GenomeQuébec

GenomeCanada

June 2026

Genomics Innovation to Commercialization Program

Request for Applications

Table of contents

1. Overview

Biotechnology harnesses living organisms, their processes, and their systems to develop innovative products and solutions across a wide range of applications. It holds significant potential to improve quality of life while providing concrete answers to major global challenges.

The emergence of genomics has profoundly transformed this sector by offering a detailed and refined understanding of the genetic foundations of life. As a true driver of the bio-revolution, genomics is revolutionizing key sectors such as human health, agri-food, natural resource management, and environmental protection. These scientific advances now enable researchers to analyze and leverage biological systems at the molecular level, accelerating discovery, fostering innovation, and propelling research across multiple disciplines.

Public–private research and development initiatives focused on innovation offer a strategic opportunity to capture economic benefits aligned with regional priorities. The **Genomics Innovation to Commercialization Program (GIC Program)** supports collaboration between industry and the research community by targeting market-driven opportunities and specific industry needs. This approach is designed to stimulate private-sector investment in genomics research and unlock a wide range of possibilities. Genomics plays a key role in optimizing industrial processes, reducing operational costs, and fast-tracking the commercialization of high-value products—such as climate-resilient crops, advanced diagnostic tools, and personalized therapies.

2. Objectives

The GIC Program seeks to:

- increase 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.

3. Eligibility Criteria

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

- The project focuses on an innovation need defined by a receptor.
- It is a partnership between a receptor and researcher (and, optionally, additional partners), with active and necessary roles for all partners (refer to the Partnerships section).
- The receptor acts as Project Leader and is a Québec for-profit enterprise (FPE) conducting R&D in Québec.
- The researcher acts as Administrative Project Leader and is employed by an eligible institution (refer to Partnerships section).
- 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.
- It has the potential to generate social and economic impacts and benefits (refer to the Benefits and Impact on the Receptor section).

The GIC Program is not intended to fund:

- Market research;
- Commercial launches of already developed technology;
- Patent enforcement or litigation; or,
- 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.

4. Partnerships

This program is designed to support receptors 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, who are expected to play active and necessary roles in the project. Refer to the information below and Genome Canada's **Genome Canada's funding guidelines and policies**.

Receptor

A receptor is a **Québec for-profit enterprise** (startup, SME or large enterprise) with an economic interest in developing an idea or research into a commercial application.

To be eligible, the company must meet the following criteria:

- Be legally incorporated under applicable federal or Québec laws and registered with the Québec Enterprise Register; and,
- Have its head office in Québec and the majority of its employees working in Québec.

Projects must include one Receptor Project Leader. This person must be the owner or an employee of the company.

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 commercialization efforts.

Receptor independence

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

Researcher

Projects must include one researcher eligible to receive Genome Canada funds, who will act as the Administrative Project Leader. Researchers must be employed by eligible institutions in Québec. These may include:

- **Post-secondary institutions such as universities or college centres for the transfer of technologies (CCTT);**
- **Research institutes or hospitals; or,**
- **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.

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

5. Available Funding and Term

Applications must respect the following conditions:

- **Genome Canada funding:** each team can request up to one-third of the total project budget. This funding must range between $100,000 and $300,000 per project.
- **Complimentary co-funding** from other eligible sources must be fully secured at the time of application submission in order for the application to be eligible for evaluation. The minimum ratio is 1:2 (Genome Canada to all co-funding sources). Contributions from one or more private-sector, for-profit partners must be equal to greater than Genome Canada's contribution. This co-funding may be provided in cash and/or in-kind, if committed within Québec.

Under this Program, **co-funding from Génome Québec** is available to cover up to one third (1/3) of eligible expenses incurred exclusively in Québec. This funding ranges between $100,000 and $300,000 per project. It is important to note that partner contributions cannot come from the Ministère de l'Économie, de l'Innovation et de l'Énergie (MEIE) of Québec or from organizations funded by the MEIE.

This funding structure enables a total project budget ranging **from $300,000 to $900,000 or more**, depending on the nature and scope of the project.

To receive funding from Génome Québec and Genome Canada, the legal agreement must be signed, and the conditions outlined in the Notice of Award (NOA) must be met **no later than the date indicated therein**.

Selected projects must start no later than **March 31, 2027**. Additionally, all individuals holding key roles essential to the project's execution must be in place by this date.

Failure to meet these requirements will result in the cancellation of funding granted by Génome Québec and Genome Canada.

