Data Release and Resource Sharing Plan

1. PURPOSE

Genome Canada is committed to rapidly sharing the outputs of Genome Canada-funded research, including open access to publications, data release and resource sharing. This plan aims to provide timely access to research outputs, accelerating the translation of research for the benefit of Canada and the global community.

2. SCOPE

Genome Canada funded projects must share data and resources in a timely manner with no restrictions. Exceptions may occur in cases where research is focused on clinical data or industry applications where data release may pose an issue for users.

3. DEFINITIONS

Research outputs. The diverse results produced by research projects. These outputs encompass a wide range of deliverables, including publications, data, software, and other tangible research products which contribute to the advancement of knowledge and understanding.

Open-source science. Making scientific research, data, code and publications freely accessible to promote transparency, collaboration, and reproducibility in research to increase the accessibility and impact of scientific knowledge.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

Applicants to all Genome Canada funding opportunities must provide a data management plan (DMP) as part of their application.

Genome Canada and its review committees will review applicant's proposed DMPs to verify that they conform to Genome Canada's Data Release and Resource Sharing Plan. Funds will not flow until an acceptable plan has been approved and incorporated into the terms of award.

Each project team approved for Genome Canada funding must make a commitment to comply with the data release and resource sharing plan as a condition of funding.
Genome Canada expects that users of data and resources will acknowledge the source and abide by any terms and conditions of use.

Genome Canada and Genome Centre staff will monitor adherence to this policy by funded researchers through a variety of mechanisms including oversight committees.

Where the goal of the project is to produce data or resources for the wider scientific community the project must follow the data release and resource sharing principles of research outputs.

Genome Canada recognizes publication as a vehicle for data release and, at a minimum, expects data to be released and shared no later than the original publication date of the main findings from any datasets generated

by that project. For large datasets that are collected over several discrete time periods or phases, it is reasonable to expect that the data be released in phases as they become available or as the main findings from a research phase are published. However, at the conclusion of a project, all data must be released without restriction. Genome Canada encourages rapid prepublication data release and requires data availability at the time data is referenced in a publication.

Approved Genome Canada projects must address the sharing of research outputs generated by the projects such as unique biological specimens and computer programs designed to analyze datasets. Source codes for computer programs designed to analyze large datasets should be made available to others using license agreements that adhere to open-source principles.

Data management plan requirements
DMPs must ensure planned data management practices comply with ethical, legal and commercial obligations. Research outputs must also abide by FAIR principles – data must be findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable.

DMPs should include, at a minimum:

- An outline of how data will be collected, documented and stored.
- A description of plans for data sharing and the preserving of data, including any restrictions.
- A risk management plan to ensure confidentiality and research security are maintained.

Data management plans and Indigenous data sovereignty
Recognizing the importance of Indigenous data sovereignty, Genome Canada acknowledges that research involving First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities must adhere to data governance principles developed by those communities, ensuring free, prior, and informed consent. This includes considerations for Indigenous data sovereignty, encompassing data collection, ownership, protection, use, and sharing. While the OCAP® principles (Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession) are a widely adopted framework for First Nations data governance, Genome Canada also recognizes other distinctions-based and purpose-driven approaches that reflect the diverse priorities and perspectives of Indigenous Peoples. This includes models such as the CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance—Collective Benefit, Authority to Control, Responsibility, and Ethics—which underscore the vital role of data in supporting Indigenous innovation, rights, and self-determination.

For research conducted by and with Indigenous communities, DMPs must be co-developed with those communities, aligning with Indigenous DMP principles or community-accepted DMP formats. A distinctions-based approach must be applied to ensure that the rights, interests, and circumstances of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities are acknowledged and affirmed. DMPs should recognize Indigenous data sovereignty and include options for renegotiation, as necessary.

Indigenous communities will determine how data collected in collaboration with them is used and preserved and retain the right to repatriate such data. This may result in exceptions to data deposit requirements to ensure alignment with Indigenous governance principles.

Exemptions

In rare cases, Genome Canada may approve an exemption where circumstances are justified. In these cases, the applicants must provide an explanation in the application form, and the request will be evaluated by the review committee. For funded projects, the project team must make a request for an exemption through the Genome Centre for approval by Genome Canada. Genome Canada may call on the advice of oversight committees or other experts, as appropriate, to assist in deciding.

For research that involves specimens or data from human participants, it is acceptable to use a controlled access repository, or a similar access strategy, in order to comply with ethical or informed consent requirements. Controlled access generally requires that researchers requesting access to the data complete an access agreement for personal and institutional identification. In the access agreement, the researcher is usually required to describe the purpose of his research and commit to a number of good privacy and security practices for the processing of controlled data including agreeing not to re-identify research participants. Using a controlled access repository does not exempt compliance with the FAIR principles.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Genome Canada will monitor adherence to the data release and resource sharing plan by funded project teams through a variety of mechanisms including oversight committees. Genome Canada will also review applicants' proposed data release and resource sharing plans to verify they conform to the Data Release and Resource Sharing Plan.

Genome Centres will monitor adherence to the data release and resource sharing plan by funded project teams through a variety of mechanisms including oversight committees.

Project Leaders and their Institutions are responsible for completing a DMP and ensuring compliance with Genome Canada's data release and resource sharing plan.

6. POLICY HISTORY

Action	Date
Policy issued	September 2008
Policy updated	September 2016
Policy converted to a plan	December 2024
Plan updated	September 2025