougie Chief Operating Officer, SemaThera

Sarah Jenna Chief Executive Officer, My Intelligent Machines

Frédéric Leduc Chief Executive Officer, Immune Biosolutions

François-Thomas Michaud Chief Executive Officer, Feldan Therapeutics

### ADMINISTRATORS

Geneviève Guertin Vice-President, Investments, Life Sciences, Fonds de solidarité FTQ

Jean-Frédéric Lafontaine Senior Manager, Public Policies, AstraZeneca\*

Michel Provence Corporate Vice President, Safety Assessment, Charles River Laboratories

Carl Viel President and Chief Executive Officer, Québec International

\* Changed employers in 2021.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Michel Fortin Committee President Anie Perrault Committee Secretary

Pierre Falardeau Jean-Frédéric Lafontaine Frédéric Leduc Yves Roy Luc Tanguay

#### AUDIT COMMITTEE

Luc Tanguay Committee President Anie Perrault Committee Secretary

Véronique Bougie Geneviève Guertin François-Thomas Michaud Michel Provence

### COMMITTEE AND GOVERNANCE

#### **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Jean-Frédéric Lafontaine Committee President Anie Perrault Committee Secretary

Mounia Azzi Geneviève Guertin Michel Provence Yves Roy



# OVERVIEW OF **MEMBERS**

### STRENGTH IN NUMBERS AND REPRESENTATION

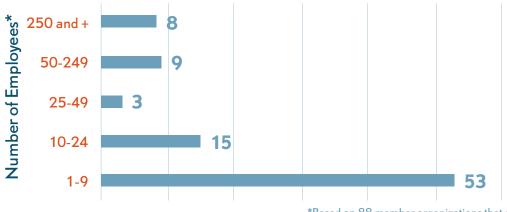
With 130 memberships in 2020, BIOQuébec represented either 28.5% or 35.6% of life sciences organizations according to studies conducted by Montréal InVivo (456 organizations) or Pharmabio Développement (365 organizations).

However, since both organizations' statistics include medical technology companies, general companies, and public research organizations, which BIOQuébec does not represent, the association's penetration rate among biotechnology companies and contract research organizations is actually much higher.

### Distribution of Members by Main Sector of Activity



### Distribution of Members by Number of Employees



\*Based on 88 member organizations that disclosed this information



Like the other stakeholders in our ecosystem, BIOQuébec works on resolving biotechnology and life sciences organizations' main issues.

However, BIOQuébec does things a little differently through its inspiring leadership and its agile and pragmatic approach.

A true beacon for its members, the association spotlights opportunities for improvement, focuses on the right path, and supports taking action.



# AGENT OF CHANGE

### WITH POLITICAL AUTHORITIES







### LIFE SCIENCES PROMOTION NETWORK

As an active partner of this network, BIOQuébec provides financial administration services and supported the launch of The Coolest Hotspot initiative, which has already celebrated its third anniversary. Serving as a unifying brand image worldwide and a showcase for Quebec's assets, this project featured several of our association's members and projects.



### AN ONGOING COLLABORATION

BIOQuébec maintains its relationship with the government and its administration through frequent calls and informal meetings. In February, BIOQuébec also joined industry partners at the life sciences awareness and education day on Québec City's Parliament Hill. The objective was to remind people that life sciences are part of an integrated innovation chain, a robust economic sector within Quebec and, above all, a source of pride thanks to our health innovations.









# SIX MAIN THEMES WERE THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION IN 2020

### RAISING AWARENESS OF INDUSTRY ISSUES



### **ECONOMIC RECOVERY**

With the participation of four members of BIOQuébec, a virtual meeting was held with Pierre Fitzgibbon, Minister of Economy and Innovation, to discuss the industry's viewpoint in preparation for the economic recovery period. A letter reiterating the key points was then sent, followed by another letter during the 2020 budget update.

Telephone discussion with a member of Minister of Health and Social Services Christian Dubé's office, to reiterate BIOQuébec's recommendations for the economic recovery period and the Quebec Life Sciences Strategy update.



