Vice President, Public Affairs

Genome Canada is a not-for-profit organization, funded by the Government of Canada, that acts as a catalyst for developing and applying genomics and genomic-based technologies to create economic and social benefits for Canadians. We connect ideas and people across public and private sectors to find new uses for genomics, invest in large-scale science and technology to fuel innovation, and translate discoveries into solutions across key sectors of national importance. Key sectors include health, agriculture and agri-food, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, the environment, energy and mining.

We are currently recruiting for a Vice President, Public Affairs to join our team. Reporting to the President & CEO, this position will develop and deliver outward-facing corporate strategy, including: promoting the value of genomics and the activities of Genome Canada to government; aligning corporate strategy with national policy priorities, and leading communications activities to advance genomics to Genome Canada stakeholders. As a member of the executive team, the VP Public Affairs helps shape overall corporate strategy and direction.

Key Responsibilities

- Develop and implement a sophisticated public affairs strategy to further raise the profile of genomics and Genome Canada
- Ensure Genome Canada’s reputation remains strong as a leader in genomics research and implementation
- Oversee the direction and implementation of a comprehensive communications strategy
- Contribute to national policy development in genomics and related research areas and ensure that Genome Canada corporate strategy is aligned with relevant national policies
- Help ensure corporate direction and strategy are aligned with and/or inform national priorities in genomics specifically, and research and innovation generally
- Assist in securing long-term stable funding from the federal government and other sources
- Contribute to the understanding of genomics in society
- Manage a small internal team and an extended network within a collegial and dynamic team environment
- Build strong, collaborative relationships with regional Genome Centres
- Interact with a wide range of stakeholders, including senior government officials, to promote the value of genomics in Canada
- Act as a public face of Genome Canada at meetings, events or invited appearances, and communicate key corporate messages effectively
- Liaise regularly with counterparts at research organizations, universities and other organizations in order to monitor and inform community dialogue
• Design and develop rapid response mechanisms for issues management and crisis communications
• Enhance the overall branding of Genome Canada both nationally and internationally
• Work with and support the Board of Directors Committee on Communications and Outreach
• Act as an authoritative resource and provide strategic advice to the President and CEO, management team, Board of Directors and others on all public affairs, communications and outreach matters
• Provide and prepare input on planning, budgeting, reporting and evaluation to ensure that public affairs, communications and outreach activities are fully integrated in Genome Canada’s business strategy.

Key Competencies

• Strategic thinker and innovator with a “big picture” perspective
• Strong background and knowledge of public policy and political process
• Strong political acumen and analytical skills
• Excellent interpersonal skills and proven ability to build and foster strong, strategic professional relationships
• Consensus builder, able to work within a collegial and dynamic team environment
• Tact and diplomacy
• Strong project management skills
• Well-versed in organizational communications and marketing, with particular skill and experience with digital communications

Qualifications & Experience

• 10 years of professional experience in senior positions with responsibility for public affairs and communications
• Experience with the federal science and innovation ecosystem and related policy issues
• Strong knowledge of university and government communications
• Credibility and experience interacting and collaborating with a wide range of multi-level stakeholders, including senior officials
• Interest in and previous involvement in science advocacy activities
• Excellent oral and written communication skills in English and French are essential

Application Process

To apply, forward your covering letter and resume (as one document) with the subject heading “VP, Public Affairs” in the subject line to HR@genomecanada.ca. Please entitle your resume attachment with your first and last name. Closing date for priority selection is February 12, 2020, however we will continue to accept resumes after this date until the position is filled.
Individual accommodations due to a disability are available upon request for candidates taking part in all aspects of the selection process.

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, race, religion, ethnicity, gender, disability, citizenship status, marital status, actual or perceived sexual orientation.

Genome Canada is committed to creating an inclusive environment and building a team that represents a variety of backgrounds, perspectives, and skills. We value diversity and recognize that experience comes in many forms and skills are transferable. Please view this description as a general overview, but not a mandatory comprehensive list. If you feel passionate about our efforts and believe that you have the skills to contribute and lead in this role, apply!