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## **Canadian Biotechnology Strategy (CBS) BioPortal Focus Groups**

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## Introduction

Decima Research is pleased to present the following report to Industry Canada highlighting the results of the recently completed qualitative research about the BioPortal website ([www.bioportal.gc.ca](http://www.bioportal.gc.ca)).

The BioPortal was created to provide Canadians with one-window access to government information holdings on biotechnology and other related issues via the Internet. The BioPortal is managed by the Canadian Biotechnology Secretariat.

The BioPortal has five major components:

- BioBasics;
- BioRegulations;
- BioStrategy;
- BioGateway; and
- BioGov.

In March 2005, the Secretariat conducted qualitative research about the BioPortal. Based on this research, numerous features were added and enhancements were made to the site. In recent months, more information has been brought forward by federal departments for potential introduction to the site.

The Secretariat wanted to conduct focus groups to obtain feedback from Canadians on potential content for the site, as well as testing potential new ways of organizing the site, as part of its efforts to continually improve the BioPortal and its content.

More specifically, the objectives of the research were to:

- Gain a deeper understanding of which sources of information on biotechnology the public uses when they seek to know more about the processes and applications of emerging technologies;

- Gather in-depth insight into how the public views the Government of Canada as a source for this information;
- Evaluate specific components of the design, content, and navigation of the BioPortal, including the new BioGov module as well as the redesign of the homepage; and
- Analyze the information needs and requirements of the Canadian public with respect to biotechnology and emerging technologies in order to elucidate how to best communicate this information to them.

This report is based on four evenings of focus groups with Canadians in the following cities:

- Halifax;
- Montreal;
- Winnipeg; and
- Vancouver.

One session in each city consisted of a segment called “Involved Canadians”. This segment of the population is considered to be key opinion leaders on issues and makes up about 30% of the population. Sessions in Montreal were conducted in French and all other sessions were led in English.

This report begins with an executive summary followed by a summary analysis of the research results. Appended to this report are the recruitment screener and moderation guide (English and French).

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## Executive Summary

This report presents the findings from four evenings of focus groups in Halifax, Montreal, Winnipeg, and Vancouver among Canadians to evaluate Industry Canada’s BioPortal website.

Outlined below are the key findings from the research.

- 1. Most participants in these sessions have not actively sought out information about biotechnology in the past.** Having said that, they will research topics related to biotechnology if it has some sort of impact on them directly. For instance, participants researched topics related to colon cancer, umbilical cord storage, diabetes, and other health-related issues that affect them directly, either personally, or a member of their family.
- 2. The Government of Canada is considered to be a credible source of information about biotechnology.** While credible, most do not instinctively see the government being the “go to” for information. Instead, they will begin a search with *Google* and work from there. They are also more likely to go to websites that are directly related to the information they are seeking. This is most often the case when looking for health information – where they will go to an association’s website.
- 3. There is little to no awareness or profile of the BioPortal, so if it is going to serve its purpose, some steps need to be taken to raise awareness among Canadians.** Indeed, none of the participants in any of the cities had heard of the BioPortal before the sessions and consequently none have visited it to search for information.
- 4. On the whole, participants were generally positive about the BioPortal and the information it contained.** They were quite complimentary about the overall look and feel of the website in terms

of the layout, content, and colours used. However, they do believe the section names and some of the navigational features could be improved. **Although they make a number of suggestions about the site, these are minor formatting tweaks and should not be viewed as a negative impression of the Portal.**

- 5. There is a strong sense among participants that the Government needs to publicize this website.** They strongly believe that the Government should be promoting this site to Canadians. Moreover, they understand that money would be required to do this, and this trade-off is acceptable to them. One recommended avenue is to publicize this site through schools. More often than not, participants highly praised this site and thought it would be an excellent resource for students of all ages.

## Key Findings

### Circumstances for Searching for Biotechnology Information

For the most part, participants in the sessions do not search for information about biotechnology. For them, the key driver for researching information on the Internet is if it's something that they are directly affected by or genuinely interested in. And, for the most part, biotechnology does not fall into either of these categories. Additionally, even if they saw something on the news that was interesting related to biotechnology, few said they would go and seek more information.

To further illustrate this point, while conducting the sessions in Winnipeg and Vancouver, a large news piece appeared in the local and national newspapers, as well as on television about a new method for extracting embryos for stem cell research. About half of the participants in each session saw or read this article, and few (if any) sought more information in response to something they learned about biotechnology in the media. Therefore, the driver for searching for information is participants' level of interest in a subject. Moreover, if they are seeking information on a subject that may have a biotechnology application (e.g. Diabetes), they are most likely to search for information on that subject and not biotechnology's role in that area.

Based on this, it is not surprising that none of the participants had heard of the BioPortal prior to the discussion groups. This lack of awareness is related to the fact that biotechnology is not an area that participants regularly look for information about and is not a reflection of the Portal.

One of the largest complaints among participants searching for information online is assessing the credibility of the information found. One way that participants determine the credibility of a website is the site author. For instance, most in the sessions are reluctant to consider information about pharmaceutical products from the manufacturer. Consequently, participants generally search for sites with a government extension on them (i.e. sites



ending with .gc.ca). For them, information on Government of Canada websites is generally credible.

Most participants have visited a Government of Canada website at some point, and most agree that the information they find is credible. They believe that the information provided on a Government of Canada website has been verified and validated internally prior to being posted for public use. As a result of this perception, there is a sense that Government of Canada websites are *more* credible than other sources.

Moreover, they will also go to websites from universities, as well as associations of formal organizations for information. This is most often the case when searching for health information. Some will use multiple sources to determine if the information is credible. Specifically, they are seeking information that is consistent. Again, this is most often the case when seeking health-related information.

Although they believe Government of Canada websites are very credible, their initial starting point is always a search engine, such as *Google*. They will then initially scan the listings and decide where to go. If they are seeking health information, participants say they are most likely to go to a health association website. Participants say they will also follow the links provided on their initial website for more information. For them, it is a short-cut to additional information on the same subject area.

## Overall Impressions of the BioPortal

Participants were generally positive about the BioPortal website. Specifically, they were impressed with the amount of information that was available through the BioPortal. In a sense, they were surprised by how much information was actually at their disposal. They were also surprised – and impressed – by how current the information on the Portal is. Indeed, some of the pages visited throughout the sessions had been updated that very day. Some expected that because this was a government website, the information contained on it may not be as up-to-date as that found on non-government sponsored sites.

Most participants thought the Portal was targeted to industry or a professional audience and not to the general public. This was for two reasons: the first is that they felt a majority of the information contained on the site was not relevant to them, particularly regulatory information. While they did not object to this information on the Portal, it led them to believe that the primary purpose of the Portal was for those directly involved in biotechnology. The second reason cited is that there was no definition of what biotechnology is on the main page. Because of this, they believe that there is an expectation to have some basic knowledge about what biotechnology is before visiting the BioPortal. *We would suggest including a broad definition of biotechnology on the main page.*

To a lesser degree, the use of acronyms throughout the site led participants to believe that the site was targeted to an audience that regularly researches issues related to biotechnology. In many cases, participants noticed the term “R&D” used throughout the Portal. However, at least one person in each group did not know what that acronym stood for. Therefore, it conveyed a sense that the portal was targeted to a specific knowledge-base. *Our recommendation would be to include a glossary of terms for acronyms used.*

Compounding this is the fact that the majority of those in the sessions had limited knowledge of biotechnology. This finding is consistent with other research that we have done in this area. Biotechnology is not a top-of-mind

“new technology” for most, and when asked specifically about biotechnology, it is most commonly associated with GM foods, and stem cell research. For most then, their starting point with biotechnology is quite limited. Therefore, there needs to be a preface on the site to introduce the subject area before navigating the site to find information.

While they were generally complimentary of the portal, they did have some recommendations on how the main page could be improved to make it easier for them to use. It should be noted that these are minor modifications to the site and do not require a major overhaul of the Portal.



A majority of participants would prefer to have the home page on one screen without having to scroll down to see all of the information in that section. They feel that they could be missing important information if they don't notice the scroll bar. *We would suggest, to the extent possible, compressing the site so the complete main page does not require scrolling down.*

Some participants felt there was too much white space on the side of the page. For some, they were not sure if they were missing information or if the page had not loaded properly. While a few recognized that this was likely related to monitor size, most agree that it was a distraction. They

recommend widening the screen to reduce the amount of white space on the right hand side.

The search box is a key benefit to the site. Indeed, a majority in the sessions say they use this feature on a site regularly, and to some extent, this is their starting point when visiting a website for the first time. They do note however, that the placement of the search box changes when navigating throughout the site. They recognize that the placement changes because it follows the sub-folders for each page on the site, but they still find it confusing. To alleviate this, they suggest moving the search box to the top left corner, so it appears in the same place regardless of what part of the portal they are in.

There was strong reaction from participants about the image shown on the main page – both positive and negative. Those who liked the image liked the reference to DNA, which they related back to biotechnology. They also liked the colours used on the site and the image of the globe within the illustration.

Those who reacted negatively to the graphic did so because they were not sure what it was supposed to represent. Some thought it was a profile shot of either a man or woman. They could not link the image to the information on the site, which led to confusion. While they liked the image of the globe on the main page, this group felt it should focus on North America, as opposed to the southern hemisphere.

