

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****CANADIANS SEE BIOTECH AS CRUCIAL TO ECONOMIC FUTURE:  
EXPECT GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ASSIST COMPANIES**  
*Annual opinion polling results shows overwhelming support for biotechnology as  
National Biotechnology Week celebrates the industry across Canada*

LONDON (September 18, 2009) –Nine out of ten Canadians believe biotechnology is important to Canada's future prosperity and eight out of ten supported grants to emerging companies, according to BIOTECanada's annual opinion poll, released at the launch of National Biotechnology Week. The poll, conducted by Nanos Research, found overwhelmingly support among Canadians for biotechnology's contribution to our economy and global competitiveness, and support for government action to aid the industry:

- 9 out of 10 believed the biotechnology industry is important part of Canada's future economic prosperity.
- 3 out of 4 were concerned about Canada's global competitiveness in science and technology.
- 4 of every 5 would be concerned about the loss of emerging Canadian biotechnology firms.
- 8 out of 10 supported grants to companies for research and product development.
- 4 out of 10 believed the Government of Canada is doing a good job of supporting emerging companies seeking to commercialize products.

"These results show that even during difficult economic times, Canadians are thinking about our economic future, and want to see strong vision and action from our governments to support science leadership," said Peter Brenders, President and CEO of BIOTECanada. "As the biotechnology industry faces challenges of access to capital, of market introduction for biotechnological health advances, and other hurdles, it is especially positive to hear Canadians voice support for government action."

National Biotechnology Week includes a week of seminars, experiments, tours and events to show the value biotechnology brings to Canadians everyday, and highlight its growing role in the knowledge economy of the future. A key focus of the week centres on building Canada's current biotechnology achievements into greater economic strength for the future. Roundtables are held in several cities with provincial ministers to discuss the industry's strategy to build a bio-based economy, *Beyond Moose and Mountains*.

For complete polling results, visit: [www.imaGENEnation.ca](http://www.imaGENEnation.ca)

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ABOUT BIOTECanada [www.biotech.ca](http://www.biotech.ca)



BIOTECCanada is dedicated to the sustainable commercial development of biotechnology innovation in Canada. It is the national industry-funded association with over 250 member companies representing the broad spectrum of biotech constituents including emerging and established firms in the health, industrial, and agricultural sectors, as well as academic and research institutions and other related organizations.

**ABOUT NATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY WEEK [www.imagenation.ca](http://www.imagenation.ca)**

Now in its sixth year, National Biotechnology Week involves every region of the country participating in this national program designed to inform Canadians and showcase Canadian excellence. Participants will take part in advocacy programs, public awareness campaigns, educational forums, career fairs, tour Canadian biotech companies, and showcase the value of biotechnology and how it is vital to our future. National Biotechnology Week is possible thanks to the support of Amgen, Abbott, Council for Biotechnology Information, Genzyme, Janssen-Ortho, Pioneer, Pfizer, Roche and Schering-Plough.

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