



2024-2025

ANNUAL REPORT



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GÉNOME QUÉBEC AT A GLANCE

Génome Québec was born from the vision of leaders coming from academic, scientific and business circles, who all shared a common goal: to foster the emergence of genomics as a strategic area in Québec. In the late 1990s, this sector was still in its infancy. Today, the advancements made are a testament to the vitality and expertise of our research ecosystem. It is safe to say that genomics is an integral part of our DNA.

Beyond funding research, Génome Québec has a mandate to promote genomics as a lever for economic, social and environmental development. Its benefits are already being felt in key sectors such as health, agrifood, forestry and the environment.

Québec has every reason to be proud of its genomics research teams, recognized internationally for the quality of their work and the scope of their discoveries. Thanks to their expertise, Québec has positioned itself as a leader in the field of genomics.

OUR MISSION

Catalyze the development and excellence of genomics research, its integration and democratization.

OUR VISION

Genomics-based innovations will provide equitable and inclusive solutions to help meet health environmental, technological, societal and public policy challenges.

OUR VALUES

- Excellence
- Openness
- Creativity
- Integrity
- Ethics

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



A stylized white cursive signature of Anie Perrault on a dark blue background.

ANIE PERRAULT

The year 2024–2025 is a critical one in *Génome Québec's* history. On the eve of its 25th anniversary, our organization is facing a complex international geopolitical context that raises many challenges and questions, particularly in terms of science. More than ever, it is vital to advance research based on rigorous scientific facts, not opinions. At *Génome Québec*, this commitment to evidence-based science remains central to our mission.

Génome Québec's story began in 2000 with the dream of making Canada a global leader in genomics—a dream that is still alive and well to this day. It's a vision that quickly spoke to decision-makers in the Québec government, who shortly after the creation of Genome Canada, enabled that of *Génome Québec*.

I know that story well, because I was there when the organization's doors opened, and I'm still here 25 years later. My role may have changed—from employee to Chair of the Board—but the passion never dimmed. We'll be celebrating a quarter century of accomplishments, and our organization is more relevant than ever. Applications and partnerships are multiplying, the talent pool is growing increasingly diverse, and the infrastructure is more and more efficient. With support from the Québec government and Genome Canada, this great organization has made Québec an internationally recognized leader in genomics. I want to acknowledge the federal government's continued confidence in Genome Canada, which received significant funding to help launch the Canadian Genomics Strategy, despite the current economic and political turbulence.

Rigour and excellence, our enduring strengths

Together with the Management Committee and the Board of Directors, we have dedicated a great deal of effort to our governance frameworks and to updating various policies; cybersecurity, the implementation of Law 25, and reputational risk management mechanisms are just a few examples of the scope of the work we've accomplished. Our funding programs' relevance is firmly established. Our offering meets the needs of our ecosystem, which translates into numerous applications in our competitions and an excellent success rate. Among this year's research accomplishments, I would like to highlight the breakthroughs announced last February in the field of rare diseases, a highly promising niche for genomics.

We have forged ahead on our democratization mission through Mission eDNA in Québec schools, but also among First Nations communities. This flagship project has even opened the door to a new partnership with Espace pour la vie. That initiative led to the birth of *code Béluga*, a community science project on biodiversity in the St. Lawrence River that will collect environmental DNA evidence for the benefit of public decision-makers and the research community.

I want to take advantage of our anniversary to share just how proud I am to work with such extraordinary people. It's a privilege to be in the company of such great scientific minds and other experts, all of whom are critical to our mission.

The people who are driving science forward on a daily basis deserve to be better known as social media stars and regulars in the news. They shape the course of our lives, and their great achievements are too often overshadowed by bad news.

October 23 is our 25th anniversary celebration, a perfect opportunity to bring the whole genomics community together and highlight *Génome Québec's* distinct contributions to Québec society.

Thank you to the members of the Board of Directors and to the *Génome Québec* team for their commitment to a cause that is greater than ourselves.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO



JOSETTE-RENÉE LANDRY

Anniversaries are often the perfect time to pause, reflect on our journey and dream even bigger. This year, rather than resting on our laurels, we chose to stay on the move and even pick up the pace.