Participants invited to sessions in Winnipeg and Vancouver were asked to review the portal before the groups, so they would have some familiarity with the portal before discussing it. This was useful as almost all of the participants had spent some time navigating the portal and were able to provide some valuable feedback about it.

Participants most often navigated through the site by the order of the sections and a majority visited the BioGateway section first. Intuitively however, they felt the BioBasics section makes the most sense to visit first. Their initial expectation from the name is that they would find basic information about biotechnology in this section. They felt this way because

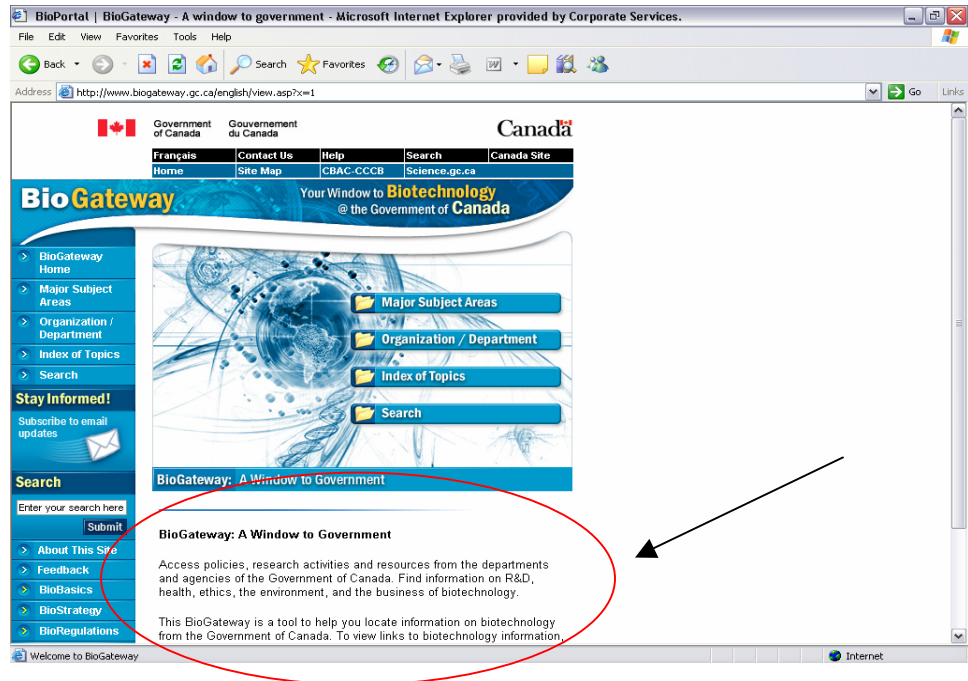
they believe BioBasics is an excellent section to get a “primer” about biotechnology. Instead, by visiting the BioGateway section first, they struggled with some of the information presented. This relates back to the fact that awareness and familiarity with biotechnology in general is limited. They believe that they would understand the site and content better if they had at least a working definition of what biotechnology is.

Some suggested that the main page include a user’s guide to help those who had never been to the website before guide them through the site. They recommend having a tab with a user manual of sorts for first time visitors. Ideally, this part of the site would guide visitors where to find various pieces of information, and also outline the purpose of the Portal. The purpose of this is two-fold: First, it would provide a resource for those unfamiliar with the site to introduce the Portal and its layout. Second, it would reinforce that the Portal was created for the general public.

Another tool that they believe would help them navigate through the site is providing more clear language about what they can expect to find in each subsection and that this needs to be on the main page. Few noticed the mouse-over feature on the main page when highlighting any of the tabs. What’s more, those who did notice felt that the text flashed too quickly, and that it did not provide a good enough description to allow them to decide if that is where they would find the information they were searching for. Consequently, few were able to read the description and make a decision if they would visit that section of the site. Their default was to skip that section altogether.

Additionally, some of the section names did not clearly indicate what that section of the website would contain. This was most evident with the BioGov and BioGateway sections. For most in the sessions, they did not make the connection that Government of Canada biotechnology information would be found under BioGateway. Instead, their initial reaction was that this information would be found under BioGov. Further discussions reveal that most would expect the information under BioGateway to be included under BioGov, and that the BioGov section should be renamed “BioWorld”, to

emphasize the fact that this information is international in scope. *Our recommendation would be to rename BioGov to BioWorld, and rename BioGateway to BioGov.*



Participants did like the sentences that were provided once they entered that selection. In most cases, they felt the language was clear and easy to read and understand. They also felt the paragraphs accurately described what they could expect to find in that section of the Portal. *They suggest moving the paragraphs next to the titles on the main page as they provided a clear description of what they could expect to find in each section.*

A majority of participants felt there was duplication in the information on the main page. Specifically, the same menu items on the right of the page, appear as well on the left. Participants were then confused where the link was, not realizing that both would direct them to the same page. This finding was consistent throughout each section of the site explored. *To this end, they suggest keeping the toolbar on the left as this is more intuitive to them, and incorporating the descriptions included in each section where the current file folder tabs are.*

Having said that, participants do like the fact that the main page menu consistently appears in the bottom left of the page they are visiting. They felt that this allows them to easily navigate through different sections of the Portal.

## Section-Specific Findings

Due to the number of sections on the website, not all groups explored each section. The general public groups evaluated the BioBasics and BioGateway sections, while the Involved Canadians sessions assessed the BioRegulations and BioGov sections of the BioPortal. All sections of the Portal were tested in each of the four cities.

While a majority of the findings can be generalized to the overall Portal, there were some findings and recommendations that are specific to one section of the site. These findings are presented below.

**BioBasics.** As mentioned above, participants were very positive about this section of the website. Particularly, they felt this section gave a comprehensive overview of the areas of biotechnology from the division of tabs in the site. They also liked how the site was organized once they selected a section. For example, they liked how when selecting the health tab, an alphabetical list of topics appeared. For most, this was a logical way of organizing the subjects and content of the site.

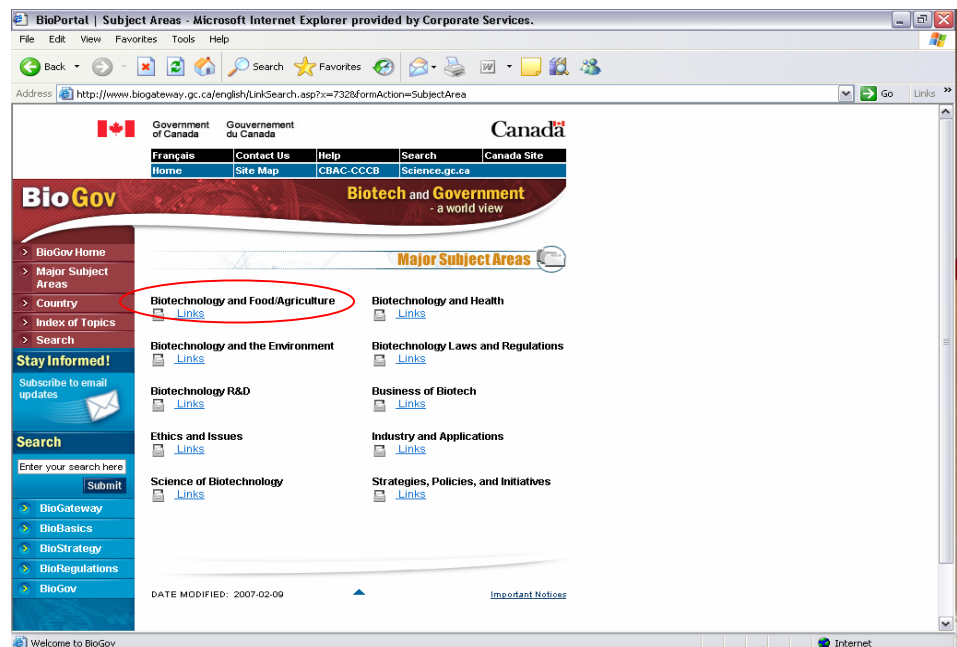
Participants also felt the language used in this section was appropriate and easy to understand. They thought that the language in this section was less technical than in other sections. Indeed, they imagined this section would be extremely useful especially among high school students and in fact would recommend students use this site.

While comments were generally positive, participants did point to a couple of areas for improvement. Most notable is the number of “clicks” required to reach an actual definition of biotechnology. In the groups, it took three clicks to get a definition of biotechnology. For most that are not familiar with the subject, they felt that they had to go too deep into the site before getting an overview of what biotechnology is. They felt that a definition of biotechnology was required on the main page in the site rather than where it is currently located, particularly given that few understood what biotechnology was



before going to the website. *We recommend that the definition be moved to the home page.*

**BioGov.** From the home page, participants were initially unclear about what they could expect to find in this section of the Portal. Once explained that this section would provide information about biotechnology in other countries, their reaction was positive. As suggested above, they suggest re-naming this section “BioWorld” as it would be more intuitive and a better description of what they can expect to find in this section of the Portal.



When navigating through the major subject areas, they related the term “links” to information outside of the Portal. Indeed, most believe that links take you outside of a website; therefore they were unclear where they would be directed. They also felt that having the term “link” under the heading was redundant. Instead, they recommend making the heading the link itself and removing the word “links”. For them, this would lessen confusion about where they were being directed to and would eliminate redundancy.

When selecting the link, they like the alphabetical organization of the site. For most, this is the most logical way of organizing the large amount of information. Moreover, when delving deeper into the site, the abstracts were

helpful in determining whether this was the information they were looking for or not. They also liked the fact that they could view either all the information in that section, or click on a tab for specific types of information (i.e. regulatory). However, they did find that the sheer volume of information provided was a bit overwhelming, depending on the information they were looking for.

