LIFE SCIENCES ONTARIO

2022 ONTARIO PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION

Life Sciences Ontario
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Life Sciences Ontario (LSO) is a not-for-profit organization that represents and promotes Ontario's vibrant and diverse life sciences sector.

Ontario is currently home to one of the largest life sciences clusters in North America. The sector supports a thriving research and innovation ecosystem, contributes $58 billion to Ontario's GDP, and provides almost 200,000 direct and indirect jobs for Ontarians. About 1-in-13 jobs in Ontario are in life sciences or supported by its activity, and job wages in the sector are almost 25 per cent higher than the provincial average.[1]

Ontario's life sciences sector has been at the forefront of Canada's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and has worked tirelessly to contribute to global efforts to develop vaccines, boosters, treatments, medical equipment, and other solutions needed to stem the tide of this crisis.

Over the course of this pandemic, the Government of Ontario has made commendable moves in supporting our sector. However, there is widespread recognition that the sector is not achieving its full potential. Significant measures still need to be taken to realize the enormous benefits that we have to offer regarding economic recovery, national health security, and protecting the well-being of Ontarians.

In this context, LSO is pleased to provide the following three recommendations for how the Government of Ontario can support the life sciences sector through Budget 2022:

1) **Implement a provincial life sciences strategy**. As an immediate first step, we recommend establishing an Ontario Life Sciences Strategy Table, comprised of key political leaders across ministries, industry leaders and other key stakeholders to help move this forward. For more information on what actions the government can take, please see LSO's Roadmap for an Integrated Life Sciences Ecosystem in Ontario. Post-pandemic Ontario must reposition itself as a globally competitive ecosystem to drive innovation and attract investments, and we urge you to explore and consider similar life sciences strategies that have been implemented in Quebec, the United Kingdom and Denmark.

2) **Advocate for the life sciences sector at the federal level with respect to the federal price controls for new medicines** (i.e., the PMPRB reforms) – which continue to be a barrier and a source of red tape in Ontario.

3) **Develop a provincial rare disease strategy** that will provide cutting-edge diagnosis and care for patients while attracting investments to Ontario's life sciences sector. This will build on national efforts led by the rare diseases community, including the Canadian Rare Disease Strategy launched by the Canadian Organization for Rare Disorders in 2015. For

[1] https://lifesciencesontario.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/LSO-Economic-Study_Final-Report_28FEB2019.pdf

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more insights, please see LSO's vision paper on how adopting a provincial rare diseases strategy would save lives and boost Ontario's economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our input.

Sincerely,

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