April 2026

Commercialization and adoption

Funding opportunity: Genomic Applications Partnership Program (GAPP) – National stream

Overview

Biotechnology leverages biological organisms, processes and systems to develop products and solutions for various applications. It encompasses a wide range of sectors, including medicine, agriculture and environmental science, and it has the potential to enhance human quality of life and transform how we tackle major global challenges. It has been significantly revolutionized by genomics research, which provides a deeper understanding of the genetic basis of life. This knowledge has enabled researchers to manipulate and understand biological systems at a molecular level, driving research, invention and innovation across multiple sectors.

As a core delivery instrument of the **Canadian Genomics Strategy**, Genome Canada's **Genomic Applications Partnership Program (GAPP)** funds research and development projects that support public-private innovation. Each project involves collaborations between academic researchers and industry receptors—organizations positioned to apply research outcomes to address market opportunities or operational needs that have been identified by the private sector (these receptor organizations are hereafter referred to simply as "receptors"). These projects help leverage public investment in innovation, encourage industry investment in genomics and biotechnology research in Canada, and generate co-investment in market-driven research and development (R&D). They improve knowledge transfer from public institutions to Canadian companies to commercialize cutting-edge research and support our innovation value chain.

The national stream of the GAPP drives innovation and economic growth across Canada by ensuring that cutting-edge research in genomics and biotechnology is effectively translated into market-ready solutions to enhance the country's competitive edge. The program strengthens the national innovation value chain by improving knowledge transfer from public institutions to Canadian companies, thereby supporting the commercialization of research and fostering a robust, inclusive innovation ecosystem.

Objectives

The GAPP seeks to:

- Increase Canadian private-sector investment in the **commercialization** of innovation derived from public R&D funding in genomics and biotechnology.
- Stimulate technological **innovation** and **implementation** through co-operative R&D between research and receptors.
- Enable research investments that **de-risk opportunities** and secure follow-on Funding from finance and industry.
- Foster and encourage **participation** in innovation and entrepreneurship by individuals from equity-deserving communities.

Partnerships

The GAPP is designed to support Canadian for-profit enterprises (FPEs) that have an economic interest in developing an idea or research into a commercial application.

Each project must be a partnership between a receptor and researcher, with optional support from one or more co-investigators and/or collaborators. The project partnership must require the expertise and resources of each partner, and the respective roles and responsibilities of each must be clearly defined in the submission. The receptor and researcher partners are expected to play active and necessary roles in the project. Refer to the information below and Genome Canada's **funding guidelines and policies**.

RECEPTOR

A receptor is a Canadian FPE with an economic interest in developing an idea or research into a commercial application.

The receptor must satisfy specific requirements as to ownership, control and independence. These are detailed in Appendix A.

Receptors must confirm their eligibility when submitting their application.

Projects must include one Receptor Project Leader. This person must own or be employed by the receptor.

The Receptor Project Leader is expected to, among other activities: lead the development and execution of the project plan (with the researcher); provide resources, expertise and direction to deliver on project objectives; manage any regulatory or compliance issues; and lead research and/or commercialization efforts.

Receptor independence

A Receptor Project Leader cannot act as a researcher as well.

RESEARCHER

Projects must include one researcher who acts as the Administrative Project Leader.

Researchers must be employed by eligible institutions. These may include:

- Canadian post-secondary institutions
- Research institutes or hospitals
- Not-for-profit organizations with explicit research mandates

The researcher is expected to, among other activities: support the development of the project plan (with the receptor), provide critical resources or scientific and technical expertise and direction (where applicable) and administer project funds.

Researcher independence

Researcher leaders can own all, none or part of the receptor. The researcher's share in the receptor is included when determining receptor eligibility (see Appendix A).

If the researcher has a position with the receptor, the receptor must have clear decision-making processes that are independent of the researcher.

Eligible Institutions

Genome Canada funding can be awarded to individuals affiliated with Canadian companies in addition to the organizations listed in Genome Canada's Guidelines for Funding.