When looking at information in BioGov from other countries, it was unclear to participants that the information presented is from government sources only. It was important for participants to know where they were being directed to for this information from other countries. This is critical for them to determine if the information provided is credible. Once it was explained that they would be directed to government websites only, they were more comfortable with the information provided in BioGov. *Our recommendation is to include this information in the introduction of this section of the site.*

A related topic discussed in the groups is the appropriateness of providing links to external information. There was a divide on whether it was appropriate for a government website to link to resources that are not monitored by the Government of Canada. While virtually everyone agreed that links to external corporate sites, particularly those involved in biotechnology is inappropriate, there was debate on the merits of linking to media and organizational-type resources. The most common example would be linking to news media sources such as the *Globe and Mail* or similar sites.

Those who are in favour of providing external links say they want to be presented with all sides of the story in order to form their own opinions on the subject. This group of people is seeking information from a variety of sources in one site. The underlying assumption is that the information presented on the Portal is an opinion and may not be perceived as factual in their eyes. For this group, it makes the Portal *more* credible because it is presenting the arguments that led to the decisions/policies, etc.

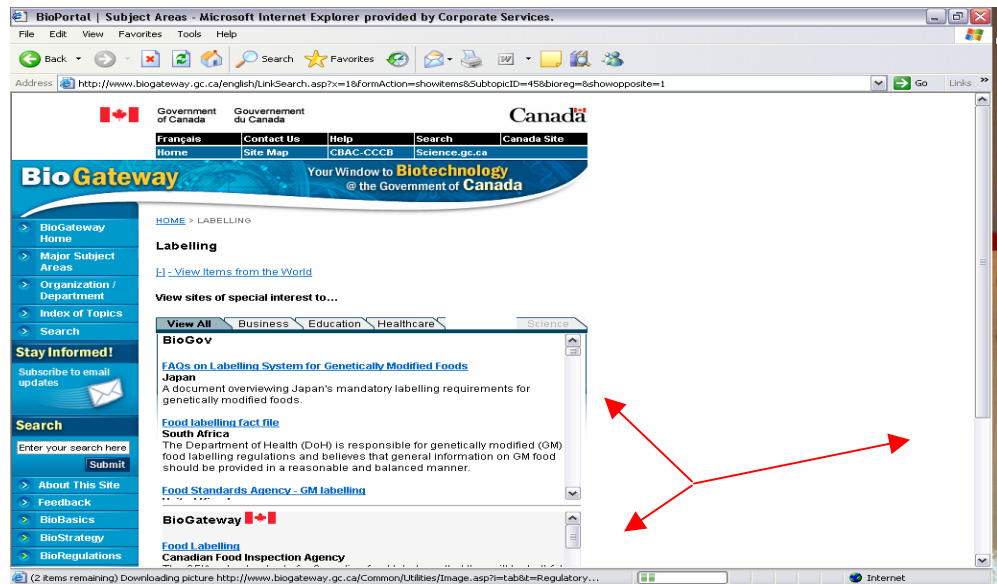
Those who are against the provision of external links say that it is outside the scope of the Portal, and to a certain extent inappropriate to link to resources

that have not been verified by the government. The sense is that with information that is not verified, the credibility of the information and of the government is compromised. Therefore, while it might be useful to provide external links, the potential risk for linking to information that is not credible outweighs its usefulness for this group. Moreover, they understood that the government has no control over the content of the sites linked externally and their credibility may be compromised.

Few noticed the link above the information allowing participants to toggle between Canadian and international information. While they liked the idea of this capability, few said they would actually use this feature on the Portal. Primarily, as with regulations, participants are not generally looking for this kind of information when searching about biotechnology. Again, they thought this would be most useful for those in the biotechnology industry.

They believe that this feature could help promote the Canadian biotechnology industry by highlighting the advancements made in Canada compared to those in other countries. Therefore, while few noticed this feature, they could see a potential use for it.

**BioGateway.** As noted earlier, participants were largely unclear about what they could expect to find in this section of the BioPortal. When delving deeper into this section, participants consistently noted the index of topics as an area that was well organized. Particularly, it was intuitive to most that this section was organized alphabetically. They also appreciated that the alphabetical list remained at the top of the page when browsing through.



As was the case with BioGov, few participants noticed the link at the top BioGateway connecting them to information from outside of Canada. Indeed, it wasn't until they were prompted about the link that they noticed it. They were positive about the concept of comparing documents and information from other countries; however they do have some recommendations on how to improve this feature. The criticisms centered on the format of the comparison feature. Specifically, they felt there were too many windows on the screen to scroll through. This led to confusion as to where they needed to scroll down for information.

While they liked that the Canadian flag made it easy to identify the Canadian content on the site, participants would like a similar feature added for the international content. Currently, they had difficulty identifying where the information was from. What's more, it was not clear to participants that they would be leaving the BioPortal if they selected information from another country. *They recommend a mechanism informing visitors if they are leaving the website.*

**BioRegulations.** On the whole, participants spent a limited amount of time in this section of the site. For most in the sessions, they did not feel that they would need regulatory information. Instead, they believe this would be most useful for industry stakeholders and those directly involved in biotechnology.

Reasons for this impression include the fact that this section of the site includes regulatory forms and documents, which they believe they are very unlikely to use.

Moreover, on the whole, participants found the language in this section of the site targeted to those with some background in biotechnology. Again, they felt the language was more technical than that in other sections of the site, leading to the conclusion that this particular aspect of the site was not intended for the general public.

## Conclusions

Based on the findings of this research, we make the following conclusions.

- 1. Participants in these sessions are not actively looking for information about biotechnology.** Given that few raised biotechnology as a new technology, it is not surprising that participants do not look for information about biotechnology. However, they will research topics related to biotechnology if it has some sort of impact on them directly. For instance, participants researched topics related to colon cancer, umbilical cord storage, diabetes, and other health-related issues that affect them directly, either personally, or a member of their family.
- 2. There is a wide breadth of information available, which to a certain extent is *too much* information.** Most participants agree that when going online to search for information about a biotechnology issue, their launch pad is *Google*. Moreover, when they are searching for information specific to a disease or condition, they will often search for information at the specific association's website. The purpose of this is two-fold: first, the association is viewed as a "short-cut" when searching for information; Second, the association is considered a credible source. Further, they are generally searching for information about that disease or condition, and *not* about biotechnology's role for that condition.
- 3. There is no awareness of the BioPortal as a comprehensive resource of government information related to biotechnology.** Indeed, none of the participants had heard of the BioPortal and consequently have not visited it to search for information. However, this is likely related to the fact that they have not actively sought out information generally about biotechnology.
- 4. On the whole, participants were generally positive about the BioPortal and the information it contained.** They were quite

complimentary about the overall look and feel of the website in terms of the layout, content, and colours used. Additionally, they believed the site contained credible information. While they are quite positive about the BioPortal, they make a variety of suggestions to help them better navigate through the site. The most common recommendation is revising the section names and providing more clear descriptions about the content that they could expect to find in each section. **It is important to note that the recommended changes to the website are esthetic or require tweaking, and do not require a complete overhaul of the site.**

## Appendix A: Recruitment Screeners (English)

### Decima (Biotech BioPortal Winter 2006 Groups)

Questionnaire # \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Last Group \_\_\_\_\_  
# of previous groups \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>City: Halifax (English)</b></p> <p><b>Monday December 11, 2006</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Group #1: Gen Pop</td> <td>@6:00pm</td> <td>1</td> <td>\$65.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group #2: Involved Canadians</td> <td>@8:00pm</td> <td>2</td> <td>\$65.00</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>City: Montreal (French)</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday December 12, 2006</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Group #3: Gen Pop</td> <td>@5:30pm</td> <td>3</td> <td>\$65.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group #4: Involved Canadians</td> <td>@7:30pm</td> <td>4</td> <td>\$65.00</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>City: Winnipeg (English)</b></p> <p><b>Monday January 8, 2007</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Group #5: Gen Pop</td> <td>@5:30pm</td> <td>5</td> <td>\$65.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group #6: Involved Canadians</td> <td>@7:30pm</td> <td>6</td> <td>\$65.00</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>City: Vancouver (English)</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday January 9, 2007</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Group #7: Gen Pop</td> <td>@5:30pm</td> <td>7</td> <td>\$65.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group #8: Involved Canadians</td> <td>@7:30pm</td> <td>8</td> <td>\$65.00</td> </tr> </table>	Group #1: Gen Pop	@6:00pm	1	\$65.00	Group #2: Involved Canadians	@8:00pm	2	\$65.00	Group #3: Gen Pop	@5:30pm	3	\$65.00	Group #4: Involved Canadians	@7:30pm	4	\$65.00	Group #5: Gen Pop	@5:30pm	5	\$65.00	Group #6: Involved Canadians	@7:30pm	6	\$65.00	Group #7: Gen Pop	@5:30pm	7	\$65.00	Group #8: Involved Canadians	@7:30pm	8	\$65.00	<p>Rec. 10</p> <p>Honorarium: <b>\$65.00</b></p> <p>Study # <b>90035</b></p> <p>LD Code:</p>
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Group #2: Involved Canadians	@8:00pm	2	\$65.00																														
Group #3: Gen Pop	@5:30pm	3	\$65.00																														
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Group #5: Gen Pop	@5:30pm	5	\$65.00																														
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Group #8: Involved Canadians	@7:30pm	8	\$65.00																														
<p>Respondent's name: _____</p> <p>Respondent's phone #: _____ (home)</p> <p>Respondent's phone #: _____ (work)</p> <p>Respondent's fax #: _____ sent? _____ or</p> <p>Respondent's e-mail : _____ sent? _____</p> <p>Sample source (<i>circle</i>): random          referral</p>	<p>Interviewer: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>Validated: _____</p> <p>Quality Central: _</p> <p>On List: _____</p> <p>On Quotas: _____</p>																																



Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I'm calling from OSI Focus Search, a national public opinion research firm. We're organizing a couple of discussion groups among residents to explore public opinions regarding current issues. **EXPLAIN FOCUS GROUPS.** About ten people like yourself will be taking part, all of them randomly recruited by telephone just like you. But before we invite you to attend, we need to ask you a few questions to ensure that we get a good mix and variety of people. May I ask you a few questions?

