

# DANISH LIFE SCIENCES FORUM



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF DENMARK**  
*Denmark in Canada*

*Lundbeck*



# ABOUT US



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OF DENMARK  
*Denmark in Canada*



The Danish Life Sciences Forum (DLSF) was formalized in March 2018. The alliance consists of the Canadian affiliates of three of the foremost life sciences companies in Denmark: Lundbeck, LEO Pharma, and Novo Nordisk.

In collaboration with the Danish Trade Council, the DLSF is committed to engaging with public and private sector stakeholders in Canada to help ensure that the life sciences industry delivers improved health outcomes for Canadians, while continuing to be an important local source of jobs and economic growth long-term.

Our ethos is defined by the four cornerstones of our collective identity:



## Foundation Owned

All DLSF member companies are majority-owned by foundations– a Danish tradition. This unique structure fosters a balanced focus on profit generation and societal impact through philanthropy and sustainability initiatives.



## Danish & Canadian

The DLSF has a great understanding of best practices and common challenges in both jurisdictions. We leverage our deep local knowledge and strongholds from Denmark to propose solutions for the Canadian context.



## Chronic Disease Focused

The DLSF is driven to improve health outcomes for Canadian citizens by preventing and treating chronic disease through system and scientific innovation.



## Trusted Partners

Drawing on Denmark's respected convention of true public-private partnerships, the DLSF is committed to collaborating with policymakers and other stakeholders in a meaningful and transparent way.

The DLSF seeks to catalyze thought leadership in the realm of healthcare and life sciences.

We focus on matters beyond pharmaceuticals: policy, health data, healthcare digitalization, healthcare system resilience, wellness promotion, and caregiver burden.

# COLLABORATION

Denmark and Canada share a high standard of living, business culture, and societal values, as well as a general ambition to be ahead of the curve when it comes to finding innovative solutions to societal challenges. Given our similarities, we have a strong foundation for ongoing dialogue and knowledge sharing between our countries, including our approaches to creating a business-friendly environment and regulatory framework for the life sciences industry.

Canada's leadership position in the transition to outcomes-based healthcare is apparent. Through international collaboration, there are great opportunities to grow and maintain a world-leading ecosystem for research and innovation in health and life sciences. The continued development of the life sciences industry will lead to significant economic growth, job creation, and, ultimately, better patient health outcomes.

Taking advantage of these opportunities will require:

- A coordinated strategy with strong, centralized oversight built around public-private sector collaboration;
- Attracting R&D and clinical research;
- Digital transformation and proactive patient-centred healthcare services;
- A regulatory and commercialization framework that supports the innovation pipeline and addresses barriers.

In Denmark, the life sciences sector is viewed as a direct contributor to the wealth of the nation, the health of its citizens, and a source of revenue for the government.

The recipe for Denmark's success includes a combination of supportive policies and subsidies that fuel the development of the R&D ecosystem and a long-standing tradition of strong public-private partnerships.

The Danish life sciences sector

- has over 50,000 full-time employees\*
- consists of 1660 companies\*
- exports for DKK 175 billion a year, accounting for 19.7% of total Danish merchandise exports\*
- invests almost DKK 16 billion in R&D\*
- is number 1 in the EU with 32 clinical trials per million inhabitants.\*\*

\* Source: Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs 2023 based on Statistics Denmark, Danmarks Nationalbank, and Eurostat

\*\* Source: The Danish Association of the Pharmaceutical Industry (Lif) 2023 and the World Health Organization (WHO)





# LUNDBECK CANADA

## Company Spotlight



### ECONOMIC FOOTPRINT

Lundbeck is one of the few biopharmaceutical companies in the world focused exclusively on neuroscience. It has more than 70 years of experience in discovering, developing, and commercializing treatments for those affected by psychiatric and neurological disorders. Located in Montreal, Quebec, Lundbeck Canada employs over 130 people across the country.

### LOCAL INITIATIVES

In an effort to tackle large complex health problems, Lundbeck is a supporter of the MIRA platform. Developed by the Mood Disorders Society of Canada, in collaboration with University of Alberta and other like-minded public not-for-profit organizations and academic research institutes, this tool is an intelligent, publicly available, and accessible mental health system navigation chatbot that incorporates artificial intelligence to make a difference for Canadians.

### RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

As part of its purpose to restore brain health so every person can be their best, Lundbeck Canada is dedicated to patients' wellbeing and strives to bring clinical research to Canada. A recent example of this is the enrollment of Canadian patients in Lundbeck's global RELEASE study, an international, multi centric, observational, non-interventional prospective cohort study that will measure real-life effectiveness of eptinezumab in migraine.

### SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES

Through their sustainability strategy, Lundbeck mitigates business risks, reduces negative impacts, and address societal challenges where possible. They remain committed to UN Global Compact Principles, and contribute to seven of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Lundbeck became a signatory to the UN Global Compact in 2009. They continue to promote initiatives that demonstrate commitment to the 10 principles on human and labour rights, environment protection and anti-corruption.



# LEO PHARMA CANADA

## Company Spotlight



### ECONOMIC FOOTPRINT

LEO Pharma Canada supports 115 employees across the country. At the heart of our company's success and growth is the passion of LEO Pharma's people, who are determined to make a real difference.