Benefits to Canada and impacts on receptors

In general, GAPP projects are intended to deliver both socio-economic benefits to Canada and commercial benefits to receptors. Examples of potential benefits sought in GAPP projects include:

- New or improved products for Canadian consumers
- Increased industry R&D investment in genomics and biotechnology
- Increased profitability of Canadian businesses
- Increased follow-on investment in the receptor
- The development of new genomics and biotechnology inventions and innovations
- Canadian business growth and international competitiveness
- Technical validation or de-risking of commercial product or service opportunities
- Regional and national economic development, including job creation
- Talent attraction, training and retention
- Increased diversity in Canadian FPEs and public institutions
- New or expanded innovation ecosystem services, capacity or connectivity
- The development of a sustainable bioeconomy
- Increasing market share for bio-based products and solutions
- Other tangible benefits

Available funding and term

The funding available from Genome Canada and intake timeline for each cycle of the GAPP will be confirmed with the regional Genome Centres prior to each cycle.

GAPP applications must respect the following conditions:

- Applicants can request up to one-third of the project budget from Genome Canada.
- Applicants can request up to 20% of Genome Canada funds to flow to the Receptor (Canadian for-profit enterprise leading commercialization) to fund research, enable Researcher to Receptor tech transfer, accelerate implementation, support IP protection and decrease time to market.
- Genome Canada's total contribution to an approved project must be at least $300,000. Its maximum contribution is $2 million.
- Remaining project funding must be secured from other eligible sources, with a minimum co-funding ratio of one to two (Genome Canada to all co-funding sources) and private-sector, for-profit partner contributions that are equal to or greater than Genome Canada's contribution.
- One hundred per cent of the co-funding (received or committed) for the project must be confirmed before funds can be released to the project, unless otherwise specified by Genome Canada. Genome Canada reserves the right to withdraw its funding for any approved project that does not meet this requirement or if there is a change in a project's co-funding status.
- In cases where the receptor is a nascent start-up, receptor co-funding can be confirmed on a year-by-year basis. In this circumstance, co-funding for the first year must be secured—and a well-developed, feasible plan for securing the remaining co-funding in place—at the time of the release of Genome Canada funds to the project. Genome Canada reserves the right to withdraw funding if receptor co-funding is not confirmed on an annual basis.
- Co-funders must provide reasonable documentation to support their financial viability and ability to provide the co-funding (see Genome Canada's **funding guidelines and policies**).
- Projects must begin on or before the next January 1. All team members who are needed to initiate the project plan must be in place by the project start date.
- Projects must be completed **within two years of the start date**. There is no opportunity for no-cost extensions.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for GAPP funding, projects must meet all the following criteria:

- The project focuses on an innovation need defined by a receptor.

- It is partnership between a receptor and researcher (and, optionally, additional partners), with active and necessary roles for all partners (refer to the Project partners section on the next page).
- The receptor acts as Project Leader and is a Canadian for-profit enterprise (FPE).
- The researcher acts as Administrative Project Leader and is employed by an eligible institution (refer to Project partners section on the next page).
- The project supports the invention, development or commercialization of a genomics-based or -enabled, biotechnological innovation with a clearly articulated market opportunity.
- It will result in commercial and/or intellectual property (IP) outcomes that benefit the receptor.

The GAPP is **not** intended to fund:

- Market research
- Commercial launches of already-developed technology
- Patent enforcement or litigation
- Projects, project components or service provision (e.g., routine analyses or certain types of clinical trials) that would normally be funded solely by the receptor

Eligible costs

In addition to the eligible costs described in Genome Canada's **funding guidelines and policies**, the following also apply to the GAPP:

- Project budgets can include individual equipment items that cost less than or equal to $100,000. Requests for more expensive equipment will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Such expenses will be considered eligible only if the equipment is specific to the project, crucial to its success, and cannot reasonably be funded by other sources or accessed by other means.
- The collective allocation of Genome Canada funds for equipment cannot exceed 10 per cent of the approved Genome Canada funding, regardless of the total value of equipment expenses allowed. Eligible equipment costs that exceed this limit must be covered by other approved funding sources.
- Project budgets may include services from others with a total cost less of than or equal to 25 per cent of the total budget. Services from others must not include any services offered by the Receptor. Requests for services from others beyond that amount will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Such services will be considered eligible only if they are specific to the project, crucial to its success, and cannot reasonably be completed by the project team.
- Receptors that are small businesses (i.e., one to 49 employees) can allocate up to 20 per cent or $250,000 (whichever is less) of Genome Canada funding for IP protection, including patent prosecution (but not patent enforcement or litigation). Only IP resulting from the project is eligible.