Yes **CONTINUE**  
 No **ASK IF ANYONE ELSE IN THE HOUSEHOLD MIGHT BE INTERESTED**

If NOT THANK AND TERMINATE

*IF PARTICIPANTS ASK ABOUT THE LEGITIMACY OF THE RESEARCH: You may contact Normand Laframboise at (613) 947-2596 or at [laframboise.normand@ic.gc.ca](mailto:laframboise.normand@ic.gc.ca) for more information about these discussion groups.*

**Participation is voluntary. We are interested in hearing your opinions, no attempt will be made to sell you anything or change your point of view. The format is a “round table” discussion lead by a research professional.**

1a) Do you or any member of your household work for....

- The federal or provincial government 1
- A media outlet, like a newspaper, radio or TV station 2
- An advertising, public relations or market research firm 3
- A Firm that designs webpages 4

**IF “YES” TO ANY OF THE ABOVE, THANK AND TERMINATE**

1b) Are you a Canadian citizen at least 18 years old?

- Yes 1 **CONTINUE**
- No 2 **THANK & TERMINATE**

1c) **DO NOT ASK – NOTE GENDER (target a 50/50 split in all groups)**

- Male 1
- Female 2

1d) When considering your level of Internet use, how would you categorize yourself?

- I never use the Internet 1 **THANK & TERMINATE**
  - I am a general user, typically for checking email 2
  - I am quite confident navigating the Internet 3
  - I consider myself to be an advanced user 4
- } **We would like a mix**

2) I'd like to ask you some questions about your level of involvement in current issues, if you don't mind. For each of the following, I'd like you to tell me, with a yes or no response, whether you have done this in the last year.

	Yes	No
a. Made a speech to a public audience.....	1	2
b. Written an article for a publication.....	1	2
c. Served as an officer of a club or organization.....	1	2
d. Written a letter to the editor.....	1	2
e. Called a television or radio talk show.....	1	2
f. Served as an officer of a non-governmental organization?.....	1	2
g. Written to an elected representative?.....	1	2
h. Been a member of or worked for a political party?.....	1	2
i. Expressed your views on an important issue through a website or blog?.....	1	2

– Involved Canadians will say yes to at least 3 of the 9 questions  
 – Those who yes to 1 or less of the 9 should be recruited for the Gen pop groups  
 – Take those who say 2 on hold for the Involved groups

3) And how old are you? Are you ....**READ LIST**

Under 18	0	<b>THANK &amp; TERMINATE</b>
18-24	1	
25-34 years	2	
35-44 years	3	<b>WE NEED A MIX</b>
45-54	4	<b>OF AGES IN</b>
55-64	5	<b>EACH GROUP</b>
65 years and older	6	
Refuse	9	

3b) Could you please tell me what is the last level of education that you have completed?

Some high school only.....	1	
Completed high school.....	2	
Some College/University.....	3	<b>MIX IN EACH GROUP</b>
Completed College/University...4	4	

4a) Are you currently....

Married/common-law.....1    **MIX IN EACH GROUP**  
Single/div/separated/widowed....2

4b) And what is your occupation? \_\_\_\_\_  
**TERMINATE IF OCCUPATION IN Q1a**

**IF MARRIED ASK Q4C**

4c) What is your spouses occupation? \_\_\_\_\_  
**TERMINATE IF OCCUPATION IN Q1a**

5) And is your total family income...    **MIX IN EACH GROUP**

Below \$30K	1
Between \$30 – 49,999K	2
\$50K-100K	3
Over \$100K	4
RF/DK	9

6a) The next couple of questions deal with your imagination. Have a little fun with these questions and feel free to answer in any way, as there are no incorrect answers.

Please give me three things you can do with a paper clip besides the obvious.

\_\_\_\_\_

If you could meet anyone in the past or present, who would you like to meet and why?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

ANSWERS SPONTANEOUSLY  
\_\_\_\_\_VERY SURE OF HIMSELF/HERSELF  
\_\_\_\_\_ENTHUSIASTIC  
\_\_\_\_\_CARRIES ON A GOOD CONVERSATION

**NOTE: PAY EXTRA ATTENTION TO RESPONDENTS ANSWERS-LOOK FOR A COMPLEX ANSWER. ANSWERS SHOULD ALSO BE CREATIVE AND NOT JUST ANSWERS. LOOK FOR IMAGINATION AND A SENSE OF CREATIVITY/PARTICIPATION.**

7a) Participants in group discussions are asked to voice their opinions and thoughts, how comfortable are you in voicing your opinions in front of others? Are you (read list)

Very comfortable.....1-min. 4 per group

Fairly comfortable.....2

Comfortable.....3

Not very comfortable..4} terminate

Very uncomfortable....5} terminate

7b) Have you participated in a focus group? A focus group brings together a few people in order to know their opinion about a given subject.

Yes 1 **ASK Q7C AND Q7D**

No 2 **SKIP TO Q8**

DNK / DNA 9 **THANK AND TERMINATE**

7c) When did you last attend one of these discussions?

\_\_\_\_\_ terminate if within the last 6 months

7d) Would you please tell me which topics you discussed when you attended the focus group or interviews?

**IF MENTIONS ANYTHING RELATED TO BIOTECHNOLOGY – THANK AND TERMINATE**

7e) And how many of these sessions have you attended?

**IF Q7E>3 THANK AND TERMINATE. OTHERWISE CONTINUE**

As I mentioned earlier, the group discussion will take place the evening of, **Day, Month, Date @ Time for 2 hours** and participants will receive **\$65** for their time. Would you be willing to attend?

**Yes 1 CONTINUE**

**No 2 THANK AND TERMINATE**

That's great! Do you have a pen or pencil; I will provide you with some additional information.

<p><b>City: Halifax (English)</b></p> <p><b>Monday December 11, 2006</b></p> <table> <tr> <td>Group #1: Gen Pop</td> <td>@6:00pm</td> <td>1</td> <td>\$65.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group #2: Involved Canadians</td> <td>@8:00pm</td> <td>2</td> <td>\$65.00</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>City: Montreal (French)</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday December 12, 2006</b></p> <table> <tr> <td>Group #3: Gen Pop</td> <td>@5:30pm</td> <td>3</td> <td>\$65.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group #4: Involved Canadians</td> <td>@7:30pm</td> <td>4</td> <td>\$65.00</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>City: Winnipeg (English)</b></p> <p><b>Monday January 8, 2007</b></p> <table> <tr> <td>Group #5: Gen Pop</td> <td>@5:30pm</td> <td>5</td> <td>\$65.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group #6: Involved Canadians</td> <td>@7:30pm</td> <td>6</td> <td>\$65.00</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>City: Vancouver (English)</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday January 9, 2007</b></p> <table> <tr> <td>Group #7: Gen Pop</td> <td>@5:30pm</td> <td>7</td> <td>\$65.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group #8: Involved Canadians</td> <td>@7:30pm</td> <td>8</td> <td>\$65.00</td> </tr> </table>	Group #1: Gen Pop	@6:00pm	1	\$65.00	Group #2: Involved Canadians	@8:00pm	2	\$65.00	Group #3: Gen Pop	@5:30pm	3	\$65.00	Group #4: Involved Canadians	@7:30pm	4	\$65.00	Group #5: Gen Pop	@5:30pm	5	\$65.00	Group #6: Involved Canadians	@7:30pm	6	\$65.00	Group #7: Gen Pop	@5:30pm	7	\$65.00	Group #8: Involved Canadians	@7:30pm	8	\$65.00	<p>Rec. 10</p> <p>Honorarium: <b>\$65.00</b></p> <p>Study # <b>90035</b></p> <p>LD Code:</p>
Group #1: Gen Pop	@6:00pm	1	\$65.00																														
Group #2: Involved Canadians	@8:00pm	2	\$65.00																														
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Group #6: Involved Canadians	@7:30pm	6	\$65.00																														
Group #7: Gen Pop	@5:30pm	7	\$65.00																														
Group #8: Involved Canadians	@7:30pm	8	\$65.00																														

**Invitation:**

Do you have a pen handy so that I can give you the address where the group will be held?