Projects must be completed within a maximum timeframe of **two years**. No deferral of the start date or extensions will be granted.

Genome Canada and Génome Québec reserve the right to withdraw its funding for any approved project that does not meet this requirement or if a change in a project's co-funding status occurs.

5.1. Eligible Costs

Funding granted by Genome Canada and Génome Québec will be disbursed to the academic partner and the receptor, whereas the funds from Génome Québec will be awarded exclusively to the academic partner.

These funds must be used specifically to cover eligible costs associated with activities directly related to the project's objectives, as approved in the budget, and carried out within the province of Québec.

Genome Canada

In addition to the eligible costs described in **Genome Canada's Guidelines for Funding**, the following also apply to the GIC Program:

- Project budgets can include individual equipment items costing 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 outsourced services costing no more than 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.
- Québec for-profit enterprises focused on commercialization—specifically small businesses with 1‑99 employees—that act as the primary Receptor may

receive up to 20 per cent of Genome Canada funding. This support is intended to advance research activities, facilitate technology transfer from researchers to end users, accelerate implementation, strengthen intellectual property protection, and shorten time to market.

Génome Québec

A detailed description of eligible costs can be found in the **Génome Québec Funding Guidelines**. The main categories of eligible costs include:

- **Salaries and Benefits**
- **Consumables**
- **Services from others** (outsourcing): Each outsourced service must be supported by a quote from the service supplier, issued in the name of one of the team members. Recourse to service providers not based in Québec must be justified based on availability, quality, timeliness or cost.
- **General and Administrative Fees**: Must not exceed 5 per cent of the non-administrative expenses in the budget. Indirect research costs, including institutional overhead costs, are not eligible.
- **Equipment**: Expenses related to the purchase of small equipment or the rental of equipment, to a maximum of 25 per cent of the total eligible expenses funded by Génome Québec. The purchase price of each piece of equipment must be $25,000 or less, excluding taxes. A quote for the equipment purchases or rental issued in the name of the academic partner must be included in the application.

Expenses funded by Genome Canada and Génome Québec must be incurred **no earlier than six months** prior to the date of the Notice of Award (NoA) to be considered eligible costs.

5.2. Ineligible Costs

Ineligible costs are detailed in **Genome Canada's Guidelines for Funding**.

5.3. Eligible Co-Funding Sources

Various sources of private-sector co-funding, whether from Québec, Canada, or abroad, are accepted, provided that the expenses are incurred in Québec:

i. Private institutional funds, trust-held sources;
ii. Private companies and industrial consortia;
iii. Firms and large corporations;
iv. Non-profit organizations or foundations;
v. Individuals;
vi. Venture capital funds and other investment funds;
vii. Departments and agencies of the federal government (e.g., Natural Resources Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and regional development agencies);
viii. Departments and agencies of provincial, territorial and municipal governments;
ix. Independent corporations funded by the Federal Government.

Cash contributions as co-funding are preferred. However, in-kind contributions, defined as non-cash contributions that can be given a cash value, may be considered as co-funding if:

a. The value can be reasonably determined and supported by documentation. An example of acceptable supporting documentation is available in **Genome Canada's funding guidelines**.
b. The value of the contribution is based upon the fair market value of a tangible item and sufficient justification is provided. Supplier discounts are one example. However, institutional discounts generally offered to medical establishments or research facilities are not eligible as co-funding.

Receptors and private sector, for-profit partners must provide reasonable documentation to support their financial viability and ability to provide the co-funding. This includes:

- A letter of co-funding commitment; and,
- Audited financial statements (auditor's reports, balance sheets, income statements, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements).

If these are not available, one of the documents below is required, in order of priority:

- Unaudited financial statements (balance sheets, income statements and statements of cash flows); or
- Any other support document substantiating to the co-funder's ability to fulfill its co-funding commitments, such as:
    - press releases announcing significant new financing; or,
    - a bank statement from the partner with a letter from the CEO indicating the account is dedicated/reserved for the project.

5.4. Ineligible Co-Funding Sources

The following are not considered eligible co-funding:

i. The value of previously existing intellectual property (IP) transferred to a project.
ii. Co-funding not associated to validation of principle.
iii. Co-funding from an organization supported by the Ministère de l'Économie, de l'Innovation et de l'Énergie (MEIE).

6. Submission and Evaluation Process

Team members from academia or the receptor who are interested in submitting an application under the GIC Program can contact Génome Québec with any questions regarding eligibility and budget preparation (see the Génome Québec contact section).