In 2024–2025, in an ever-changing world, our mission is more relevant than ever.

In the face of climate upheaval, public health issues and global food challenges, genomics provides a powerful, tangible response. We are at the forefront of a new era where science and society must move forward hand in hand.

These collective efforts strengthen our position and pave the way for 2025–2026, which is shaping up to be a decisive year with the start of a major project: the three-year assessment and the funding application to the Ministère de l'Économie, de l'Innovation et de l'Énergie.

Every project, every partnership, every discovery is the product of human collaboration. Behind the scientific progress are passionate teams, driven by the same desire to advance research and share its benefits. I want to acknowledge their ideas, their rigour and their determination. Their daily commitment is the foundation on which Génome Québec builds its impact.

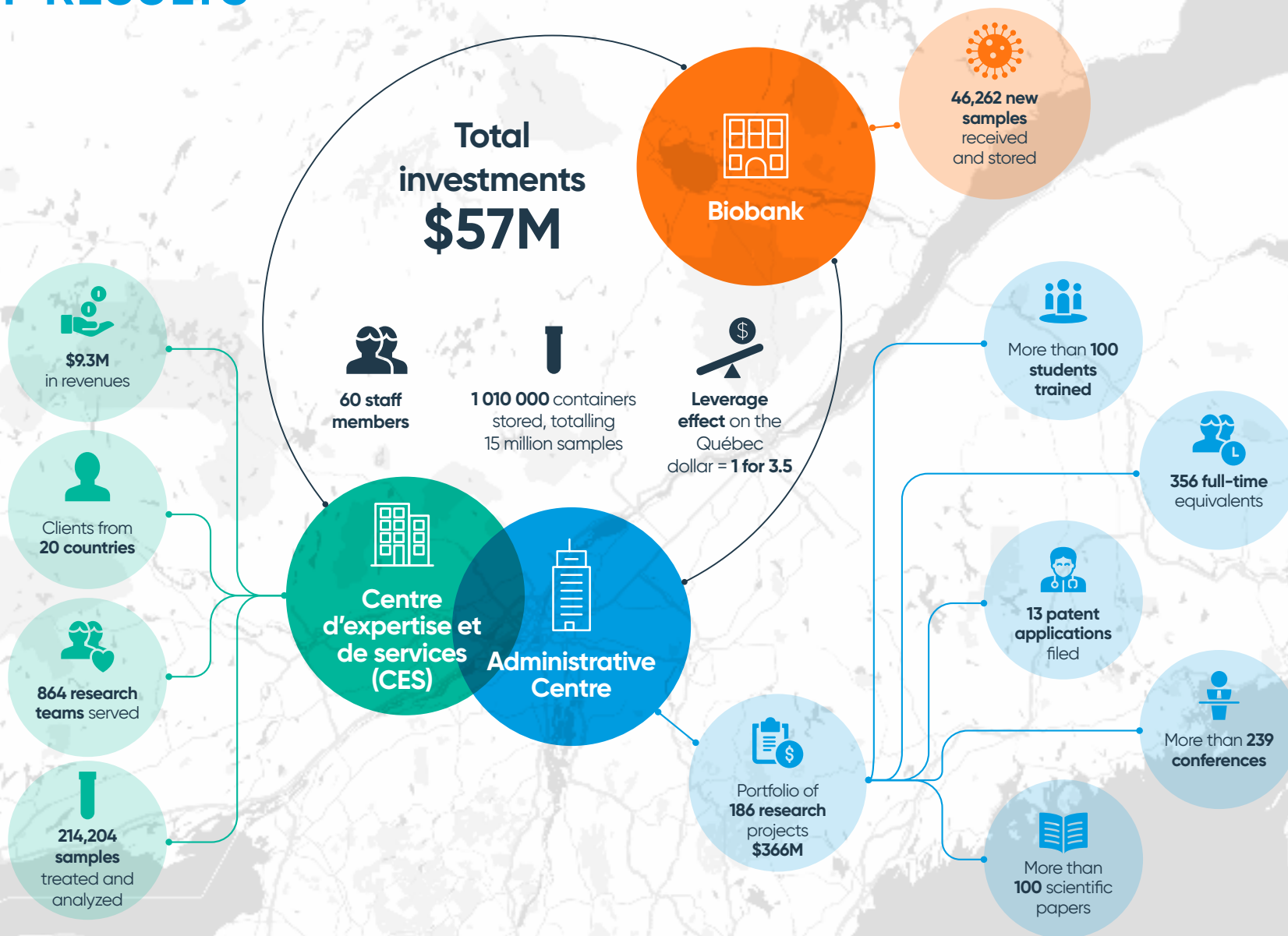
We are also backed by a vast ecosystem of trust: governments, academic and industrial partners, research communities, Indigenous Peoples, and of course, the people of Québec. Their support is a constant reminder that science is never an isolated project, but rather a collective undertaking.