Halifax	Montreal	Winnipeg	Vancouver
<p><b>Nucleus Strategy &amp; Research</b>            1701 Hollis Street,            Suite L108            Halifax            NS, B3J 3M8            P: 902-428-4245            F: 902-425-5719</p>	<p><b>Opinion Search</b>            1080 Côte du Beaver            Hall, 4th Floor            Montréal            QC, H2Z 1S8            P: 514-288-0199            F: 514-288-0131</p>	<p><b>PRA Inc.</b>            500-363 Broadway            Winnipeg            MB, R3C 3N9            P:204-987-2030            F: 204-989-2454</p>	<p><b>Consumer Research Centre</b>            1398 West 7th Avenue            Vancouver            BC, V6H 3W5            P: 604-714-5900            F: 604-714-5901</p>

We ask that you arrive fifteen minutes early to be sure you find parking, locate the facility and have time to check-in with the hosts. The hosts may be checking respondent's identification prior to the group, so please be sure to bring some personal identification with you (e.g. driver's license). Also, if you require

glasses for reading, please bring them with you. The group will last no more than **2 hours** and for your time you will receive a cash honorarium of **\$65.00**.

As we are only inviting a small number of people, your participation is very important to us. If for some reason you are unable to attend, please call so that we may get someone to replace you. Please **do not** send someone in your place. You can reach us at **1-800-363-4229 ext 5068** at our office. Please ask for **Carol Smith**. Someone will call you the day before to remind you about the discussion.

So that we can call you to remind you about the focus group or contact you should there be any changes, can you please confirm your name and contact information for me? **[READ INFO WE HAVE AND CHANGE AS NECESSARY.]**

First name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Day time phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Night time phone number \_\_\_\_\_

**If the respondent refused to give his/her first or last name or phone number please assure them that this information will be kept strictly confidential in accordance to the privacy law and that it is used strictly to contact them to confirm their attendance and to inform them of any changes to the focus group. If they still refuse THANK & TERMINATE.**

## Appendix A: Recruitment Screeners (French)

### Décima (Biotechnologie – Groupes sur le BioPortail - hiver 2006)

Questionnaire n° \_\_\_\_\_

Date du dernier groupe \_\_\_\_\_

Nombre de groupes antérieurs \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Ville : Montréal (français)</b>  <b>Le mardi 12 décembre 2006</b> Groupe 3 : Canadiens engagés      17 h 30      3      65,00 \$ Groupe 4 : Grand public              19 h 30      4      65,00 \$				Recrutez 10  Prime : <b>65,00 \$</b>  N° d'étude : <b>90035</b> Code d'interurbain :
Nom du répondant : _____ N° de téléphone du répondant : _____ (maison) N° de téléphone du répondant : _____ (bureau) N° de télécopieur du répondant : _____ envoyé? ou Courriel du répondant : _____ envoyé? Source de l'échantillon ( <i>encerclez</i> ) :      aléatoire                      référence				Intervieweur : _____ Date : _____ Validé : _____ Fichiers centraux : _____ Liste : _____ Quotas : _____

Bonjour, je m'appelle \_\_\_\_\_ et je vous téléphone d'OSI Focus Search, une firme nationale de recherche sur l'opinion publique. Nous organisons quelques groupes de discussion composés de citoyens dans le but de sonder l'opinion publique sur des enjeux d'actualité. **EXPLIQUEZ LES GROUPES DE DISCUSSION.** Une dizaine de personnes y participeront, toutes ayant été recrutées au hasard, par téléphone. Toutefois, avant de vous inviter à vous joindre à nous, j'aimerais vous poser quelques questions pour m'assurer de la diversité du groupe. Puis-je vous poser quelques questions?

Oui

**CONTINUEZ**

Non

**INTÉRESSÉ**
**DEMANDEZ SI QUELQU'UN D'AUTRE À LA MAISON SERAIT**
**SI NON, REMERCIEZ ET TERMINEZ**

**Votre participation est volontaire. Seule votre opinion compte pour nous. Nous ne tenterons pas de vous vendre quoi que ce soit ou de vous faire changer d'idée. La discussion se déroulera sous forme de table ronde et sera animée par un professionnel de la recherche.**

- 1a) Est-ce que vous, ou quelqu'un d'autre chez vous, travaillez pour...
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Le gouvernement fédéral ou un gouvernement provincial                          | 1 |
| Les médias, comme un journal, une station de radio ou une chaîne de télévision | 2 |
| Une firme de publicité, de relations publiques ou de recherche marketing       | 3 |
| Une firme qui conçoit des sites Web  | 4 |

**SI « OUI » À L'UN DE CES DOMAINES, REMERCIEZ ET TERMINEZ**

- 1b) Êtes-vous citoyen(ne) canadien(ne) et âgé(e) d'au moins 18 ans?

- |     |   |                              |
|-----|---|------------------------------|
| Oui | 1 | <b>CONTINUEZ</b>             |
| Non | 2 | <b>REMERCIEZ ET TERMINEZ</b> |

- 1c) **NE DEMANDEZ PAS – SEXE DU RÉPONDANT (visez 50/50 pour tous les groupes)**

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| Homme | 1 |
| Femme | 2 |

- 1d) Comme utilisateur d'Internet, comment vous décrivez-vous?

- |   |   |                              |
|---|---|------------------------------|
| Je n'utilise jamais Internet  | 1 | <b>REMERCIEZ ET TERMINEZ</b> |
| J'utilise Internet de façon générale, surtout pour vérifier mes courriels | 2 | }                            |
| Je suis assez à l'aise lorsque je navigue sur Internet                    | 3 |                              |
| Je suis un utilisateur avancé   | 4 |                              |
|   |   |                              |

- 3) Si vous le permettez, j'aimerais vous poser quelques questions à propos de votre degré d'engagement dans les enjeux d'actualité. J'aimerais que vous me disiez, en répondant par un oui ou par un non, si vous avez fait les activités suivantes au cours de la dernière année.

- |  | Oui | Non |
|--|-----|-----|
| a. Prononcé un discours en public.....   | 1   | 2   |
| b. Écrit un article pour publication.....  | 1   | 2   |
| c. Été administrateur(riche) d'une association ou d'une organisme .....                          | 1   | 2   |
| d. Écrit une lettre à une tribune libre.....   | 1   | 2   |
| e. Téléphoné lors d'une ligne ouverte à la télévision ou à la radio.....                         | 1   | 2   |
| f. Été administrateur(trice) d'une organisation non gouvernementale .....                        | 1   | 2   |
| g. Écrit à un(e) élu(e) .....  | 1   | 2   |
| h. Été membre d'un parti politique ou avez travaillé pour un parti politique .....               | 1   | 2   |
| i. Exprimé votre point de vue concernant des enjeux importants sur un site Web ou un blogue..... | 1   | 2   |



**Les Canadien(ne)s engagé(e)s répondront oui à au moins 3 des 9 questions  
 Ceux qui répondent oui à 1 question ou moins seront recrutés pour les groupes grand public  
 Ceux qui répondent oui à 2 questions seront recrutés comme substituts**

3) Quel âge avez-vous? **LISEZ LA LISTE**

Moins de 18 ans	0	<b>REMERCIEZ ET TERMINEZ</b>
De 18 à 24 ans	1	
De 25 à 34 ans	2	
De 35 à 44 ans	3	<b>AGES VARIÉS</b>
De 45 à 54 ans	4	<b>POUR CHACUN</b>
De 55 à 64 ans	5	<b>DES GROUPES</b>
65 ans et plus	6	
Refuse	9	

3b) Quel est le plus haut niveau de scolarité que vous avez atteint?

Études secondaires non terminées.....1	
Études secondaires terminées .....2	
Études collégiales/universitaires non terminées...3	<b>NIVEAUX VARIÉS</b>
Études collégiales/universitaires terminées .....4	<b>DANS CHACUN DES GROUPES</b>

4a) À l'heure actuelle, êtes-vous....

Marié(e)/en union libre	1	<b>BONNE VARIÉTÉ</b>
Célibataire/divorcé(e)/séparé(e)/veuf ou veuve	2	<b>DANS CHACUN DES GROUPES</b>

4b) Quel est votre travail ou votre occupation? \_\_\_\_\_  
**TERMINEZ SI MENTIONNÉE À Q1a**

**SI MARIÉ(E), POSEZ Q4C**

4c) Quel est le travail ou l'occupation de votre conjoint(e)? \_\_\_\_\_  
**TERMINEZ SI MENTIONNÉE À Q1a**

5) Et quel est le revenu total de votre ménage? **BONNE VARIÉTÉ DANS CHACUN DES GROUPES**

Moins de 30 000 \$	1
De 30 000 \$ à 49 999 \$	2
De 50 000 \$ à 100 000 \$	3
Plus de 100 000 \$	4
REF/NSP	9

6a) Les prochaines questions feront appel à votre imagination. Laissez-vous aller et répondez comme bon vous semble puisqu'il n'y a pas de mauvaises réponses.

Pouvez-vous m'indiquer trois choses que l'on peut faire avec un trombone, à part s'en servir pour retenir des feuilles ensemble?

---

Si vous pouviez rencontrer qui vous voulez, que ce soit une personne vivante ou décédée, qui aimeriez-vous rencontrer et pourquoi?

