GenomeCanada

Request for Applications
Membership to the Genomics Innovation Network
And Core Operations Support Funds

June 2014

1. Overview

Genome Canada funds and manages large-scale, milestone-driven genomics[1] research projects in the areas of agriculture, energy, environment, fisheries, forestry, health, and mining. Genome Canada's mission includes a commitment to provide researchers across Canada access to leading edge technologies in all genomics-related fields. Historically, Genome Canada has met this commitment by supporting Science and Technology Innovation Centres across Canada. Given the rapid rate of development and deployment of new technologies in this area, the need for more collaboration in providing access to these technologies, the funding landscape and the advice provided by several sources including a working group of national and international experts, going forward, Genome Canada will fulfil this part of its mandate by establishing a network of genomic technologies innovation centres across Canada. The goal of this network, to be known as the *Genomics Innovation Network* (GIN), will be to facilitate an environment that allows innovation centres across Canada to collaborate and harness their collective power for the advancement of genomics research in Canada.

The mission of the GIN will be to create a mechanism for the innovation centres across Canada to work together collaboratively, which will also aid in providing the highest quality genomic technologies and advice to the research community. It is envisaged that each member of the GIN, to be designated as a *Node*, will provide researchers access to high throughput genomic technologies, such as DNA sequencing, RNA expression, protein identification and quantitation, and metabolomics, as well as new method and protocol development, data analysis and bioinformatics. Each Node will also assist researchers in the development of research proposals by providing advice on appropriate technologies, study design, data analysis and bioinformatics that improve the quality of the research.

Six regional Genome Centres (Genome BC, Genome Alberta, Genome Prairie, Ontario Genomics Institute, Genome Quebec and Genome Atlantic) support genomics research at a regional level across Canada. They assist applicants in preparing competitive applications, facilitating access to leading edge genomics technologies and other service providers, help applicants with aspects of project development and post-award management, and, working with the applicants, are responsible for securing necessary co-funding, where applicable. Eligible applicants must submit proposals through one of the regional Genome Centres and it is the responsibility of the Centre to determine which proposals to put forward to Genome Canada. Once a Node is approved the regional Genome Centre has the lead in ensuring its effective management and monitoring. See Appendix A for regional Genome Centre contact details.

[1] The term genomics is defined here as the comprehensive study, using high throughput technologies, of the genetic information of a cell or organism, including the function of specific genes, their interactions with each other and the activation and suppression of genes. For purposes of describing Genome Canada's mandate it also includes related disciplines such as bioinformatics, epigenomics, metabolomics, metagenomics, nutrigenomics, pharmacogenomics, proteomics and transcriptomics.

2. Objectives

This RFA will support the establishment of a network of genomic technologies innovation centres across Canada, the GIN, with the goal to facilitate an environment that allows innovation centres across Canada to collaborate and harness their collective power for the advancement of genomics research in Canada. Individual innovation centres that are successful in receiving Core Operating Support funds through this competition will become founding members (Nodes) of the GIN. Through this RFA, membership to the GIN will be determined through a competitive international peer review process based on excellence and the level of services provided to the Canadian genomics research community. For detailed evaluation criteria, please refer to Appendix B.

Once the process of membership to the GIN is completed through this RFA, further funds for activities such as technology development and collaborative research projects will be available to the members of the network. The level of funding to each node for such activities will be determined through an international peer review process.

As a member of the GIN, each Node must provide access to leading edge technologies to researchers across Canada. This RFA will allow such innovation centres to request funds to support activities related to Core Operations of the innovation centre. *Core Operations* are defined as **any activities that are considered to be *essential* for day-to-day operations of the innovation centre and are considered "non-recoverable" costs in the context of providing access and support to research projects funded by Canadian public and private sector organizations**. Such Core activities may include, but are not limited to, staff salaries, consumables or equipment deemed necessary for efficient operations of the innovation centre. For details of eligible costs, please refer to the funding guidelines in Appendix C.

3. Funds Available, Term and Co-funding

This is an open competition with a maximum total envelope of $16 million available from Genome Canada for a period of two years (April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2017). The maximum available funds from Genome Canada for each successful Node will be $2 million over two years. In addition, applicants will be required to demonstrate that financing from co-funders of an amount at least equal to the amount requested from Genome Canada is also available to the Node. For further details, please refer to Appendix C: Guidelines for Funding.

4. Application and Evaluation Process

Applicants are required to apply for funding through their regional Genome Centre. The application process is comprised of two steps: Registration and Full Application.

4.1. Eligibility

To be eligible as a member of the GIN, each potential Node must fulfill all of the following criteria:

1. The Node must provide Canadian researchers from federal and provincial governments, universities, hospitals and not-for-profit organizations, access to leading edge genomic[1] technologies.