Governance

Genome Canada has the ultimate responsibility for the stewardship and success of the GAPP. To manage its governance effectively, Genome Canada will:

- Work with the regional Genome Centres to understand and reflect provincial priorities
- Ensure (in collaboration with the regional Genome Centres) that the GAPP complies with the terms of Genome Canada's agreement with the federal government and provides information and data that allow for the ongoing assessment of progress, including performance metrics and financial reporting
- Establish a GAPP Core Evaluation Team (CET) composed of external advisors with extensive experience in research and innovation, industrial R&D, technology implementation and commercialization, IP, investment and other aspects of the innovation value chain

Without limiting additional roles and responsibilities, the CET:

- Advises Genome Canada on GAPP design
- Oversees the review and management of funded GAPP projects
- Assesses applications based on the criteria set out in Appendix B to recommend funding
- Advises Genome Canada to support the execution of the GAPP program

Execution supports include:

- Evaluating project progress against milestones and deliverables
- Advising Genome Canada on the direction and management of projects
- Advising Genome Canada, where appropriate, to modify or cancel project funding

Intellectual property

Genome Canada recognizes a variety of IP forms—including patent applications, patents, trade secrets, designs, processes and proprietary datasets—as IP typically resulting from innovation R&D programs.

GAPP funding is conditional on a legally binding IP agreement between the project partners. The agreement must address, at a minimum:

- The rights to use "background" IP required for the project
- The ownership of and rights to license new ("foreground") IP generated
- The management of new IP (e.g., filing and prosecution, maintenance and licensing)
- Responsibility and/or liability for patent litigation

Applicants are advised to contact their regional Genome Centre for guidance on IP policies and guidelines.

Data release and resource sharing policies

Genome Canada's policies regarding data release, resource sharing, and access to research publications are referred to in its **funding guidelines and policies**. GAPP funding is conditional upon Receptor Project Leaders agreeing to comply with these. Each GAPP applicant must provide a data management plan as part of its full application. Genome Canada's policies recognize the importance of maintaining the confidentiality of commercially valuable information and seek to balance openness and the protection of Canadian economic interests.

Applicants may request an exemption from data-sharing requirements. Exemptions will normally be confirmed early in the application process upon mutual understanding of the nature of the data and information in question.

Diversity and inclusivity

Genome Canada is committed to creating an inclusive environment and ensuring equitable participation by people who live with diverse visual, motor, auditory, learning and cognitive abilities. We are acting on the evidence that achieving a more equitable, diverse and inclusive Canadian innovation value chain is essential to creating the inventions, companies, jobs and investment opportunities required for a prosperous citizenry.

Genome Canada encourages partners to increase the inclusion and advancement of equity-deserving, under-represented communities in the Canadian innovation economy. These groups can include Indigenous Peoples, members of other racialized groups, women, persons with disabilities, members of 2SLGBTQ+ communities, and early-career researchers.

Genome Canada is also committed to Indigenous truth, reconciliation and engagement and the right of self-determination as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This commitment is reflected in our support for Indigenous data governance principles that are people- and purpose-oriented and that recognize the crucial role of data in advancing Indigenous innovation and self-determination.

The research should be conducted in line with the **Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans** and the **First Nations principles of ownership, control, access and possession (OCAP®)**.

Application process

GAPP applications have three stages: letter of intent, full proposal and pitch.

LETTER OF INTENT

The letter of intent (LOI) must be completed and submitted through **Proposal Central** at Genome Canada. It should summarize the proposed project and its value proposition and describe the innovation, market opportunity, and proposed path to commercialization. It must clearly articulate how genomics is involved and the proposed innovation.

Projects must also confirm that they meet the GAPP eligibility criteria, particularly the definition of an eligible receptor. If they do not yet meet the criteria, they must clearly demonstrate and provide an overview of how they intend to do so by the start date of the project.

