



...where **G**enomics,  
**P**ublic policy,  
 and **S**ociety meet

**First Annual Series 2009- 2010  
 Core Advisory Partners (CAP)  
 Terms of Reference (updated Sept. 24, 2009)**

<b>Background</b>	<p>Genome Canada’s national GE<sup>3</sup>LS strategy is “to continue promoting world-class GE<sup>3</sup>LS research, while also encouraging creative, dedicated and systematic efforts to translate research results into concrete tangible outcomes for relevant audiences, including researchers, practitioners, policy-makers and the general public.”</p> <p>This specific initiative is linked to Element #3 of the Strategy, “Bridging the GE<sup>3</sup>LS Research-Public Policy Gap”.</p>
<b>Objective</b>	<p>The objective of this initiative is to broker two-way knowledge transfer between GE<sup>3</sup>LS researchers and high level federal policy makers to facilitate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. dialogue and debate that helps inform the development of evidence-based public policy and</li> <li>2. the identification of research priorities based on timely and socially relevant questions.</li> </ol> <p>The written outcomes of the annual series will strive to present a balanced overview of the key policy options related to a given GE<sup>3</sup>LS issue. The objective is not to issue any specific recommendations, nor favor one policy position over another.</p>
<b>Chair</b>	Genome Canada (GC) Chief GE <sup>3</sup> LS Officer
<b>Members of CAP</b>	<p>The members of CAP for the 1<sup>st</sup> annual series (2009-2010) on the theme of “Genetic Information” are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Ethics Office and the Institute of Genetics</li> <li>• Carleton University</li> <li>• Council of Canadian Academies (CCA)</li> <li>• Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada (OPC)</li> <li>• Policy Research Initiative of Canada (PRI)</li> <li>• Public Policy Forum (PPF)</li> </ul>
<b>Mandate of GC</b>	The mandate of GC with respect to this initiative is to be a knowledge broker, facilitating the two-way transfer of knowledge between researchers and policy-makers, on ethical, economic, environmental, legal and social issues related to genomics.
<b>Mandate of CAP</b>	<p>The mandate of core partners is to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. advise GC on the planning and organization of events in the annual series;</li> <li>2. advise GC on the process of developing written outcomes of each event and provide overall quality control; and</li> <li>3. contribute—financially or in kind—to the success of the initiative.</li> </ol>

<b>Recognition of CAP members</b>	Member organizations of CAP will be formally recognized at the series events (e.g., through public recognition for their advice and input as partners in this initiative, and through the display of their institutional logos).
<b>Term:</b>	The term of CAP membership is one year, or the time period for the planning and implementation of the annual series, including the time required to finalize written outcomes.
<b>Secretariat:</b>	Genome Canada staff provide secretariat support to CAP.
<b>Meetings:</b>	Meetings (in person or by teleconference) will be held as needed.
<b>Decisions :</b>	The Chair will strive to obtain a consensus in the advice provided by core partners. In the case of an impasse, the Chair will move forward with the majority view, to the extent consistent with the mandate and policies of Genome Canada, and the national GE <sup>3</sup> LS strategy.
<b>Reporting:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A summary of decisions and action items will be circulated to CAP members after each meeting.</li> <li>2. Information about the events and associated written outcomes are to be disseminated as widely as possible, such as on web sites of GC and those of CAP members.</li> <li>3. Written outcomes of the events may possibly be published in open, peer-reviewed, publications.</li> <li>4. The role of the media in disseminating information about the events and outcomes is to be determined.</li> </ol>
<b>Desired Outcomes</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Events are considered credible, and of high interest and priority for policy-makers and GE<sup>3</sup>LS researchers.</li> <li>2. Policy-makers are better informed of the evidence base underlying various policy options and researchers are better informed of practical considerations and potential research questions.</li> <li>3. The policy directions briefs are a key resource for policy-makers to turn to when information or advice is solicited.</li> <li>4. Ongoing dialogue is fostered between researchers and policymakers.</li> </ol>
<b>Terms of Reference approved</b>	July 23, 2009 September 24, 2009 (revised)

\* GE<sup>3</sup>LS stands for genomics and its related ethical, economic, environmental, legal and social aspects.