#### PATENTED MEDICINE PRICES

Letter to Patricia Hajdu, federal Minister of Health, on the anticipated impact of the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (PMPRB) reform on Quebec's life sciences industry.

Brief submitted during the PMPRB guidelines consultations outlining concerns about the proposed new pricing regulations.

Submitted a brief, prepared by BIOQuébec, Québec International, and Montréal InVivo, on the PMPRB's study to the House of Commons' Standing Committee on Health. This brief was referenced in parliamentary hearings by various members of Parliament to show how effective the representations had been.



### FINANCING

Presented the results of the Study on Public Policy Requirements and Financing Needs for the Life Sciences and Biotechnology Applied to Human and Animal Health Industry to the Quebec federation of chambers of commerce's life sciences committee.

Submitted a brief during the Quebec government's pre-budget consultations: it contained the 17 recommendations developed following the study on financing.



### LIABILITY INSURANCE

Letter to Pierre Fitzgibbon, Minister of Economy and Innovation, with a copy to Éric Girard, Minister of Finance, denouncing the impact of the insurers' obligation to bear defence costs in Quebec's Directors' and Officers' Liability insurance market. A bill addressing this issue (Bill 82) was tabled at the end of the year.



### INTEGRATION OF INNOVATIONS

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Telephone discussion with a member of Minister of Health and Social Services Christian Dubé's office, to provide an update on the most recent developments of the ongoing study of the integration of innovations, which BIOQuébec initiated.

### **COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Letter to Pierre Fitzgibbon, Quebec's Minister of Economy and Innovation, regarding **reagent procurement** measures, followed by a meeting with a member of Quebec Premier François Legault's office and a telephone discussion with a member of Mr. Fitzgibbon's office.

Recommendations sent to Pierre Fitzgibbon regarding provincial government assistance programs and scientific research and experimental development (SR&ED) credit programs.





Letter to Pierre Fitzgibbon on the importance of **reopening university laboratories**, an issue raised by many BIOQuébec members and which was resolved.

Co-signed BIOTEC anada's letter to Navdeep Bains, Federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, on the eligibility criteria for the NRC-IRAP's **Innovation Assistance Program** (IAP).

Brought the issue of biotechs' ineligibility for the **federal wage subsidy program** to the attention of Quebec's Minister of Economy and Innovation and sent a letter to the federal Minister of Finance, Bill Morneau, on the federal programs' eligibility.

### WITH THE INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY

EVERY YEAR, BIOQUÉBEC CONTINUES TO RAISE AWARENESS AMONG A BROADER SELECTION OF STAKEHOLDERS WITHIN THE INDUSTRY AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AT LARGE, BOTH IN QUEBEC AND BEYOND OUR PROVINCIAL BORDERS.

IN QUEBEC

Besides addressing traditional issues related to biotechnology and life sciences, BIOQuébec has distinguished itself within the business world through its leadership on Quebec's Directors' and Officers' Liability insurance premiums issue. In fact, other organizations also affected by the Civil Code's provisions, such as Réseau Capital and the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec, have been inspired by Anie Perrault's actions and have shared their own experiences. The Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Montréal even sent a letter to the government supporting BIOQuébec's position.

IN CANADA

In 2020, BIOQuébec's collaboration with **BioTalent Canada** mainly focused on supporting its work placement wage subsidies. This program covered up to \$7,500 of a student's remuneration during a skilled labour shortage. BIOQuébec contacted each eligible member individually to promote this program and its benefits.<sup>1</sup>

Additionally, **BIOQuébec** continued its government representations in collaboration with BIOTEC anada. In the spring, it supported this Canadian association's efforts to expand eligibility criteria for the Industry Assistance Program (IAP) and the 75% wage subsidy program. BIOQuébec has been working closely with BIOTEC anada and Innovative Medicines Canada on the issue of the proposed changes to the PMPRB's guidelines.<sup>2</sup>

Earlier in the year, a ten-member **MassBio** delegation travelled to Montréal to learn about Quebec's ecosystem, including Investissement Québec, the Ministry of Economy and Innovation, and Mila. A luncheon-lecture, at which this American association's president, Robert Coughlin, spoke to BIOQuébec members, was followed by a networking activity during which delegation members changed tables at each course.