FULL PROPOSAL

The full proposal must be completed and submitted through Proposal Central. It should provide a detailed explanation of the project's innovation, commercialization plan, IP strategy, management team, project plan (with timeline and milestones), and budget.

Full proposals must describe the project's innovation and path to realization, including the:

- Market-driven opportunity requiring a public-private research partnership
- Objectives and key results
- Feasibility of the technical plan, objectives, milestones and timelines
- Feasibility of the commercial plan
- Commercial impact on partners
- Benefits to Canadians

Full proposals must present a well-informed, reasonable market opportunity. Where possible, the opportunity should be justified by:

- A techno-economic feasibility assessment of the innovation
- A validated analysis of the market opportunity being addressed
- An assessment and risk-mitigation plan for likely barriers to project success (e.g., technical, social, market, competition, policy, regulatory, supply chain, etc.)
- Letters of support from real or potential partners, customers, investors or other relevant stakeholders

The project team should exhibit characteristics that are linked to innovation outcomes, such as:

- Diverse leadership, with representation from a variety of skillsets, experience levels, and identities
- A record of developing and protecting economically or strategically valuable IP
- A record of founding, fundraising and exiting an FPE

In addition to the written full proposal, project teams are required to submit a 3–5 minute pre-recorded video with their proposal. Each video should include a brief summary of the GAPP application, including, but not limited to the: market-driven opportunity, proposed technical plan,

commercial plan and impact and benefits of the project. Videos may be recorded in the official language of choice. Full instructions can be found in the full proposal form.

PITCH

Advancing project teams will be invited to pitch to the CET, which will meet in person annually to assess virtual pitches. It is expected that, at a minimum, both the Receptor Project Leader and Administrative Project Leader will be involved in delivering the pitch. Pitching teams will have an opportunity to present the general elements of an innovation pitch and address any reviewer feedback from the full proposal review. The presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer period between the project team and the CET.

Project management and oversight

Project reporting will take the form of regular progress reports (generally, semi-annually) as well as a final report following project completion. At Genome Canada's discretion, some projects may be required to report more frequently.

The CET will use these progress reports to monitor progress and help teams (through Genome Canada and the regional Genome Centres) deliver on their objectives and milestones within timelines and budgets.

Contacts

All documentation and information related to proposal submissions and follow-up must be submitted to Genome Canada through a regional Genome Centre. Contact your **regional Genome Centre** with questions about the initiative and application process.

Genome Canada

Learn more at genomecanada.ca

Genome Canada's main office is located on the unceded traditional land of the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation.

Appendix A. Receptor eligibility

Applicants will be required to attest that the following eligibility requirements have been met.

RECEPTOR OWNERSHIP

Private, for-profit enterprises

A receptor that is a private FPE must be majority-owned by Canadians, defined as direct ownership of stock or equity in the receptor on a fully diluted basis (i.e., total shares or equity outstanding if all possible sources of conversion were to be exercised). This includes, but is not limited to, outstanding stock or equity (both common and preferred), warrants, options or other convertible securities.

The majority (more than 50 per cent) of the receptor's equity must be directly owned by one of the following:

1. One or more individuals who are citizens or permanent residents of Canada
2. Other FPEs directly owned and controlled by individuals who are citizens or permanent residents of Canada
3. Other publicly traded FPEs residing in Canada
4. Any combination of the above

Examples of different ownership structures and eligibility outcomes are in Table A1.

Public for-profit enterprises

Publicly traded receptor FPEs must be based in Canada.

A publicly traded receptor company is resident in the country where its central management and control are exercised.

A company can be resident in Canada without having been incorporated in Canada, provided its real business is carried on in Canada.

RECEPTOR CONTROL

Receptor control must be exercised in Canada. Control is defined as the authority to make decisions regarding the receptor's management and policies.

A receptor that is a private FPE must be more than 50 per cent controlled by one of the following:

- One Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- More than one Canadian citizen or permanent resident

- One other FPE that is directly owned and controlled by Canadian citizens or permanent residents
- More than one FPE, each of which are directly owned and controlled by Canadian citizens or permanent residents
- Any combination of the above

Please note, wholly owned subsidiaries of a foreign public corporation are not eligible for GAPP funding.