As we hit 25 years, we are choosing to see the future with ambition. Génome Québec intends to continue amplifying its impact in key fields like the health care of tomorrow, environmental sustainability, resilient agriculture and disruptive technologies. We will also continue to democratize science to make genomic innovations accessible, understandable and available to all.

To everyone sharing this journey with us, thank you.



SUMMARY OF RESULTS



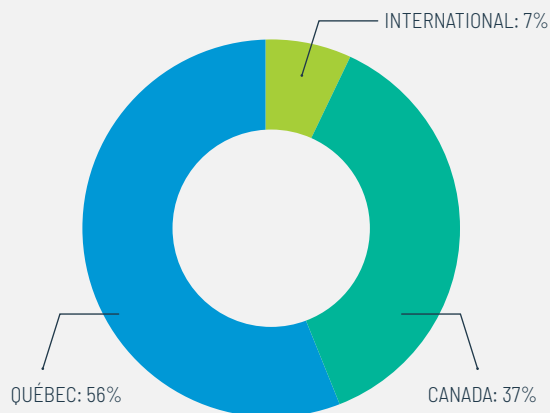
MANAGEMENT REVIEW

In 2024-2025, Génome Québec carried on with its mission while supporting pivotal initiatives in research, integration and democratization. This summary presents the year's achievements in four sectors:

- **Partnerships**, which have strengthened strategic collaborations.
- **Outreach**, marked by a growing presence with an increasingly diverse audience.
- **Research**, with funding for promising projects across Québec.
- **Governance**, thanks to concrete actions to strengthen our organizational foundations and ensure sound management of public funds.

These results are a testament to an active, committed and agile organization, constantly on the lookout for opportunities to support genomics development in Québec.

ORIGIN OF THE 864 ANNUAL USERS



Partnerships

Supporting genomics research in the Arctic in collaboration with Inuit communities

A partnership agreement was signed with ArcticNet to co-fund multidisciplinary research projects in the Canadian Arctic, co-directed with Inuit communities.

A first call for projects was launched in October 2024, with results to come in June 2025.

Contributing to Québec's rare diseases network

A \$1.5M funding agreement was signed in March 2025 to help build the RARE-Qc network's genomics data pillar. **The announcement was made during a webinar co-organized with the Regroupement québécois des maladies orphelines.**

Supporting the development of Québec's RNA therapies industrial sector

Over the course of the year, Génome Québec entered into two strategic partnerships aiming to provide tangible support for the development of RNA technologies in Québec:

- An agreement with McGill University as part of the **D2R initiative**, financed by the Canada First Research Excellence Fund, to co-fund the Commercialization Priming funding program.

- An agreement to partner with the **CELLULE**, a consortium to support and fund promising RNA technologies.

Improving CES capabilities and services through various agreements

- Centre de recherche Azrieli du CHU Sainte-Justine: access to platforms for imaging, cytometry and level 3 containment, particularly to support single-cell sequencing.
- Prevalis (Université de Sherbrooke): collaboration to expand the range of bioinformatics analyses and research data valorization.
- Toronto Centre for Applied Genomics (TCAG): access to a specialized long-read sequencing platform, strengthening CES's expertise in the field.