---

---

*RÉPOND SPONTANÉMENT*

\_\_\_\_\_ *TRÈS SÛR(E) DE LUI-MÊME OU D'ELLE-MÊME*

\_\_\_\_\_ *ENTHOUSIASTE*

\_\_\_\_\_ *A UNE CONVERSATION INTÉRESSANTE*

**NOTE : PORTEZ UNE ATTENTION SPÉCIALE AUX RÉPONSES. RECHERCHEZ DES RÉPONSES COMPLEXES. LES RÉPONSES DEVRAIENT ÊTRE CRÉATIVES ET NON SEULEMENT PRATIQUES. RECHERCHEZ DES RÉPONDANTS QUI FONT PREUVE D'IMAGINATION ET DE CRÉATIVITÉ, DES GENS QUI PARTICIPENT.**

7a) Nous demandons aux participants des groupes de discussion d'exprimer leurs opinions et de verbaliser leurs pensées. Dans quelle mesure êtes-vous à l'aise d'exprimer votre opinion devant les autres? Diriez-vous que vous êtes... (LISEZ LA LISTE)

Très à l'aise	1	min. 4 par groupe
Passablement à l'aise	2	
À l'aise	3	
Pas très à l'aise	4	<b>REMERCIEZ ET TERMINEZ</b>
Très mal à l'aise	5	<b>REMERCIEZ ET TERMINEZ</b>

7b) Avez-vous déjà participé à un groupe de discussion? Un groupe de discussion réunit diverses personnes dans le but d'obtenir leur opinion sur un sujet donné.

Oui	1	<b>POSEZ Q7C ET Q7D</b>
Non	2	<b>PASSEZ À Q8</b>
NSP / PDR	9	<b>REMERCIEZ ET TERMINEZ</b>

7c) À quand remonte votre dernière participation à un groupe de discussion?

\_\_\_\_\_ **Terminez si au cours des 6 derniers mois**

7d) Pouvez-vous me dire sur quoi portait l'entrevue ou le groupe de discussion auquel vous avez participé?

\_\_\_\_\_  
**SI LIÉ À LA BIOTECHNOLOGIE – REMERCIEZ ET TERMINEZ**

7e) Et à combien de groupes de ce genre avez-vous participé?

\_\_\_\_\_ **SI Q7E>3 REMERCIEZ ET TERMINEZ. SINON, CONTINUEZ**

Comme je vous l'ai dit, le groupe de discussion aura lieu en soirée, le **jour, date, mois à heure** et durera environ **deux heures**. Les participants recevront **65 \$** pour le temps qu'ils nous auront accordé. Acceptez-vous d'y participer?

Oui	1	<b>CONTINUEZ</b>
Non	2	<b>REMERCIEZ ET TERMINEZ</b>

Excellent! Avez-vous un crayon à portée de la main pour noter quelques renseignements?

**Ville : Montréal (français)**

**Le mardi 12 décembre 2006**

Groupe 3 : Canadiens engagés	17 h 30	3	65,00 \$
Groupe 4 : Grand public	19 h 30	4	65,00 \$

**Invitation** : Avez-vous un crayon à portée de la main pour prendre en note l'adresse de l'endroit où se tiendra le groupe de discussion? Il aura lieu à :

**Montréal :**

**Opinion Search Inc.**

1080, côte du Beaver Hall, bureau 400, Montréal (Québec)  
H2Z 1S8

**Entrée de l'édifice :**

L'entrée se trouve sur la côte du Beaver Hall.

**Pour vous rendre :**

L'édifice est situé sur la côte du Beaver Hall, entre le boulevard René-Lévesque Ouest et la rue De La Gauchetière. Roulez vers l'est sur le boulevard René-Lévesque Ouest jusqu'à la côte du Beaver Hall. Tournez à droite sur la côte du Beaver Hall. Station de métro Square-Victoria.

**Stationnement :**

Dans la rue, municipal et intérieur

Nous vous demandons d'arriver quinze minutes avant l'heure prévue pour vous permettre de stationner votre voiture, de trouver nos bureaux et de vous présenter à nos hôtes. Il est possible que les hôtes vous demandent de vous identifier avant la tenue du groupe de discussion. Par conséquent, assurez-vous d'avoir une pièce d'identité avec vous. (ex. permis de conduire). De plus, si vous avez besoin de lunettes pour lire, veuillez les apporter. La séance durera tout au plus **2 heures** et vous recevrez une prime de **65,00 \$** en guise de remerciement pour le temps que vous nous aurez accordé.

Comme nous n'invitons qu'un petit nombre de personnes, votre participation est très importante pour nous. Si, pour une raison ou une autre vous ne pouvez pas vous présenter, veuillez nous en aviser pour que nous puissions vous remplacer. Vous pouvez nous joindre au **1 800 363-4229, poste 5068**. Demandez **Louise Tremblay**. Quelqu'un communiquera avec vous la veille du groupe de discussion pour confirmer votre présence.

Afin que nous puissions vous appeler pour confirmer votre présence ou pour vous informer si des changements survenaient, pourriez-vous me confirmer votre nom et vos coordonnées? **[LISEZ LES COORDONNÉES QUE NOUS AVONS ET MODIFIEZ AU BESOIN.]**

Prénom : \_\_\_\_\_  
Nom de famille : \_\_\_\_\_  
Courriel : \_\_\_\_\_  
Numéro de téléphone le jour \_\_\_\_\_  
Numéro de téléphone en soirée : \_\_\_\_\_

Si le répondant refuse de donner son prénom, son nom de famille ou son numéro de téléphone, assurez-le que ces renseignements demeureront strictement confidentiels en vertu de la *Loi sur la protection des renseignements personnels*. Ils ne seront utilisés que pour l'appeler pour confirmer sa présence ou pour l'informer si des changements surviennent. S'il refuse, REMERCIEZ ET TERMINEZ

## Appendix B: Moderator’s Guide (English)

### Introduction and Warm-Up

(5)

The moderator will take a few minutes to go around the table and ask respondents to introduce themselves, and outline a few ground rules: want to ensure that people share their views openly, let everyone participate, want people to talk about their views, not “other people’s views”, ensure that we don’t want people to “debate” each other – everyone’s views are valid, there are no right or wrong answers. The moderator will also point out that there is a one-way mirror, observers in the back, and audio and video taping, but ensure that all discussion is confidential.

**NOT ALL SECTIONS OF THE SITE WILL BE COVERED IN EACH SESSION. THE SUBJECT AREAS WILL BE SPLIT AS FOLLOWS:**

- **BIOREGULATIONS AND BIOGOV SECTIONS WILL BE TESTED WITH INVOLVED CANADIANS**
- **BIOBASICS AND BIOGATEWAY SECTIONS WILL BE TESTED WITH GENERAL POPULATION GROUPS**

### Introduction

(20)

Tonight we are going to talk about new technologies. What are some of the newest technologies that are changing our world, the things we do, the products we use?

- Why is X technology so important?
- Have you heard of the word biotechnology?
- What does it mean? What does it encompass?
- Is it a subject you know a lot about, a little about, or not much about?
- Biotechnology has applications in a number of fields. Can you recall any that you have heard of?
- **[IF NOT RAISED, INTRODUCE STEM CELL RESEARCH, GM FOODS, GENE BANKS AND GENETIC INFORMATION, OTHERS AS RELATED TO BIOTECHNOLOGY.]**
- Have you heard of the word nanotechnology? What does it mean? What does it encompass?
- Is it a subject you know a lot about, a little about, or not much about?
- I would like to understand the extent to which you think these technologies might benefit our society. What are the benefits of this kind of research? And what do you see as the major risks involved?

## Sources of Information on Biotechnology/Emerging Technology

(25)

First off, I'd like to ask how often you have actively sought out information about new technologies like biotechnology or nanotechnology, for any reason. For what reason did you seek out that information? What sources did you go to?

- In future, can you imagine a reason why you might seek out this kind of information?
- What sources would you go to, and why?
- What medium would you use (print/electronic/other)?
- Are some seen as more informative than others? More credible? More easy to find information?
- **(PROMPT)** It could be for any reason, such as health treatments/products, food products, research, applications, ethical guidelines, or studies that have been carried out to evaluate safety?
- What sources would you go to, and why?
- What information would you seek out?
- What medium would you use (print/electronic/other)?
- Are some seen as more informative than others? More credible? More easy to find information?

**SCENARIO:** If you were to read an article about stem cell research or GM food in the newspaper, or see a story about it on the news, where would you go to get more information? (SHOW ARTICLE, ASK RESPONDENTS TO READ)

- Would this prompt you to go to seek out information on biotechnology/ emerging technologies?
- What information would you likely want to seek out?
- Where would you go to find that information? Why?
- What medium would you use? Why?
- Would you consider going to a government "portal" for any of the information you might be seeking? Why? What information would you tend to be looking for?
- What would you expect from a Government of Canada site in terms of specific information?
- Have you ever been to a Government of Canada site to gather information before?
- What about a Government of Canada site on biotechnology?
- What would you want from a Government of Canada site in terms of specific information?

**BioPortal****(60)****MODERATOR TO OPEN INTERNET EXPLORER TO BIOPORTAL HOME PAGE AND FOLLOW PROMPTS FROM PARTICIPANTS.**

- Have you ever been to the Government of Canada “BioPortal” to gather information before?

**INTRODUCTION OF BIOPORTAL WEBSITE**

- Let me show you a web site that has been created, I’d like to get your reactions to it.

**Put up site**

- Allow participants to steer moderator around the site, leading to places that participants are interested in reviewing/ investigating
- Is the site organized logically, or not?
- Is it clear from the homepage what kinds of information you might obtain at this site?
- What are the places you are most likely to want to go? Are those easy/hard to find?
- Would you organize the site in a different way if you had an opportunity? What would you do?