Table A1: Examples of ownership share as a percentage of stock in a receptor that is a privately held FPE to determine eligibility for GAPP funding

Example	Individuals[i]	Canadian[ii] FPE #1	Canadian[ii] FPE #2	Canadian public institution[iii]	Foreign[iv] individuals or FPEs	% Canadian ownership	Eligible?
1	100					100%	Yes
2	50	50				100%	Yes
3	35	60		5		95%	Yes
4	10	40	20	10	20	70%	Yes
5		30	30	10	30	60%	Yes
6		40			60	40%	No
7		45		10	45	45%	No
8		50			50	50%	No
9	25			25	50	25%	No
10					100	0%	No

[i] Individuals are citizens or permanent residents of Canada.
[ii] A Canadian FPE is a business, other than the receptor, that is directly owned and controlled by one or more individuals who are citizens or permanent residents of Canada.
[iii] A Canadian public institution is a publicly funded, non-profit organization. Typically, it is a university that takes an equity position in a start-up company.
[iv] Foreign individuals are neither citizens nor permanent residents of Canada. Foreign FPEs are businesses that are not domiciled in Canada and/or not directly owned and controlled by one or more individuals who are citizens or permanent residents of Canada.

Appendix B. Review criteria

Genome Canada uses a rigorous, independent peer review process to assess the merit of proposals and their potential for impacts and benefits for Canada and to ensure that sound management and financial practices are implemented.

All reviewers engaged by Genome Canada sign confidentiality and conflict of interest agreements to ensure that information is kept in strict confidence and that reviewers are not biased by conflicting professional obligations or financial considerations.

All LOI submissions will undergo an eligibility assessment by Genome Canada. The regional Genome Centre will be notified of the decision within 10 business days of the submission deadline.

All full proposals will be reviewed independently, at-home and then discussed by the CET. The independent reviews will be used, in part, to assess whether the applications meet the GAPP's objectives. The CET will then meet to decide the full proposals that will advance to the pitch phase.

The CET will assess each pitch using the same criteria as for full proposals. The potential benefits to the receptor and to Canada will be key criteria in the pitch assessment. In addition, the CET will assess team dynamics and project leadership during live interactions.

The CET will also conduct a thorough technology and adoption readiness assessment of each qualified project. It will consider pitch scores from individual CET members as well as group readiness.

Genome Canada may adjust its evaluation processes if warranted by the number or complexity of proposals received or other relevant factors. Any changes will be communicated through Genome Canada's website and through the regional Genome Centres.

LETTER OF INTENT

The LOI will undergo an eligibility check by Genome Canada based on the criteria listed in the funding opportunity.

FULL PROPOSAL AND PITCH REVIEW CRITERIA

Recognizing that each innovation is a unique interaction of invention and market opportunity, the CET members will consider the following five categories individually and in aggregate when assessing projects at both the full proposal and pitch stages.

For the pitch, applicants are encouraged to focus their introductory statements on any updates made since the application was submitted and to address any feedback on their full proposal from reviewers.

1. Innovation and commercial plan

- There is a clear and compelling value proposition for the innovation.
- Any claims of an unmet need or opportunity have been supported.
- The pathway to commercializing the innovation is clear, realistic and accounts for any likely adoption hurdles (legal, regulatory, social, economic, logistical, etc.).
- Sufficient consideration has been given to the target market potential of the innovation (quantitatively, if possible), alternatives and competitors (if any).
- There are no significant IP barriers to developing and commercializing the innovation, and there is a clear plan to protect newly generated IP.
- The plan for sharing data and resources within the project and externally is appropriate and complies with Genome Canada's Data Release and Resource Sharing Plan.

2. Project plan

- The project objectives and deliverables are clear, quantifiable and achievable within the proposed timeline.
- The project plan is sufficiently detailed and logical, with well-defined go/no-go milestones that recognize and mitigate technical risks.
- The plan contains a clear scientific rationale for the proposed approach, defines the innovation’s target performance, and outlines the desired outcomes, supported by previous work, data, literature or other credible references.
- The major tools and methods to be employed in the project are appropriate and reasonably well-established in the field.
- Equity, diversity and inclusion are reflected in the research design and practices and include participation by under-represented groups, as appropriate.
- The team has the technical expertise and ability to carry out the work proposed.
- The facilities, equipment and services to be employed in the project are appropriate for the proposed activities.