The *code Béluga* project: a partnership in community science

- As part of its partnership with Espace pour la vie, Génome Québec supported the development and rollout of the *code Béluga* community science project. This initiative invites the public to take part in developing a better understanding of the biodiversity in the St. Lawrence River Estuary through environmental DNA analysis from water samples. The beluga is at the heart of this

project, as one of Québec's emblematic sentinel species.

First funding from a First Nations government

- In a first for our organization, Génome Québec obtained funding from the Cree Nation Government. This support will enable us to keep rolling out Mission eDNA in new communities. It shows the project is being recognized as valuable, and it strengthens collaborative ties with First Nations.

Rollout of Mission eDNA in First Nations communities

- Génome Québec once again had the privilege of sharing the experience of this participatory science project with several groups of students in two new Cree communities. By building connections with these communities, Génome Québec also had the opportunity to present the project at a training session to local officials ("Local Chief Officer").



Outreach

Showcasing the CES's expertise through flagship projects

To promote business development at the CES, six success stories were written and shared this year highlighting promising projects, including:

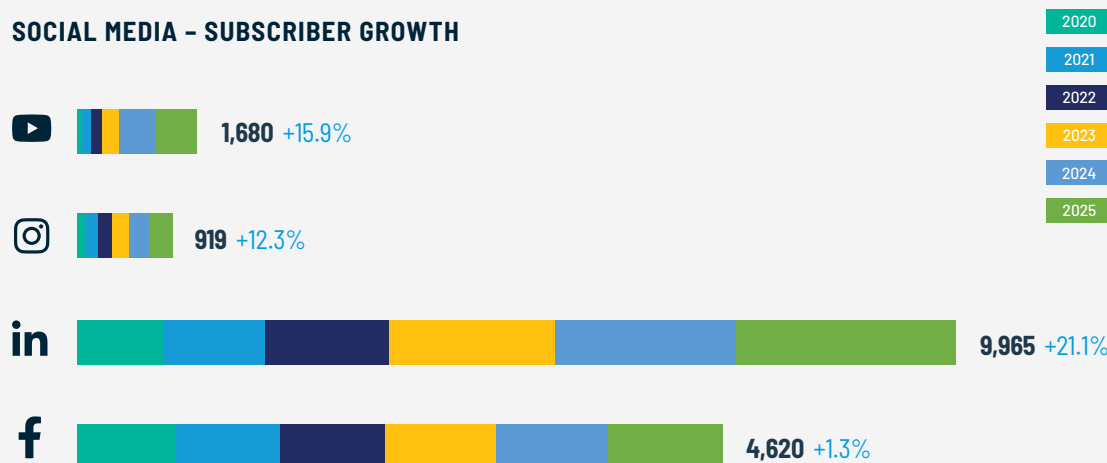
- The integration of multi-omics technologies to improve ataxia diagnosis
- The use of transcriptomics to develop targeted immunotherapies in oncology
- The discovery of genetic causes for female reproductive disorders, leading to personalized care
- The application of genomics to sustainable fisheries management and the preservation of marine biodiversity

Minister's visit to the CES

On the occasion of the **announcement of Genomics Integration Program – Human Health recipients**, Christian Dubé, Minister of Health, visited Génome Québec, highlighting just how important genomics is for the health care system.



SOCIAL MEDIA – SUBSCRIBER GROWTH



Month of Zebruary – February dedicated to rare diseases

During Rare Disease Awareness Month, Génome Québec issued five announcements highlighting funding for projects and initiatives in this field. Some of these announcements were made in partnership with other organizations. This effort generated some 15 news articles. A dedicated web page was also launched to highlight Génome Québec's commitment to this field of health care: **Rare Diseases | Génome Québec Inc.**

Génome Québec was particularly active this year in terms of funding for research on rare diseases, from diagnosis to treatment, with more than \$13M invested in the sector.