All application preparation documents are available on the **Génome Québec website**.

Applications must be submitted through the **Genome Québec's application portal**. Please contact Génome Québec on September 15, 2026, before noon (ET), to obtain or activate your submission account.

The deadline to submit applications is **September 15, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. (ET)**.

Resubmissions are permitted once after the initial evaluation. Feedback from the review committee must be addressed in the new application, with comments to this effect provided in the special section of the form.

After the application deadline, Génome Québec will assess whether the applications received meet the eligibility criteria outlined in this request for applications. Compliant

applications will then be forwarded to an independent peer review committee for evaluation.

The independent peer review committee is composed of scientific experts, industry representatives, and observers from Génome Québec, Genome Canada, and the MEIE. All committee members will sign a confidentiality agreement and be required to disclose any conflicts of interest.

The committee will assess each application based on the evaluation criteria outlined in Appendix A. The committee will provide recommendations and advice to Génome Québec. Following the decision, the applicant team will receive a notice of decision along with a summary of the strengths and weaknesses of their application.

If, at any point during the evaluation process, it is determined that the application does not meet the general eligibility criteria outlined in Appendix A, it will not be submitted for review by the committee.

Génome Québec reserves the right to modify the evaluation process if warranted by the complexity of the applications, the volume of applications received, or other factors. Any changes will be promptly communicated to the teams.

7. Benefits and Impacts on the Receptor

Projects under the GIC Program aim to generate both socio-economic benefits for Québec and commercial advantages for the end-user partners. Below are some examples of potential benefits:

- New or improved products for consumers in Québec
- Increased industry investment in R&D in the fields of genomics and biotechnology
- Improved profitability of Québec companies
- Increased follow-on investments in the end-user organization
- Development of new inventions and innovations in genomics and biotechnology
- Growth of Québec companies and strengthened international competitiveness
- Technical validation or risk reduction related to commercial opportunities for products or services
- Regional and national economic development, including job creation
- Talent attraction, training, and retention
- Greater diversification within Québec for-profit companies

- Development or expansion of innovation ecosystem services, capabilities, or connectivity
- Development of a sustainable bioeconomy
- Increased market share for bio-based products and solutions
- Other tangible benefits

8. Post-Award Management and Accountability

During the launch phase of the selected projects, each team must complete and return the following documents to Génome Québec no later than the date indicated in the Notice of Award:

- Intellectual Property Term Sheet;
- Data Release and Resource Sharing Plan;
- Private Sector Partner Identification Form; and,
- Attestation for Research on Sensitive Technologies.

One hundred per cent of the co-funding (received or committed) for funded projects must be confirmed before funds can be released, unless otherwise specified by Genome Canada and Génome Québec.

Genome Canada and Génome Québec reserve 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 occurs.

Project accountability will be ensured through the submission of an annual progress report and final reports at the end of the project. At the discretion Génome Québec and Genome Canada, some projects may be required to report more frequently.

Génome Québec will use these reports to monitor project progress and support teams in achieving their objectives and milestones within the planned timelines and budgets.

All changes related to the projects will be managed by Génome Québec, which will inform Genome Canada of any decisions made.

9. 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.

GIC Program 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.

10. 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**. GIC Program funding is conditional upon Receptor Project Leader(s) agreeing to comply with these policies. Applicants must provide a data management plan as part of their 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.

11. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Génome Québec and Genome Canada recognize that research excellence and the relevance of resulting solutions are significantly enhanced through collaboration that draws on diverse perspectives and areas of expertise. Incorporating a range of viewpoints allows for a more thorough consideration of the ethical, social, and cultural dimensions of advances in bio-innovation. It also facilitates the inclusion of the values and concerns of the communities impacted, supporting the responsible development and deployment of new technologies.

This funding opportunity encourages teams to incorporate diverse voices and apply the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) to strengthen the project's impact. This applies both to the outcomes and to the people involved and who benefit. If EDI does not appear to be relevant to a project, teams must explain the reason in their application.

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®).

12. Génome Québec Contact

Arnaud Cheuk, Ph.D. (he/him)
Manager, Partnership Development
acheuk@genomequebec.com

APPENDIX A – Evaluation Criteria

To ensure that the program's objectives are met, applications are evaluated based on several criteria. These include the significance of the innovation derived from an omics or multi-omics technology on the part of the receptor, scientific excellence, the project's potential to secure follow-on funding through proof-of-concept validation, the potential for use, implementation, or commercialization by the receptor, and the socio-economic impact in Québec. The descriptions associated with each criterion are not exhaustive.