3. Benefits to Canada and the economy

- The potential (direct and indirect) benefits of the project to the receptor are quantifiable, significant and likely to be realized. Examples include revenue generated, jobs created, capacity built, funding leveraged, etc.
- The potential (direct and indirect) benefits of the project to the researcher and/or the broader, publicly funded Canadian research and innovation ecosystem are quantifiable, significant and likely to be realized.
- The potential (direct and indirect) benefits of the project to Canadian stakeholders and/or the Canadian economy are quantifiable, significant and likely to be realized.

- IP generated will provide benefits to Canada and contributes to the country's economic, social and technological advancement.
- The steps and conditions required to realize the potential benefits of the innovation are well-defined and realistic.

4. Project leadership and management

- The receptor has the capacity to lead the project and realize the value created by contributing resources, bringing significant commercial and technical knowledge to the project, providing technical leadership and support, and commercializing the resulting innovation.
- The receptor and researcher have a true partnership, with each having appropriate and necessary roles in the project, including involvement in project leadership, contribution of specific knowledge and resources, and execution of certain activities.
- The researcher, receptor and key personnel are well-qualified and experienced in the project field, based on their credentials, past projects, publications and other considerations.
- The composition of the team and recruiting strategies consider equity, diversity and inclusion whenever possible.
- Both the receptor and researcher continue to satisfy the relevant eligibility criteria.

5. Financial aspects

- The proposed budget appears reasonable, given the anticipated level of effort, the expected deliverables, and the typical costs for the proposed expense categories and activities.
- The proposal provides sufficient assurance that expenditures from a funded project will be closely and critically monitored.
- The proposed co-funding plan is well-documented and feasible.
- The proposed co-funding is integrated with and directly supports the objectives of the project.
- It is expected that all co-funding will be secured when Genome Canada funds are released.
- The valuation of the in-kind contributions appears reasonable.

Appendix C: Instructions and template for co-funding commitment letter

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Fill in all the bolded sections with the requested information and remove any outstanding bolded text.
2. In the table provided, break down the co-funding support provided by the organization. The definitions for the columns are as follows:
    a. Component: Budget line item description. For examples, consult sections 4 and 5 in Genome Canada's **funding guidelines and policies**.
    b. Type: The types of co-funding that can be provided include unrestricted cash, restricted cash (as specified by funder), and in-kind contributions.
    c. Amount: Specify the amount of support for that specific budget line item.
    d. Reference: Provide a one-page document that supports the cost outlined for the line item (invoice, purchase order, proof of competitive salary cost, etc.).
3. In the **TOTAL AMOUNT** row at the bottom of the table, provide the total amount of co-funding support. This should be the same number quoted in the paragraph above the table.
4. The purpose of the "Reference" column is to link the justification for the valuation/cost in the reference provided as part of this letter. (Full details about acceptable documentation are in the **funding guidelines and policies**.)

TEMPLATE

Co-funder contact name and address details

[Date]

Genome Canada contact name and address details

Dear **[Genome Canada contact name]**,

I am writing to express our support for the research project titled **"[Project Title],"** led by **[Receptor Project Leader's name]** at **[receptor name] and [researcher]** at **[name of your institution or organization]**.

Our organization, **[name of your institution or organization]**, is committed to contributing to the success of this project through co-funding support for a total of **[amount]**, as reflected in the table below.

Component	**Type**	**Amount**	**Reference (1 page maximum)**
TOTAL AMOUNT			

We believe this collaboration will not only enhance the project's outcomes but also foster a strong partnership between our institutions. We are confident that the combined expertise and resources of our teams will lead to significant advancements in **[research field]**.

Please feel free to contact me at **[your email address]** or **[your phone number]** if you require any further information or have any questions regarding our support. We look forward to the opportunity to work together on this important initiative.

Thank you for considering our contribution to this promising project.

Sincerely,

[Your name]
[Your title]
[Name of your institution or organization]