

## COMMUNIQUÉ

# **Æquo and the QEMP join forces to make shareholder engagement accessible to Quebec's emerging asset managers**

**Montreal, March 18, 2025** — Æquo, Quebec's shareholder engagement leader, and the Quebec Emerging Managers Program (QEMP) are proud to announce a partnership that will make shareholder engagement practices accessible to the program's emerging managers. This initiative will allow participating managers to benefit from Æquo's expertise so that they can engage in constructive dialogues with the companies in their QEMP portfolios.

The agreement will allow QEMP managers to select securities from more than 120 companies in Æquo's global engagement platform. Six firms have already confirmed their participation: BeeQuest, Clear Skies, Evovest, Nordis Capital, Nymbus and Tonus Capital.

"This strategic alliance with the QEMP aligns perfectly with our mission to democratize shareholder engagement and to multiply the impact of our dialogues through a pooled approach," said Isabelle Gagnon, Æquo's Chief Executive Officer. "We're delighted to collaborate with local asset managers so that they can incorporate engagement best practices from the outset of their journey."

The QEMP is breaking ground by integrating shareholder engagement into its support ecosystem, an innovative approach among North American emerging manager programs. This initiative aligns fully with its objective of promoting Quebec's financial entrepreneurship while offering institutional-level support.

"This transformative initiative positions the QEMP as a pioneer in promoting responsible investment practices to emerging managers," said Isabel Trépanier, Principal, Program Management, QEMP and Investi. "By integrating shareholder engagement, our managers will have a competitive advantage in the eyes of institutional investors who are placing increasing importance on ESG factors in their manager selection processes."

Shareholder engagement, which was traditionally the realm of mature institutional investors with substantial resources, offers emerging managers the opportunity to have a meaningful impact on companies' practices. The partnership between Æquo and the QEMP will allow them to develop expertise that is increasingly sought after by institutional investors, thereby enhancing their attractiveness.

The participating managers are currently selecting the companies they wish to engage in dialogue with. Other managers are expected to join the initiative, expanding the reach and impact of this visionary and promising partnership.

### **About Æquo Shareholder Engagement Services Inc.**

Æquo is a shareholder engagement and sustainable investment consulting firm. With its independent structure and leadership in Quebec, it offers a full range of services to meet the needs of all institutional investors in terms of shareholder engagement and responsible, sustainable and impact investing. Its approach combines the accessibility offered by the pooling of engagement activities with the flexibility of customized service agreements. Æquo's team is made up of specialists who support large asset owners and managers in their sustainable investment initiatives by offering an objective, informed and integrated approach. For more information: [www.aequo.ca](http://www.aequo.ca)

### **About the Quebec Emerging Managers Program**

Created in 2016, the QEMP's mandate is to promote the growth of financial entrepreneurship in Quebec by offering institutional investors diversified investment strategies managed by independent Quebec-based emerging managers. This project was developed in connection with the work of Finance Montreal's Entrepreneurship Work Group, in collaboration with established portfolio management firms. The QEMP seeks emerging managers offering traditional strategies (fixed income and equities) and alternative strategies (hedge funds). For more information: <https://www.pgeq.ca/en/>

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