BIOQuébec members have access, by invitation, to this prestigious association's Pharma Days, which it hosts throughout the year. Also, BIOQuébec members can join their American counterparts at MassBio's signature events, such as The State of Possible conference.<sup>3</sup>



BIOTECanac
BIOTECALIAL
April 2, 2020
The Honourable Bill Morneau Minister of Finance Finance Canada 90 Bign St., Ottawa, Ok VIAJ 005
The Honourable Mary Ng Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade House of Commons Ottawa, ON VIAI ON6
Dear Ministers,
On behalf of the Canadian biotech industry, the undersigned associations are writing to draw to your attention to account the industry targeting the proposed area gastadiay initiative as it will support the ability of the COUID 32 critical target of the COUID 32 critical target is reliable employees and thereby leases the broader accountse inspect of the least increase reliable employees and thereby leases the broader accountse inspect of the least increase and critical sector and the sector of the count of the least increase operations, keeping thousands of control on revenue generality, insecution bound operations, keeping thousands of the control counts and the block thousands of an expecting on the context and the trade to account the block of the control on counts (the context, unable to apply the the program.)
Canada's biotech ecosystem is founded in hundreds of early stage SMEs across the country which are developing innovations to solve for the work's health challingles. The companies typically have on of tilte revenue built must conduct expensive and estemsive great of research and development which eliminates the opportunity for revenue generation; do not have multiple years of cash on hand; and, utilities whatere cash is available to deliver con the have multiple years of cash on hand; and, utilities whatere cash is available to deliver con the second



### EITHER AS A PARTICIPANT, ORGANIZER, OR PARTNER, BIOQUÉBEC CAN BE FOUND AT VARIOUS EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR THAT PROMOTE THE INDUSTRY AND EXPAND ITS EXPOSURE.

	One of BIOQuébec's new annual partners, adMare launched the Accelerate program, which years of personalized support to pre-seed companies, in collaboration with the Ministry of Ecc Innovation and the City of Montréal. The winners, who receive a one-year BIOQuébec membra announced at a virtual event in December. <sup>1</sup>	onomy and
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DRIQ RCII DE L'IDÉE AU MARCHÉ	Imagia was the recipient of the year's life sciences innovation prize, created by BIOQuébec six which was awarded in partnership with Innovative Medicines Canada last November. ADRIQ Prix Innovation increases our sector's exposure within Quebec's business community <sup>2</sup>	
	•••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••	
СІТЕ́ ВІОТЕСН	BIOQuébec's traditional Christmas cocktail reception, which it has co-hosted with The Biotec several years, was held virtually for the first time; this year's guests included delegates from M Even in its online format, the event was hugely popular with industry members. <sup>3</sup>	
Économie et Innovation Québec 🐼 😫	Businesses are often unaware of the financial programs and services offered by the Ministry. To remedy this, BIOQuébec worked with the MEI to host an information session to better explain each program's criteria and allow participants to ask questions directly to the officials who administer them. <sup>4</sup>	AC
NTE MONTRÉAL	In addition to being an artificial intelligence and health innovation zone's business plan sector partner, BIOQuébec also co-hosted two webinars with Montréal International: the first on tax and legal measures relevant to the industry during COVID-19, and another on new international financing opportunities during a pandemic. <sup>5</sup>	ACENT
		$\frown$
Pharma bio Développement	BIOQuébec and this sectoral life sciences labour force committee co-hosted a webinar on human resources management during a pandemic. The focus was primarily on teleworking tools and management issues. <sup>6</sup>	$\bigcirc$
		$\frown$
COLÉBEC INTERNATIONAL Développement économique	The two organizations hosted a webinar on the updated PMPRB Guidelines. Moderated by Tasha Kheiriddin, its contributors included Alain Dubuc, Olivier Jerome, Yannick Labrie. and Paul l'Archevêque. In addition, Anie Perrault was a featured speaker on the panel discussing the health industry's procurement and access to innovations issues during the Québec City Health Industry Forum. <sup>7</sup>	CHAN
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### **BIO**UÉBEC











BANQUE

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# INDUSTRY VOICE

### IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT IN 2020, BIOQUÉBEC'S VOICE CARRIED MORE WEIGHT WITHIN THE INDUSTRY AND WITH THE PUBLIC.