General Eligibility Criteria

1. The project must focus on the application of an omics or multi-omics technology such as genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics, metabolomics, bioinformatics, genetic engineering, synthetic biology.
2. The project must demonstrate the potential to generate significant impact in human health, biofood, natural resources (e.g. forestry or mining), or the environment, and create socio-economic benefits for Québec.
3. The project must involve the participation of a Québec for-profit company (the receptor) and a researcher (the academic partner) as the primary collaborators, with active involvement from both parties.
4. The research project must take place in Québec.

A) Receptor's need

1. The specific problem or unmet need of the receptor is clearly defined.
2. The omics-based approach is appropriate to address this need.
3. Current solutions, practices or technologies is summarized, and their limitations is clearly explained.
4. The proposed project improves upon existing approaches and expected advantages are explained.
5. The tangible results of the project and their benefits are described.

B) Project description

1. The proposed innovation that needs to be developed, validated or improved is clearly defined.
2. The project demonstrates meaningful use of omics approaches.
3. The approach is grounded in credible science (e.g. preliminary data, published studies) and expected performance (e.g. accuracy, efficiency) is estimated.

4. Feasibility of key milestones, including the alignment of proposed timelines, objectives, go/no go decisions, with a realistic and critical path to success.
5. Quality of the scientific environment in which the research will be conducted.

C) Market Opportunity Analysis

1. The core value of the innovation is clearly articulated.
2. The market opportunity is identified and quantified (e.g. TAM, SAM, SOM or equivalent).
3. Sufficient consideration has been given to the target market potential of the innovation (quantified, if possible), as well as to the analysis of potential competitors.
4. Competitive advantage is clearly articulated.
5. Clarity in identifying end users and/or beneficiaries, targeted customer segments and targeted geographic areas (local, national, international).

D) Receptor's Commercialization Plan

The pathway toward the commercialization or implementation of the innovation by the receptor is clearly defined and realistically achievable:

1. Clarity and credibility of the business model, including revenue streams, identified end-users, end-user adoption, distribution channels, and sustainability.
2. The proposed approach is feasible within a realistic timeline with KPIs to track commercial success.
3. Key steps toward commercialization and monetization are clearly outlined and realistic
4. The funding sources supporting this approach are identified and realistic.
5. Legal, social, economic, logistical, and other barriers have been identified, and a strategy is described to minimize their impact.

E) Benefits and Advantages for Québec

1. Realistic estimates of expected benefits for the receptor (e.g. revenue growth, cost savings, job creation, productivity gains, skills development)
2. Tangible direct and/or indirect impacts resulting from commercialization or implementation.
3. Clear linkage between project outcomes and benefits for Québec's economy, society or innovation system.

4. Potential magnitude and duration of benefits within Québec.
5. Identification of additional steps required to maximize benefits for Québec, whether they involve the receptor.

F) Project Stakeholders

1. Clear definition of each team member's role, including relevant expertise, resources and contribution to key project activities (CV is not required)
2. Well-defined collaboration model showing how partners contribute complementary expertise, capabilities and resources.
3. Evidence of how diverse skills, backgrounds and experiences within the team strengthen delivery of key milestones and expected outcomes.
4. Meaningful involvement of relevant communities through consultation, co-creation, validation or other engagement approaches aligned with project objectives.

G) Financial aspects

1. The budgeted costs comply with the definition of eligible costs (subsection 5.1), are reasonable, and are consistent with the proposed research plan and activities.
2. Financial and budgetary control process
    a. Clear description of internal financial management processes at the receptor organization, including authorization of purchases, approval of payments, and procedures for budget monitoring and adjustments.
    b. Evidence that appropriate controls are in place to ensure responsible, transparent and compliant management of project funds.
    c. Clear summary of budget lines that are not explicitly justified in the budget template.
    d. Explanations for any non-standard cost elements.
3. Co-funding
    a. The proposed co-funding plan complies with the eligible co-funding guidelines outlined under subsection 5.3;
    b. Supporting documentation is provided, which may include letters of commitment or signed agreements from co-funding sources, supplier quotes, or confirmation of grants received;
    c. A connection between the proposed co-funding and the project's objectives is demonstrated.

GenomeQuébec

630, BOUL. RENÉ-LÉVESQUE OUEST, BUREAU 2660
MONTRÉAL (QUÉBEC) H3B 1S6

www.genomequebec.com