- Helping people discover genomics, sparking curiosity and inspiring the next generation: in 2024-2025, Génome Québec proudly participated in many scientific culture initiatives.

Eurêka! festival

- Noteworthy presence at Québec's biggest science festival, which welcomed more than 62,000 people

Sprint de science – In search of DNA (UQAM's Cœur des sciences)

- Participation in a major initiative with 79 sprints (21 live and 58 pre-recorded) offered to 1,915 high school students

Mission eDNA

- Interactive activity on environmental DNA analysis, which reached 1,440 students

Flight 450

- Immersive simulation of a scientific mission aboard a plane, which gave 550 students a hands-on genomics experience

DNA Day: launch of the virtual lab

- On DNA Day, Génome Québec launched the first ever virtual visit of a genomics

lab in Canada. This initiative gives the public the opportunity to discover the CES's state-of-the-art facilities at CHU Sainte-Justine in Montréal and to learn more about genomics and the services provided.



Research

50 new projects were funded this year, representing **more than \$76M in investments** with a **lever effect of 1 for 3.5 for the Ministère de l'Économie, de l'Innovation et de l'Énergie**.

Accelerating research on rare genetic disorders

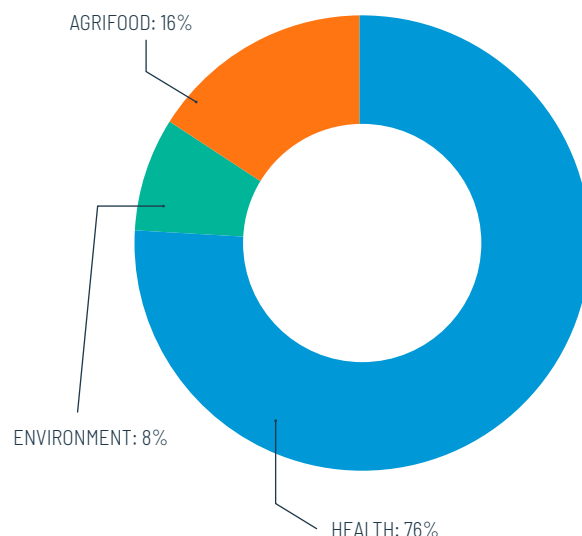
- Génome Québec funded two projects in partnership with Cystic Fibrosis Canada as part of the joint *Tackle Rare, Orphan CFTR Mutations competition*, **representing a total investment of \$1.2M**.
- These projects aim to advance knowledge and therapeutic approaches for the rarer forms of the disease.

Supporting health research across Québec

- Thanks to the *Genomics Integration Program*, 12 new projects were funded this year, in collaboration with various players in the health network and private companies, for a total investment of \$4.4M.
- The selected projects were announced in Chicoutimi as part of Rare Disease Day, giving Génome Québec significant media exposure. At the event, the projects of **Simon Girard and Luigi Bouchard** stood out in particular in the Saguenay region.



2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR MORE THAN \$76M INVESTED TO SUPPORT 50 GENOMICS RESEARCH PROJECTS



Making genomics data more representative in Canada

In collaboration with Genome Canada, four Québec projects received financial support totalling almost \$30M for cohort sequencing to help create a dataset that is more representative of Canada's population.

Stimulating genomics innovation in biofood, forestry and the environment

- In collaboration with the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Nature et technologies (FRQNT), Génome Québec supported the third round of the *Genomics Integration Program – Agriculture and Biofood, Forestry and Environment*.
- Almost \$3.6M, including the contributions of public and private partners, was invested in 15 projects. Eight of these projects were financed through the FRQNT under the theme of “A Healthy Planet.”

Governance

Updating the crisis management plan

- The crisis management plan was entirely reviewed and presented to the Board of Directors in September 2024. This update takes into consideration the risks associated with cyber attacks and the protection of personal information.

Implementation of the personal information governance framework

- In 2024, in accordance with the requirements of Law 25, Génome Québec implemented a governance framework aiming to strengthen personal information management within the organization, demonstrating Génome Québec's commitment to privacy protection.