### PRESS COVERAGE

BIOQuébec was interviewed, quoted, or mentioned 42 times in the media over the course of the year, a tenfold increase over 2019. These two issues were the main topics featured in the past few months:

### ACCESS TO RAMQ DATA

BIOQuébec is encouraged by the Quebec government's interest in making medical data from the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ) available to biopharmaceutical companies. As it believes that upgrading health data management will improve healthcare outcomes and accelerate public and private scientific research, BIOQuébec presented its members' perspective to the general public.



PHOTO BEN PELOSSE

#### INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE BIOQUEBEC.COM/ISSUES

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#### You will find:

- Issue summary
- 6 examples from BIOQuébec members

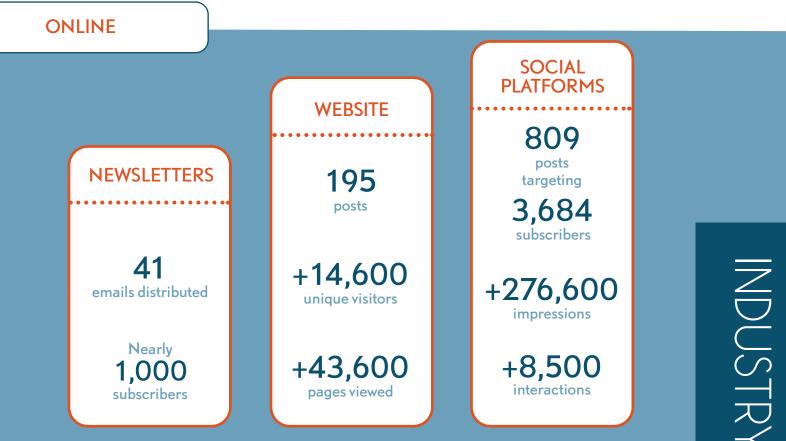
#### **MEDIA COVERAGE**

- 1 article in the Journal de Montréal
- 1 interview on QUB radio
- 1 discussion broadcast during Richard Martineau's show on QUB radio



### LIFE SCIENCES: ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES

BIOQuébec created a campaign appearing in *La Presse* newspaper to underscore the essential nature of life sciences businesses. It contained three ads: one detailing how vital life sciences businesses are, a second describing their economic significance, and a third highlighting the fact that science serves the common good. This three-part initiative produced more than 459,000 impressions and nearly 70,000 interactions. THE BIOTECHNOLOGY AND LIFE SCIENCES NETWORK REACHES A CONTINUOUSLY **EXPANDING AUDIENCE. BIOQUÉBEC'S MEMBERS' AND PARTNERS' VOICE IS** TRAVELLING FURTHER EVERY DAY.



### BIOQuébec used its digital platforms to share two main messages:

### LIFE SCIENCES ARE ESSENTIAL

In addition to addressing this issue in the La Presse campaign, BIOQuébec produced and promoted three videos on the subject which were viewed close to 650 times. Producing these videos in record time was made possible thanks to the commitment of BIOQuébec's members and directors as well as the **OROKOM** team.



### LIFE SCIENCES COMPANIES ARE INNOVATIVE

The L'innovation au Québec, c'est dans notre ADN (Innovation in Quebec, it's in our DNA) campaign was brought back to the forefront during Global Biotechnology Week. The website received 40% more unique visitors compared to 2019. Although the site is in French only, the campaign reached an international audience: 30% of visitors to the site were from France, the United States, Belgium, Algeria, Switzerland, and Tunisia.