I WOULD LIKE TO SHOW YOU A COUPLE OF KEY SECTIONS OF THE SITE, AND THE KINDS OF INFORMATION THAT IS IN THOSE SECTIONS, AND ASK YOU TO LET ME KNOW HOW USEFUL IT IS, HOW CREDIBLE IT IS, WHAT MIGHT BE MISSING (IN TERMS OF CONTENT, ORGANIZATION, TONE)

Show participants **BioRegulations** section, navigate through, and gather reaction to the content and organization of that section.

- What was your overall impression of this section? Would you describe it as user-friendly?
- Was it organized in such a way that made sense to you? Why/why not?
- Do the category names make sense to you? Why/why not?
- Can you think of specific ways that would make this section easier to use?

Hand-out content from a couple of the key BioRegulation sections. For each, test:

- What is your overall impression of this information? Did it cover the issues you would expect it to, or not? Why do you say that? What, if anything, is missing?
- Was the language easy to understand?
- Was the information credible?
- Was the information relevant?
- How could it be improved?



**SHOW PARTICIPANTS BIOGOV SECTION:**

**MODERATOR:** This section provides information about a variety of topics from many countries around the world. As an example, in this section you will be able to find information on a specific topic from different parts of the world.

- How important is it to have information about biotechnology from other countries? Why is that?
- What types of information would be most important to you? Why is that?
- Where would you go for that information?
- What are your impressions of the current list of topics? Why do you say that? What, if anything, is missing?
- Would you want to see how Canada compares to those from other countries? Why do you say that?
- What are your impressions of the feature comparing Canada to other parts of the world? Why do you say that?

Navigate through BIOGOV section gather reaction to the content and organization of that section.

- What was your overall impression of this section? Would you describe it as user-friendly?
- Was it organized in such a way that made sense to you? Why/why not?
- PROBE: And what are your impressions on the way the site was organized by Major Subject Area?
- Are there too many, too few, or the right amount of topics covered? Why do you say that?
- To the best of your knowledge, what is the difference between a Major Subject Area and a Subtopic? Does this way of organizing make sense to you? Why do you say that?
- Do the category names make sense to you? Why/why not?
- Can you think of specific ways that would make this section easier to use?

Show participants **BIOBASICS** section, navigate through, and gather reaction to the content and organization of that section.

- What was your overall impression for this section? Would you describe it as user-friendly?
- Was it organized in such a way that made sense to you? Why/why not?
- Do the category names make sense to you? Why/why not?
- Can you think of specific ways that would make this section easier to use?
- What are your impressions of the current list of topics? Why do you say that? What, if anything, is missing?

Hand-out content from a couple of the key BIOBASICS sections. For each, test:

- What is your overall impression of this information? Did it cover the issues you would expect it to, or not? Why do you say that?
- Was the language easy to understand?
- Was the information credible?
- Was the information relevant?
- How could it be improved?

Show participants **BIOGATEWAY** section, navigate through, and gather reaction to the content and organization of that section.

- What was your overall impression for this section? Would you describe it as user-friendly?
- Was it organized in such a way that made sense to you? Why/why not?
- Do the category names make sense to you? Why/why not?
- Can you think of specific ways that would make this section easier to use?
- What are your impressions of the current list of topics? Why do you say that? What, if anything, is missing?
- PROBE: And what are your impressions on the way the site was organized by Major Subject Area?
- Are there too many, too few, or the right amount of topics covered? Why do you say that?
- To the best of your knowledge, what is the difference between a Major Subject Area and a Subtopic? Does this way of organizing make sense to you? Why do you say that?

Hand-out content from a couple of the key BIOGATEWAY sections. For each, test:

- What is your overall impression of this information? Did it cover the issues you would expect it to, or not? Why do you say that?
- Was the language easy to understand?
- Was the information credible?
- Was the information relevant?
- How could it be improved?

### **OVERALL IMPRESSIONS OF THE SITE (ALL SESSIONS)**

- What is your overall impression to this website? Why do you say that?
- Overall, on a scale from 1 to 7, how would you rate this website? Why do you say that?
- Did you find the information you were expecting to find? Why not?
- Can you see yourself using a site like this? Why? Why not?

- Did you find the website visually appealing? What were some of the visual elements you liked or disliked?
- What did you think of the color scheme? Did you find it attractive or distracting? Why?
- Was the language easy to understand?
- Did you find the overall appearance of the site conveyed an authoritative and credible image? Why?
- Do the section names make sense to you? Why/why not?
- What would you change them to? Why is that?

**Conclusions and Wrap-up****(5)**

- Do you have any other further comments or recommendations?

Thank you very much for your time and cooperation.

## Appendix B: Guide de discussion (Français)

### Introduction

(5)

Le modérateur prendra quelques minutes pour faire un tour de table et demander aux participants de se présenter. Il mentionnera ensuite quelques règles de base pour la discussion : les participants doivent exprimer leur opinion ouvertement, laisser la chance à tous de participer et exprimer leur point de vue personnel et non celui « des autres ». Il ne s'agit pas d'un débat, tous les points de vue sont valables et il n'y a pas de bonne, ni de mauvaise réponse. Le modérateur informera ensuite les participants qu'il y a un miroir d'observation derrière lequel se trouvent certaines personnes et que l'on fera un enregistrement audiovisuel de la discussion. Il les assurera toutefois que la discussion demeurera confidentielle.

**NOUS NE COUVRIRONS PAS TOUTES LES SECTIONS LORS DE CHAQUE SÉANCE. LES DOMAINES DE DISCUSSION SERONT DIVISÉS COMME SUIT :**

- **LES SECTIONS BIORÉGLEMENTATION ET BIOGOUV SERONT TESTÉES AUPRÈS DES « CANADIENS ENGAGÉS »**
- **LES SECTIONS BIOFONDACTIONS ET BIOPASSERELLE SERONT TESTÉES AUPRÈS DU « GRAND PUBLIC »**

### Entrée en matière

(20)

La discussion de ce soir portera sur les nouvelles technologies. Quelles sont certaines des plus récentes technologies qui changent le monde, ce que nous faisons et les produits que nous utilisons?

- Pourquoi la technologie X est-elle si importante?
- Avez-vous déjà entendu parler de la biotechnologie?
- Pouvez-vous m'en donner une définition? Qu'est-ce que la biotechnologie englobe?
- Est-ce un sujet que vous connaissez très bien, un peu ou pas vraiment?
- La biotechnologie a des applications dans de nombreux domaines. De quelles applications avez-vous déjà entendu parler?
- **[SI NON MENTIONNÉS PAR LES PARTICIPANTS, PARLEZ DE LA RECHERCHE SUR LES CELLULES SOUCHES, DES ALIMENTS GÉNÉTIQUEMENT MODIFIÉS, DES BANQUES DE GÈNES ET DES RENSEIGNEMENTS GÉNÉTIQUES OU D'AUTRES SUJETS LIÉS À LA BIOTECHNOLOGIE.]**
- Avez-vous entendu parler de la nanotechnologie? Pouvez-vous m'en donner une définition? Qu'est-ce que la nanotechnologie englobe?

- Est-ce un sujet que vous connaissez très bien, un peu ou pas vraiment?
- J'aimerais savoir dans quelle mesure vous croyez que ces technologies pourraient être avantageuses pour la société. Quels avantages tire-t-on de ces recherches? Et quels sont les principaux risques associés à ces recherches, selon vous?

## Sources de renseignements sur la biotechnologie/les technologies en émergence (25)

J'aimerais tout d'abord vous demander à quelle fréquence vous avez activement cherché des renseignements sur les nouvelles technologies telles que la biotechnologie ou la nanotechnologie, pour quelque raison que ce soit. Pour quelle raison avez-vous fait cette recherche? Quelles sources avez-vous consultées?

- Pouvez-vous imaginer une raison qui vous pousserait un jour à chercher des renseignements à ce sujet?
- Quelles sources consulteriez-vous et pourquoi?
- Quel média utiliseriez-vous (imprimé/électronique/autre)?
- Certains médias sont-ils perçus comme plus informatifs que d'autres? Plus crédibles? Est-il plus facile de trouver des renseignements dans certains médias que dans d'autres?
- **(SONDEZ)** Ce pourrait être pour diverses raisons, par exemple pour trouver des renseignements sur des produits ou des soins de santé, sur des produits alimentaires, sur la recherche, sur des applications, sur des normes éthiques ou sur des études effectuées pour évaluer la sécurité.
- Quelles sources consulteriez-vous et pourquoi?
- Quels renseignements chercheriez-vous?
- Quel média utiliseriez-vous (imprimé/électronique/autre)?
- Certains médias sont-ils perçus comme plus informatifs que d'autres? Plus crédibles? Est-il plus facile de trouver des renseignements dans certains médias que dans d'autres?

**SCÉNARIO** : Après avoir lu un article ou vu un reportage concernant la recherche sur les cellules souches ou les aliments génétiquement modifiés, où iriez-vous pour obtenir plus de renseignements à ce sujet? (PRÉSENTEZ L'ARTICLE AUX RÉPONDANTS ET DEMANDEZ-LEUR DE LE LIRE)

- Cela vous inciterait-il à vous renseigner sur la biotechnologie/les technologies en émergence?
- Quels renseignements voudriez-vous probablement chercher?
- Où iriez-vous pour trouver ces renseignements? Pourquoi?
- Quel média utiliseriez-vous (imprimé/électronique/autre)? Pourquoi?