2. The Node must be accessible to Canadian researchers from federal and provincial governments, universities, hospitals and not-for-profit organizations across Canada, including researchers not associated with the host institution.
3. The lead applicant(s) must be affiliated with an eligible research institution.
4. The Node must demonstrate that an amount at least equal to the amount requested from Genome Canada will be secured through co-funding from other sources. Such co-funding must be scheduled to be expended at the Node during the period for which Genome Canada Core Operations Support funds are provided, i.e., April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2017.

4.2. Registration

A Registration form will be used to provide brief information about the proposal which will be used to evaluate eligibility of all potential applications by the Genome Centres. Applicants must submit the Registration through their Genome Centre (Genome Centre deadline: **August 1, 2014**) to Genome Canada by **August 5, 2014**. Only those Registrations that satisfy the eligibility criteria will be invited by the Genome Centres to submit a full application.

The Registration process will also provide guidance to Genome Canada in the selection of reviewers for the peer review process for full applications. Applicants will be invited to submit the names of potential reviewers who do not currently reside or work in Canada and with whom the applicants have no conflict of interest.

4.3. Full Application

The full applications must be submitted to the Genome Centre by **September 15, 2014** for review prior to its submission to Genome Canada on or before **October 15, 2014**. Each regional Genome Centre must ensure that applications satisfy Genome Canada's evaluation criteria as defined in Appendix B. All submissions will be assessed by an international panel of experts through a rigorous review process. Each proposal will be assessed against the review criteria as outlined below and in Appendix B.

The primary criteria for any innovation centre to receive funding from Genome Canada as a Node and become a member of the GIN are:

1. Demand for services based on past, current and potential future projects funded by Canadian public and private sector organizations.
2. Technical ability to deliver services including whether services are provided in a competitive fashion, i.e., in a timely manner, at reasonable cost and at a consistently high quality.
3. Demonstration of sufficient capacity, including infrastructure, and plans for updating capacity, as required.
4. Management and financial criteria.

The Review Committee will provide recommendations and advice to Genome Canada on all aspects of the applications, including proposed budgets. The Board of Directors of Genome Canada will make the final funding decisions. Only those proposals demonstrating the highest degree of overall excellence will be funded. Subsequently, applicants will be provided with a written evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of their application and the Board decision through a funding decision letter and summary of review. All innovation centres approved for funding as Nodes are subject to a Status Report Process to ensure that all applicable conditions are met prior to the release of funds.

Genome Canada may adjust the evaluation process where warranted by the complexity of the proposals or other relevant factors. Any adjustments will be rapidly communicated through Genome Canada's website and through the Genome Centres.

5. GIN Terms of Reference

Successful innovation centres will automatically become a member of Genome Canada`s GIN and must comply with the GIN`s Terms of Reference (see Appendix D).

6. GIN Oversight Committee (OC)

The GIN will have an Oversight Committee (the "OC") constituted by Genome Canada with the assistance of the Genome Centre(s).

The OC will:

1. Provide advice and guidance to Genome Canada and the Genome Centres on current activities and the implementation of future strategies of the GIN.
2. Help ensure that each Node of the GIN remains accessible by the larger scientific community and provides access to the latest technologies with a high degree of excellence.

The membership of the OC will be completely independent from the funded Nodes with no real or perceived conflicts of interest and will be composed of experts who will put forward recommendations that will enable the GIN to maximize the success of its operations. Guidelines related to the membership, mandate and Terms of Reference for the GIN OC will be available before the start of flow of funds.

7. Timeline

Proposals must be submitted to Genome Canada through a Genome Centre. Please contact your regional Genome Centre for further information on their process and internal deadline dates.

May 29, 2014	Launch of Competition and release of Guidelines
Aug 1, 2014	Deadline for Registrations to Genome Centre
Aug 5, 2014	Eligible Registrations submitted to Genome Canada
Sept 15, 2014	Deadline for Full Applications to Genome Centre
Oct 15, 2014	Deadline for Full Applications to Genome Canada
Late Nov, 2014	Review committee meets (including meetings with applicants)
Dec 2014	Funding decisions by Genome Canada Board of Directors
Dec 2014	Notification of Decision

APPENDIX A – CONTACTS

Andy Stone	Genome Atlantic	(902) 421-5645	astone@genomeatlantic.ca
Hélène Fournier	Genome Québec	514 398-0668	hfournier@genomequebec.com
Alison Symington	Ontario Genomics Institute	(416) 673-6594	asymington@ontariogenomics.ca
Chris Barker	Genome Prairie	(306) 668-3587	cbarker@genomeprairie.ca
Gijs Van Rooijen	Genome Alberta	(403) 503-5230	vanrooijen@genomealberta.ca
Gabe Kalmar	Genome British Columbia	(604) 637-4374	gkalmar@genomebc.ca

APPENDIX B - EVALUATION CRITERIA

The applications will be evaluated through an independent peer review process against the criteria below. Note that these descriptors are not all-inclusive.

