

## PMPRB Guidelines Fail to Address COVID-19 Realities

**October 23, 2020 [OTTAWA]** - The release today of the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board's modernized regulatory guidelines is a missed opportunity to provide a public policy environment that reflects the realities of COVID-19 and its impact on the Canadian economy and healthcare system. The economic and health challenges Canada has faced during the pandemic underscore the importance of a strong biotech innovation sector which is charged with delivering therapeutic and vaccine solutions for COVID-19 and future COVID-like health challenges as well as being a cornerstone for Canada's economic recovery post COVID.

"It is important to note that the changes to the PMPRB were developed before the Coronavirus crisis, yet no substantive changes have been made to the regulatory framework or guidelines since that recognize we are now in a very different place than when the proposed changes were originally drafted. Since the onset of the pandemic, the government has rightly identified the importance of both preparing for future pandemics and rebuilding the economy. Canada's biotechnology sector can play a central role in delivering on both of these objectives. However, to do so requires government policy to recognize the integrated nature of the biotech ecosystem in this country. Unfortunately, the PMPRB regulatory changes fail to acknowledge this complexity and the changed environment in which we now find ourselves," commented Andrew Casey, President and CEO BIOTECCanada. "This policy sends a very negative signal to global partners and investors who are critical to the competitiveness of Canada's life sciences sector."

BIOTECCanada is the national industry association with over 200 members located nationwide, reflecting the diverse nature of Canada's health, industrial and agricultural biotechnology sectors. In addition to providing significant health benefits for Canadians, the biotechnology industry has quickly become an essential part of the transformation of many traditional cornerstones of the Canadian economy including manufacturing, automotive, energy, aerospace and forestry industries.

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