

**Submission to 2019 Ontario Budget**  
**By: The Danish Life Sciences Forum**

On behalf of the Danish Life Sciences Forum (DLSF), thank you for the opportunity to provide input on Ontario's 2019 budget.

The DLSF was created in 2018 as a way for Danish life sciences companies to collaborate around shared opportunities and challenges in the Canadian marketplace, and build on our foundations in Denmark and our experience globally. With the support of the Danish Trade Council, which acts as the forum secretariat, the group currently consists of Novo Nordisk Canada Inc., Leo Pharma Inc., and Lundbeck Canada – all foundation owned companies that are beholden to all societal stakeholders, and with a long-term mission to find cures in their therapeutic areas. Ultimately, we hope to work with government partners to increase trade in life sciences services, R&D and ensure everyone has equitable access to medicines.

In the 2019 budget, the Ontario government is seeking ideas from stakeholders on a number of key areas, including how to cut red tape for businesses and preserve and create jobs for Ontarians. The DLSF fully supports these objectives, and we believe they can be achieved through a renewed emphasis on providing a supportive innovation ecosystem and commercial environment for the life sciences sector – a key driver of Ontario's economic growth and prosperity. Ontario's life sciences sector already employs 83,000 highly skilled workers at more than 5,600 companies, and directly contributes over \$20 billion to the provincial economy<sup>1</sup>, making it a key economic engine for the province. Removing red tape for the sector will make it easier for life sciences companies to invest, grow and create jobs in Ontario.

In that regard, we want to use this opportunity to highlight one emerging piece of red tape at the federal level that could negatively impact Ontario's life sciences sector and scale back pharmaceutical industry investments and job creation in the province – the federal government's proposed drug pricing reforms. The federal government's current efforts to reform how the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board regulates pharmaceutical prices will add an unprecedented layer of red tape and business uncertainty for the sector, which could cripple the industry's economic viability and harm Canadian's access to many innovative, life-saving medicines. Efforts to regulate prices for both public and private payers could also impact the ability for pharmaceutical companies to continue to offer favourable commercial terms to public payers, including the Ontario government.

To ensure that Ontario remains a premier location for life sciences industry investments, the government should focus on building a supportive ecosystem for the sector while continuing its efforts to reduce red tape and improve the ease of doing business for companies. On this point, we recommend voicing the abovementioned concerns to the federal government to ensure Ontarians and the economy are not adversely impacted by the proposed drug pricing reforms.

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<sup>1</sup> Life Sciences Ontario Sector Report, 2015:  
[http://www.lifesciencesontario.ca/\\_files/file.php?fileid=fileMEGmaMmMlc&filename=file\\_LSO\\_Sector\\_Report\\_2015\\_FINAL\\_\\_\\_2015\\_02\\_25.pdf](http://www.lifesciencesontario.ca/_files/file.php?fileid=fileMEGmaMmMlc&filename=file_LSO_Sector_Report_2015_FINAL___2015_02_25.pdf)

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK**

THE TRADE COUNCIL

On behalf of the Danish Life Sciences Forum, thank you once again for considering our input to the Ontario's 2019 budget.