



...where **G**enomics,
Public policy,
and **S**ociety meet



Genome Canada
and its partners launch a new
OTTAWA GE³LS SERIES
to promote dialogue on genomics,
public policy and society...



Why?

The objective of this new initiative is to explore policy options for addressing questions at the interface of genomics, public policy and society. This Ottawa GE³LS series will facilitate dialogue between researchers and federal policy-makers by:

- encouraging debate needed to inform evidence-based public policy and
- identifying research priorities based on timely and socially relevant questions.

Who?

This series will invite small groups of senior federal policy-makers together with leading national and international researchers to discuss relevant themes of common interest.

What?

The theme for the first year series is Genetic Information. Three related sub-themes will be explored:

Consent, Privacy & Research Biobanks
(November 27, 2009) The collection and study of human tissue are increasingly important for unlocking the full complexity of human health and disease, and effectively addressing global health challenges. Enrolling willing individuals to participate in studies and addressing their reasonable expectations of privacy are equally critical. What are some policy options for delivering on the promise of research biobanks while respecting people's personal information and building public trust over time?

Genetic Information & Discrimination
(upcoming event) As genomics research and technology advance in leaps and bounds, so too our concepts of personal information and self-identity. Genomic information about your family and your community may lead to unfair assumptions about you; it may reveal things about yourself you may not want to know or let others know. What are some policy options for maximizing the value of genetic information while protecting against unjust discrimination?

On-line Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing
(upcoming event) The internet has become an infinite repository of information we may access for free or purchase on-line. Our natural curiosity to learn more about ourselves and our connections with others may drive us to ask questions about our human genome which scientists and health providers have yet to answer. Those who wish to keep this information secure may find it challenging to do so in an increasingly networked world. What are some policy options for addressing competing claims for a free market place of genetic information on the one hand, and adequate consumer protection on the other?

When and Where?

These invitation-only events will take place in Ottawa three times a year (Fall, Winter and Spring). Information about these events will be available to all on Genome Canada's website.

Learn More

Come visit our website to learn more about these events, read background materials, view podcasts and send us your feedback.
www.genomecanada.ca/en/ge3ls/

G = Genomics & its
E³ = Ethical, Economic, Environmental
L = Legal and
S = Social Aspects

Partners



Council of Canadian Academies
Conseil des académies canadiennes



Government of Canada
Policy Research Initiative

Gouvernement du Canada
Projet de recherche sur les politiques



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