Modernization of the human resources management framework

- In 2024, Génome Québec updated its human resources management framework by adopting a new personnel guide; four key policies on staffing, performance evaluation, ongoing training, and harassment prevention and management; and a directive on hybrid work arrangements. These improvements reinforce our commitment to providing a healthy, inclusive, motivating and respectful workplace.



FINANCIAL ACTIVITY REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

The following extract from the financial statements as at March 31, 2025, is provided for information purposes only and does not replace Génome Québec's complete audited statements. Génome Québec's complete financial statements were audited by KPMG LLP, chartered professional accountants.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2025	2024
Cash, cash equivalents and investments	\$69,048	\$73,570
Capital assets	\$4,421	\$5,740
Advances to research projects	\$8,810	\$8,582
Other assets	\$4,079	\$4,837
	\$86,358	\$92,729

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$2,865	\$3,581
Deferred contributions	\$67,608	\$77,317
Other liabilities	\$484	\$865
	\$70,957	\$81,763

Net assets

Unrestricted	\$9,432	\$5,324
Restricted	\$5,969	\$5,642
	\$15,401	\$10,966
	\$86,358	\$92,729

INCOME STATEMENT

Revenues

Amortization of deferred contributions	\$30,225	\$27,996
Investment and intellectual property revenues	\$3,890	\$4,073
Revenues from technology centres	\$9,371	\$11,730
	\$43,485	\$43,799

Expenses

	\$39,051	\$41,235
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Excess of revenues over expenses

	\$4,435	\$2,564
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Anie Perrault
Chair of the Board
Chair (Acting), PMPRB,
Special Advisor, Mercure

Alain Bourque
Vice Chair of the Board
Executive Director, Ouranos

M^e Jean Brunet
Secretary of the Board
Partner - Corporate and
commercial law, Stein Monast LLP

Janice Bailey
Vice President, Research,
Scientific Director of the Fonds
de recherche du Québec -
Nature et technologies

Sébastien Beauchamp**
Vice President, Government
Relations, Dynacare

Sonia Cellot
Hematologist, CHU Sainte-
Justine; Clinical associate
professor, Department
of Pediatrics, Université
de Montréal

Lynda Durand
Lawyer and Corporate Director
Productions Ostar Inc.

Jean-François Éthier*
Clinical Researcher and
Associate Professor
Department of Medicine,
Université de Sherbrooke

Michel Fortin
President and Chief Executive
Officer, EVAH Corp.

Geneviève Guertin
Vice President, Private Equity and
Impact Investing, Life Sciences,
Fonds de solidarité FTQ

Inès Holzbaur**
Founder and Managing Partner
ArmorChem

David Jarry
Managing Partner - Tax
BDO Montréal

Marie-Paule Jeansonne
Vice President, Strategy, Impact
and Sustainability, Mila, Québec
Artificial Intelligence Institute

Josette Renée-Landry
President and CEO
Génome Québec

Caroline Quach-Thanh
Full Professor, Département de
microbiologie, infectiologie et
immunologie, Département de
pédiatrie, Université de Montréal

Rémi Quirion
Chief Scientist, Fonds de
recherche du Québec

OBSERVERS

Rob Annan
President and CEO
Genome Canada

Marco Blouin
General Director, Direction générale
de la science et de l'innovation
Ministère de l'Économie, de
l'Innovation et de l'Énergie

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



Josette Renée-Landry
President and CEO



Valérie Bergeron
Vice President, Finance



Patrick Blondin
Vice President,
Technology Centres



Marie-Kym Brisson
Vice President, Strategic Development
and Public Affairs



Stéphanie Lord-Fontaine
Vice President, Scientific Affairs



Cynthia Mvié-Lépine
Vice President, Human Resources,
Administration and Legal Affairs

* End of mandate on June 30, 2024

** Start of mandate on June 13, 2024



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Génome Québec | Genomics research company

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Centre d'expertise et de services | Génome Québec Inc.

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THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

Québec 



GenomeCanada



GENOMEQUEBEC.COM