### LOCAL INITIATIVES

LEO Pharma has developed an inclusive clinical trials infrastructure to accommodate diverse populations. Their worldwide awareness campaign for atopic dermatitis included Canadian patients. In 2023, they donated treatments to help over 75,000 patients. The company is collaborating with International Health Partners, a global health NGO, to provide drug donations and support vulnerable communities in times of disaster.

It is LEO Pharma's belief that a diverse and inclusive work environment is essential for driving innovation and enhancing performance. As part of its commitment to diversity and inclusion, LEO Pharma has set a specific goal to achieve 45% representation of the underrepresented gender in both senior and middle management positions by 2025.

### RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

LEO Pharma recognizes Canada as a key market for clinical trial recruitment, contributing approx. 22% of participants in LEO Pharma's global clinical trials. In collaboration with its partners, LEO Pharma has built a strong pipeline and continues to expand with innovative topical, biological, and systemic treatments to bring life-changing medicines to people with skin diseases.

LEO Pharma is dedicated to supporting initiatives that benefit Canadian dermatology and thrombosis communities. Each year, LEO Pharma Canada allocate towards grants and donations to benefit the healthcare profession and patient communities across the country. Globally, LEO Pharma reinvests 16% of its revenue into research and development.

### SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES

Sustainability is integral to LEO Pharma's business strategy approach, which emphasizes advancing the standard of care for individuals with skin conditions and enhancing the accessibility of innovative treatments. Additionally, LEO Pharma recognizes and addresses environmental, social, and governance (ESG) risks and opportunities. LEO Pharma is actively contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals and has participated in the UN Global Compact since 2018. In 2023, they successfully reduced Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions by 39.2% compared to the 2019 baseline. In 2022, LEO Pharma became a signatory of the Marseille Declaration.

# NOVO NORDISK CANADA

## Company Spotlight



### ECONOMIC FOOTPRINT

Novo Nordisk serves more than 1.5 million people in Canada, and employs approx. 500 employees from coast to coast. Novo Nordisk has already invested heavily in Canadian Life Sciences companies, with notable funding granted to Ventus in Montreal and Aspect in Vancouver - both collaborations that will foster innovation and development.

### LOCAL INITIATIVES

Novo Nordisk is involved in several partnerships aimed at combating diabetes and obesity in Canada: NOVAD, with funds from both Novo Nordisk Alberta Diabetes fund and Alberta government partners; Raven Indigenous Capital Partners, with support from six Indigenous communities and two levels of government; Cities for Better Health - Mississauga; Novo Nordisk Network for Healthy Populations, focusing on applied research and health equity; CHUM CED, to establish the Centre of expertise in diabetes care leveraging AI and new technology; and RASC obesity training, a new program for healthcare professional training in obesity prevention.

Most recently, Novo Nordisk has partnered with Nova Scotia to create the Nova Scotia Lighthouse project, an initiative that will address childhood obesity and chronic disease in the province.

### RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

More than 25,000 people participate in a Novo Nordisk clinical trial each year on a global scale. Novo Nordisk clinical trials are conducted at more than 5,000 trial sites in more than 50 countries around the world. At any given time, there may be more than 100 active Novo Nordisk clinical trials.

In recognition of Canadian investigators' expertise in clinical trials, Canada has been designated a Clinical Development Centre within Novo Nordisk, meaning that Novo Nordisk will conduct trials in Canada across the entire development portfolio. In 2024, approximately 5% of patients in Novo Nordisk clinical trials are from Canada.

### SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES

The ambition of Novo Nordisk's environmental strategy, Circular for Zero, is to have zero environmental impact. To get there, Novo Nordisk is working across the value chain to identify practical solutions to reshape its business practices to embrace: 1) Circular Supply, 2) Circular Company, and 3) Circular Products

In Canada, NNCI is working to reduce the environmental impact of its operations. By identifying key areas where circularity can be promoted, different initiatives have achieved significant progress. This includes reducing business air travel emissions by 50% in 2023 from 2019, transitioning NNCI's fleet to electric and hybrid vehicles, and expanding its sharps disposal program.



# OUR VALUE

With an emphasis on stability, social responsibility, and long-term vision, we recognize that our societies' complex problems cannot be solved unless we work together as a whole. We must coherently utilize expertise across all sectors: public, private, and academia.

Through various initiatives such as roundtables, engagement sessions, and delegations, our alliance seeks opportunities to build partnerships, consider specific issues, co-ideate solutions, and progress initiatives toward tangible benefit for Canadian citizens.

We curate a quarterly newsletter and post regular updates on the Denmark in Canada LinkedIn page and main website. Follow our work; join us in our ambition to improve equitable and timely access to innovative medicine.

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The Danish Trade Council is a division of Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Trade Council in Canada operates mainly out of the Royal Danish Consulate General in Toronto, ON.

We work closely with the Royal Danish Embassy to create meaningful relationships to foster knowledge and solution exchange between Canada and Denmark.

The Danish Trade Council is the proud secretariat of the Danish Life Sciences Forum.







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