MEMBER Services

### SOURCE OF RELEVANT INFORMATION

### STUDIES

These studies are reference tools for characterizing a particular segment of the ecosystem - such as contract research organizations or biotechs - or expanding on a specific theme: financing or integrating health innovations, for instance.<sup>1</sup>

### SHARING INFORMATION THROUGH NEWSLETTERS AND THE WEBSITE

They deliver news about BIOQuébec, its members, partners, the Canadian and international industry, upcoming events, and significant issues to monitor. The COVID newsletter was sent out on a weekly basis at the height of the pandemic, then every two weeks.<sup>2</sup>

### HOW-TO WEBINARS

Hosted in collaboration with various partners, these online meetings were an opportunity to learn and exchange information with peers about specific operational issues. Six sessions were held in 2020 on various topics ranging from fiscal and legal measures for the industry during a pandemic, to the implementation of the new Patented Medicine Prices Review Committee Guidelines.<sup>3</sup>

### GATEWAY TO AN EXTENSIVE BUSINESS NETWORK

### NETWORKING

At events such as our luncheon-lecture at the beginning of the year, our Christmas cocktail reception, or through customized networking connections, BIOQuébec creates opportunities for getting together, sharing ideas, and building relationships.<sup>4</sup>

### INTER-ASSOCIATION AGREEMENTS

BIOQuébec opens discussion and business development channels with other associations such as Innovative Medicines Canada, Medtech Canada, and BioteCanada nationally, MassBio in the United States, and Health Valley in Europe.<sup>5</sup>

### INTERACTIVE INDUSTRY MAP

Created in collaboration with Montréal International and with support from Corealis Pharma, Fisher Scientific, and Charles River Laboratories, this interactive map lets users search for life sciences organizations by region, sector, and type of activity or specialty.<sup>6</sup>



#### **OPERATIONAL SAVINGS AND BENEFITS**

The combined power of all its members allows BIOQuébec to negotiate agreements that benefit its members, partners, and the association itself. One such example is Fisher Scientific, which returned \$76,000 in the form of rebates to BIOQuébec members in 2020.







## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The following balance sheet as of December 31, 2020 and the statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2020 are provided for information purposes only. They are not intended to replace BIOQuébec's unaudited financial statements, which are available upon request.

### STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the year ended December 31, 2020 with the comparative information for 2019. (unaudited)

	2020 (12 months)	2019 (6 months)
	\$	\$
REVENUES		
Sponsorships	23,258	11,629
Grants	71,947	-
Activities	68,983	12,099
Membership fees	365,428	157,343
Other income	11,393	1,706
Royalties	28,633	4,411
LSHT Network	94,439	22,835
	665,681	210,023
EXPENSES		
Activities	57,593	34,113
General administrative expenses	375,682	139,998
Memberships and subscriptions	34,011	13,518
Amortization of capital assets	100	-
Amortization of intangible assets	31,550	8,345
LSHT Network	102,113	43,761
	601,049	239,735
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	64,632	(29,712)
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES		
EXCLUDING THE LSHT NETWORK	72,306	(8,786)

BIOQuébec's financial statements as of December 31, 2020 were subject to review engagement by Blain, Joyal, Charbonneau S.E.N.C.R.L. Professional Chartered Accountants, and an unmodified report was issued for those statements.

**BALANCE SHEET** 

As of December 31, 2020 with the comparative information as of December 31, 2019. (unaudited)

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Short term		
Cash	303,131	187,572
Accounts receivable	39,713	14,911
Grants receivable	12,401	-
Prepaid expenses	7,103	7,628
	362,348	210,111
Capital assets	1,105	-
Intangible assets	54,242	55,792
Security deposit	2,000	2,000
	419,695	267,903
LIABILITIES		
Short Term		
Accounts payable	73,243	69,682
Deferred contributions	205,548	191,949
	278,791	261,631
Deferred contributions related to intangible assets	30,000	-
Long-term debt	40,000	-
	318,791	261,631
NETASSET		
Net asset invested in capital assets	25,347	55,792
Unrestricted net assets	45,557	(49,520)
	70,904	6,272
	419,695	267,903

THANKS TO OUR ANNUAL PARTNERS

Their support helps us to shine a brighter light on the biotechnology and life sciences industry.











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