- Songeriez-vous à naviguer dans un « portail » gouvernemental pour trouver certains de ces renseignements? Pourquoi? Quels renseignements auriez-vous tendance à y chercher?
- Quels types de renseignements précis vous attendez-vous à trouver sur un site du gouvernement du Canada?
- Avez-vous déjà visité un site du gouvernement du Canada pour obtenir des renseignements?
- Et avez-vous déjà visité un site du gouvernement du Canada portant sur la biotechnologie?
- Quels types de renseignements précis voudriez-vous retrouver sur un site du gouvernement du Canada?

## **BioPortail**

**(60)**

### **LE MODÉRATEUR LANCE INTERNET EXPLORER, SE REND À LA PAGE D'ACCUEIL DU BIOPORTAIL ET LAISSE LES PARTICIPANTS LE GUIDER.**

- Avez-vous déjà visité le « BioPortail » du gouvernement du Canada pour obtenir des renseignements?

### **PRÉSENTATION DU SITE WEB BIOPORTAIL**

- Je vais vous montrer un nouveau site Web et j'aimerais ensuite connaître vos réactions à son égard.

### **AFFICHEZ le site**

- Laissez les participants diriger le modérateur **DANS LE SITE AFIN QU'ILS EXAMINENT/ÉTUDIENT** les sections qui **LES INTÉRESSENT**
- Le contenu est-il présenté de façon logique ou non?
- La page d'accueil indique-t-elle clairement le type de renseignements contenus sur le site?
- Quelles parties du site seriez-vous le plus susceptible de vouloir visiter? Ces parties sont-elles faciles/difficiles à trouver?
- Si vous le pouviez, organiseriez-vous le site différemment? Que feriez-vous?

J'aimerais vous montrer quelques sections clés du site ainsi que les types de renseignements qui s'y trouvent. Je vous demanderais ensuite de me dire dans quelle mesure ces renseignements sont utiles et crédibles et si vous croyez qu'il y manque quoi que ce soit (au chapitre du contenu, de la façon dont il est présenté ou du ton).

**PRÉSENTEZ LA SECTION bioréglementation** AUX PARTICIPANTS, naviguez dans la section et recueillez les réactions à l'égard du contenu et de la façon dont il est présenté ici.

- Dans l'ensemble, que pensez-vous de cette section? Diriez-vous qu'elle est conviviale?
- La façon dont le contenu est présenté vous semble-t-elle logique? Pourquoi/pourquoi pas?
- Les noms des catégories vous paraissent-ils logiques? Pourquoi/pourquoi pas?
- Comment pourrait-on rendre cette section plus facile à utiliser, plus conviviale?

DISTRIBUEZ LE CONTENU DE QUELQUES SECTIONS clés DE LA BIORÉGLÉMENTATION. Pour chacune, testez :

- Dans l'ensemble, que pensez-vous des renseignements contenus dans cette section? Couvre-t-elle les sujets que vous vous attendiez à trouver ici? Pourquoi dites-vous cela? Le cas échéant, que manque-t-il ici?
- Le texte est-il facile à comprendre?
- Les renseignements sont-ils crédibles?
- Les renseignements sont-ils pertinents?
- Quelles améliorations pourrait-on y apporter?

PRÉSENTEZ LA SECTION **BIOGOUV** AUX PARTICIPANTS :

**MODÉRATEUR** : Cette section fournit des renseignements qui proviennent de plusieurs pays sur une foule de sujets. Par exemple, vous y trouverez des renseignements sur un sujet précis, mais du point de vue de divers pays.

- Dans quelle mesure est-il important d'avoir des renseignements provenant d'autres pays dans le domaine de la biotechnologie? Pourquoi?
- Quels types de renseignements auraient la plus grande importance pour vous? Pourquoi?
- Où iriez-vous pour obtenir ces renseignements?
- Que pensez-vous de l'actuel répertoire des sujets? Pourquoi dites-vous cela? Le cas échéant, que manque-t-il à ce répertoire?
- Aimerez-vous avoir la possibilité de comparer le Canada aux autres pays? Pourquoi dites-vous cela?
- Que pensez-vous de l'option qui permet de comparer le Canada à d'autres régions du globe? Pourquoi dites-vous cela?

Naviguez dans la section et recueillez les réactions à l'égard du contenu et de la façon dont il est présenté ici.

- Dans l'ensemble, que pensez-vous de cette section? Diriez-vous qu'elle est conviviale?
- La façon dont le contenu est présenté semble-t-elle logique? Pourquoi/pourquoi pas?
- **SONDEZ** : Et que pensez-vous du fait que les renseignements soient classés sous « Principaux domaines »?
- Le site couvre-t-il trop de sujets, pas assez de sujets, ou un nombre suffisant de sujets? Pourquoi dites-vous cela?

- À votre connaissance, quelle est la différence entre un « Domaine principal » et un « Sous-domaine »? Cette façon de diviser le contenu vous semble-t-elle logique? Pourquoi dites-vous cela?
- Les noms de catégories vous semblent-ils logiques? Pourquoi/pourquoi pas?
- Comment pourrait-on rendre cette section plus facile à utiliser, plus conviviale?

PRÉSENTEZ LA SECTION **bioFONDATIONS** AUX PARTICIPANTS, naviguez dans la section et recueillez les réactions à l'égard du contenu et de la façon dont il est présenté ici.

- Dans l'ensemble, que pensez-vous de cette section? Diriez-vous qu'elle est conviviale?
- La section est-elle organisée d'une façon qui vous paraît logique? Pourquoi/pourquoi pas?
- Les noms de catégories vous paraissent-ils logiques? Pourquoi/pourquoi pas?
- Selon vous, comment pourrait-on rendre cette section plus facile à utiliser, plus conviviale?
- Que pensez-vous de l'actuel répertoire des sujets? Pourquoi dites-vous cela? Le cas échéant, que manque-t-il à ce répertoire?

DISTRIBUEZ LE CONTENU DE QUELQUES-UNES DES sections CLÉS DES BIOFONDATIONS. pour chacune, testez :

- Dans l'ensemble, que pensez-vous des renseignements contenus dans cette section? Couvre-t-elle les sujets que vous vous attendiez à trouver ici? Pourquoi dites-vous cela? Le cas échéant, que manque-t-il ici?
- Le texte est-il facile à comprendre?
- Les renseignements sont-ils crédibles?
- Les renseignements sont-ils pertinents?
- Quelles améliorations pourrait-on y apporter?

PRÉSENTEZ LA SECTION **bioPASSERELLE** AUX PARTICIPANTS, naviguez dans la section et recueillez les réactions à l'égard du contenu et de la façon dont il est présenté ici.

- Dans l'ensemble, que pensez-vous de cette section? Diriez-vous qu'elle est conviviale?
- La section est-elle organisée d'une façon qui vous paraît logique? Pourquoi/pourquoi pas?
- Les noms de catégories vous paraissent-ils logiques? Pourquoi/pourquoi pas?
- Selon vous, comment pourrait-on rendre cette section plus facile à utiliser, plus conviviale?



- Que pensez-vous de l'actuel répertoire des sujets? Pourquoi dites-vous cela? Le cas échéant, que manque-t-il à ce répertoire?
- **SONDEZ** : Et que pensez-vous du fait que les renseignements soient classés sous « Principaux domaines »?
- Le site couvre-t-il trop de sujets, pas assez de sujets, ou un nombre suffisant de sujets? Pourquoi dites-vous cela?
- À votre connaissance, quelle est la différence entre un « Domaine principal » et un « Sous-domaine »? Cette façon de diviser le contenu vous semble-t-elle logique? Pourquoi dites-vous cela?

DISTRIBUEZ LE CONTENU DE QUELQUES-UNES DES sections CLÉS DES BIOPASSERELLE. pour chacune, testez :

- Dans l'ensemble, que pensez-vous des renseignements contenus dans cette section? Couvre-t-elle les sujets que vous vous attendiez à trouver ici? Pourquoi dites-vous cela? Le cas échéant, que manque-t-il ici?
- Le texte est-il facile à comprendre?
- Les renseignements sont-ils crédibles?
- Les renseignements sont-ils pertinents?
- Quelles améliorations pourrait-on y apporter?

### **IMPRESSIONS GÉNÉRALES À L'ÉGARD DU SITE (TOUTES LES SÉANCES)**

- Dans l'ensemble, que pensez-vous de ce site Web? Pourquoi dites-vous cela?
- Globalement, sur une échelle de 1 à 7, comment évaluez-vous ce site Web? Pourquoi dites-vous cela?
- Avez-vous trouvé les renseignements que vous vous attendiez à trouver? Pourquoi pas?
- Vous voyez-vous utiliser un site de ce genre? Pourquoi? Pourquoi pas?
- Avez-vous trouvé le site Web attrayant visuellement? Quels éléments visuels avez-vous aimés? Lesquels n'avez-vous pas aimés?
- Que pensez-vous de la combinaison de couleurs utilisée? La trouvez-vous attrayante ou dérangeante? Pourquoi?
- Le texte est-il facile à comprendre?
- Trouvez-vous que l'apparence générale du site véhicule une image crédible qui fait autorité? Pourquoi?
- Le nom des sections vous semble-t-il logique? Pourquoi/pourquoi pas?
- Vous les remplacerez par quels autres noms? Pourquoi?

### **Conclusions et récapitulation**

(5)

- Avez-vous autre chose à ajouter ou des recommandations à formuler?

Nous vous remercions de votre collaboration et du temps que vous nous avez accordé.