

PRESS RELEASE  
For immediate distribution

## REVISED *HEALTHY ENTERPRISE* STANDARD NOW RECOGNIZED AS A NATIONAL STANDARD OF CANADA

**Québec City, Thursday May 7, 2020** – At a time when health and wellness are pressing concerns around the world, the [Bureau de normalisation du Québec](#) (BNQ) and the [Healthy Enterprises Group](#) (HE Group – Groupe entreprises en santé) are proud to unveil the new edition of the *Healthy Enterprise* standard, which is now recognized as a National Standard of Canada by the Standards Council of Canada. A growing number of businesses and organizations will be able to benefit from its positive impact on staff recruitment and engagement.

The *Healthy Enterprise – Prevention, Promotion and Organizational Practices Contributing to Health and Wellness in the Workplace* standard (CAN/BNQ 9700-800/2020), an HE Group initiative developed by BNQ, is the only standard of its kind in the world to provide employers with a voluntary and structured approach to creating and maintaining a workplace conducive to health and wellness. It can be used in conjunction with other more specific standards in the area of occupational health and wellness.

Twelve years after the release of the first edition, *Healthy Enterprise* is now recognized as a National Standard of Canada and has become the official Canadian standard in its field. This designation confirms its value and makes it even more attractive across Canada and around the world.

The *Healthy Enterprise* standard details a series of best practices that foster the recruitment and retention of top talent, improve worker health, and reduce costs associated with absenteeism and disability. Participating businesses and organizations gain a competitive edge and perform better.

“At a time when our world has been turned upside down by a pandemic that affects both our mental and physical health, it’s more important than ever that businesses adopt good practices and a structured approach to ensure their employees’ health and well-being. By doing so, they demonstrate their social responsibility and help bring down the costs of health care,” notes Roger Bertrand, founding president of the HE Group, a reputed economist, and former Minister for Health, Social Services, Youth Protection and Prevention (2002–2003).

“The recognition and popularity of the *Healthy Enterprise* standard attests to Québec's leadership in workplace health and wellness. Businesses and organizations benefit from a rigorous and

proven framework that helps them improve their practices and stand out from the competition, regardless of their size or industry," adds BNQ senior director Jean Rousseau.

The BNQ's *Healthy Enterprise* certification ensures that the efforts undertaken by businesses and organizations are recognized by an independent third party. With the redesigned *Healthy Enterprise* certification mark, they can effectively communicate their commitment to employee health and their compliance with the standard.



The new edition of the certification protocol and the transitioning procedure for businesses that are already certified, or in the process of becoming certified, will be published in the coming days. Explanatory documents are also available for those who would like to become certified.

The *Healthy Enterprise* standard and the certification protocol can be downloaded free of charge in English and French at

<https://www.bnq.qc.ca/en/certification/health-at-work/healthy-enterprise.html>.

The revision of the standard was made possible thanks to financial support from Desjardins Group, Lundbeck, Canada Life, and the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux.

#### **About the BNQ**

The BNQ, a business unit of Investissement Québec, has been responsible for standards and certification in Québec since 1961. It develops consensus-based standards and certification protocols in accordance with the rules of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). The BNQ is accredited by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC). [For more about the BNQ, visit \[www.bnq.qc.ca\]\(http://www.bnq.qc.ca\)](#).

#### **About the Healthy Enterprises Group**

A leader in the workplace health and wellness movement since 2004, the Healthy Enterprises Group (Groupe entreprises en santé) supports senior executives and managers in their efforts to adopt workplace health and wellness best practices. In doing so, it contributes to the overall physical and psychological health of workers and enhances business performance, thereby contributing to the vitality of Québec's economy. For more information or to join the healthy enterprise community, visit our website at [groupeentreprisesensante.com/en](http://groupeentreprisesensante.com/en) or our Facebook and LinkedIn pages.

-30-

Source: Bureau de normalisation du Québec and the Healthy Enterprises Group

BNQ media contact: Annie Morin | [annie.morin@invest-quebec.com](mailto:annie.morin@invest-quebec.com) | 418-659-1550, ext. 2520

HE Group media contacts: Josiane Bétit | [jbetit@videotron.ca](mailto:jbetit@videotron.ca) | 514-831-0276

Valérie Gonzalo | [gonzalo@videotron.ca](mailto:gonzalo@videotron.ca) | 514-626-6976