

# ***The government of Québec becomes an Official Partner of BioMarine Rimouski 2017***

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**Interview : Jean D'Amour, Minister for Maritime Affairs**

***From the standpoint of the BioMarine Business Convention to be held next October in Rimouski, what message do you wish to communicate to the foreign delegations that will visit Québec in search of business opportunities?***

- The *Maritime Strategy* is Québec's concrete contribution to the emergence at the global level of a genuine blue economy. It has already aroused interest in Québec's maritime sector since investors and our partners can already rely on this ambitious plan, which, by 2030, will generate more than \$9 billion in investments and create more than 30 000 jobs. Québec offers numerous advantages, including a structured, efficient economy, skilled, available workers, and recognized scientific expertise.



Photo credit: Mérinov

Businesspeople will thus find here worthwhile investment opportunities. One of the most promising niches in this respect is certainly biomass conversion and marine biotechnology. Moreover, the Secrétariat aux affaires maritimes is coordinating the elaboration of an action plan to be launched in the coming months aimed at determining the measures to be adopted to ensure its development.

The Québec government is indeed proud to be a partner of the BioMarine Business Convention, to be held in Rimouski from October 1 to 3, 2017. The event will afford an opportunity to showcase for an international audience Québec's vision of the development of marine biotechnology and promote the establishment in its territory of companies specializing in the field. Participants will see that Québec is the ideal place to invest, innovate and prosper.

*Frequent reference is made to the promising jobs linked to blue growth. Québec's vitality and potential are inspiring for the younger generation. What message do you want to address to the world's future graduates? Do you plan to make blue growth the new Eldorado for the younger generation?*

- The Québec *Maritime Strategy*'s success hinges in part on the contribution by young people who are committing themselves to any of the numerous career opportunities that the maritime sector proposes, particularly those linked to blue growth. Québec can rely on margins for growth that are generating new jobs both in traditional sectors and new, innovative sectors such as marine biomass processing, which transforms fisheries waste into renewed resources.



What is more, the *Canada and European Union (EU) Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)* will create jobs, bolster economic relations and promote trade between Québec and the world's second biggest market.

We are offering young people an opportunity to participate in an extremely stimulating economic project that draws its strength from the ability to create and innovate, in a spirit of respect for the environment. These are more than enough reasons to arouse the commitment and enthusiasm of young people.