

BIOTECCanada Supports Government of Canada's Recommendations within the Health, Bioscience and Agri-Food Economic Strategy Tables

September 26, 2018 [OTTAWA] - BIOTECCanada, the national industry association representing biotechnology companies congratulates the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development along with the respective Chairs and members of both the Health, Biosciences and Agri-Food Economic Strategy Table for their findings report. In particular, the industry is very supportive of the Strategy Table's proposed actions of accelerating innovation adoption, designing agile regulatory and procurement approaches, harnessing digital technology, developing, attracting talent and creating anchor firms.

Few countries are as well positioned as Canada to take advantage of biotech's potential across agriculture and health sectors. In addition to Canada's rich history of scientific discovery and development, Canada has a robust, diverse biotechnology ecosystem that extends across the country and includes: world-class research institutions and hospitals; proven biotech entrepreneurs and enterprises; and a highly-educated workforce.

"After many long and challenging years of early stage development, several Canadian biotech stars are now poised to take the next step to becoming commercial Canadian anchor companies through talent and investment. Importantly, a follow-on wave of next-generation companies is not far behind. And with a strong biotech investment market both in Canada and abroad, the future looks promising" says Andrew Casey, president and CEO of BIOTECCanada. The association has been actively involved in supporting the work of the economic tables and their findings strongly reflect industry goals, targets and opportunities for economic growth.

"Creating a truly government wide approach to policy making to attract investment, secure talent, grow small companies and improve regulatory capacity for new technologies is critical if Canada is to realize the potential of this sector," suggested Casey.

For example, the recommendations for the proposed 'procurement innovation agency' and a 'Canada Agri-Food Innovation Centre' would recognize the connectivity of this dynamic biotechnology ecosystem to ultimately deliver better and longer-term results for the economy, our environment and society writ large.

These reports offer important recommendations and targets for policy frameworks for the government, industry and Canadians to work together to achieve.

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BIOTECCanada is the national industry association with more than 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.