A. Demand for Services

All funded Nodes are expected to be accessible by research projects funded by federal and provincial governments, universities, hospitals, not-for-profit and other Canadian public and private sector organizations. They must demonstrate demand for the services offered based on past, current and potential future projects (e.g., any funding applications awaiting decision at the time of submitting this application to Genome Canada). This could include demand from federal and provincial governments, universities, hospitals, not-for-profit and other Canadian public and private sector organizations.

B. Technical Ability to Deliver Services

1. Quality

i. The technical ability to provide each of the technologies offered
ii. The ability to provide advice in study design and data analysis
iii. The likelihood that services will be delivered in a timely manner and at reasonable costs (as compared to norms based on similar academic and private sector service providers)
iv. Evidence of past cost savings as well as a plan to reduce current costs over time
v. The potential of the innovation centre to be a vital component of the GIN in supporting its goal and aims (see Appendix D)

2. Quality of Team

i. The appropriateness of the applicants' expertise to operate
ii. The quality of the applicants' recent productivity, track records and their contributions to the fields of genomics, proteomics, metabolomics or related areas
iii. Evidence that the team is forward looking and innovative
iv. The likelihood that the team will be able to deliver on the responsibilities of a GIN Node (see Appendix D)

C. Demonstration of Sufficient Infrastructure Capacity

1. Applicants must demonstrate that the host institution is providing a supportive environment and that there will be sufficient infrastructure capacity to provide services in a timely manner

2. Applicants must also provide a list of all equipment that will be accessible to researchers without restrictions. For equipment that will be partially available, details all access restrictions should be provided.

D. Management and Finance

1. The quality of the management plan, and the administrative/organizational structure

i. The composition of the proposed management team, recruitment plan, role of key personnel and committees, frequency of meetings, etc.
ii. The appropriateness of management team member accountabilities

iii. The mechanism of communicating within the facility, and with other key stakeholders: collaborators/users, the regional Genome Centre(s) and other GIN Nodes
iv. The management team's ability to coordinate activities
v. The mechanism of managing projects, assigning resources and setting priorities
vi. The method for making research results accessible to users, including data management
vii. The ability to manage a multi-disciplinary team

2. The mechanism for making critical decisions regarding day-to-day operations

i. The manner in which important decisions will be made
ii. The process for making strategic decisions when a consensus cannot be reached
iii. The discussion of key challenges and plans to address them

3. The effectiveness of the proposed communications, outreach and knowledge dissemination strategy

i. The effectiveness of promotional activities (e.g., advertising, website creation, business development)

4. Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP)

i. The demonstration that plans are in place to ensure that an adequate number of HQP with the appropriate expertise are available to meet current and future needs
ii. The quality and appropriateness of the proposed training program and training milieu

5. Budget and Expenditure Controls

i. The budgeted costs meet the definition of Eligible Costs (as described in the *Guidelines for Funding – Appendix C*)
ii. The reasonableness of the budgeted costs
iii. The reasonableness of the rationale and justifications used for budgeted items necessary for *core operations*
iv. The likely effectiveness of financial and budgetary control processes or mechanisms (e.g., processes for authorizing purchases, payments and budget adjustments)
v. Level of assurance provided by the proposal that expenditures will be closely and critically monitored

6. Financing from Co-Funders

i. Evidence that additional financing through co-funding from sources other than Genome Canada is available to the facility at an amount at least equal to the amount requested from Genome Canada
ii. The eligibility of the proposed co-funding (as described in the *Guidelines for Funding – Appendix C*)
iii. The likelihood that the GIN Node will be able to secure 100% of the required co-funding at the time of the release of funds

APPENDIX C: GUIDELINES FOR FUNDING

1. FUNDING

Genome Canada will fund eligible costs for approved core operation activities related to providing services to research projects funded by Canadian public and private sector organizations**.**

1.1 Eligible Costs for Genome Canada Funding

Eligible costs are defined as reasonable costs for activities directly related to help sustain the essential services provided to the genomics research community including value-added advice on appropriate technologies, study design, data acquisition and analysis.

Eligible costs may include the following:

i. Salaries:

- Salaries and benefits for team members who do not work directly on a given project and therefore are not considered a cost recoverable expense (note that salaries of researchers or senior management currently funded by their respective organizations are not considered eligible costs).
- The actual benefit rates as charged by the host institution. Eligible benefits include only payroll taxes, group insurance and group pension. For institutional benefit rates higher than 20% of the employee's salary, supporting documentation (such as a letter from the institutional human resources department) must be provided.
- The actual cost of release time from teaching and clinical duties, if supported by a letter from the host institution.
- Annual inflation for salary expenditures in the second and later years of the funding period at actual rates as charged by the host institution; for inflationary increases exceeding 1.5% of total salary and benefits, supporting documentation must be provided.

ii. Equipment:

- Equipment is defined as any item (or interrelated collection of items comprising a system) which is used wholly or in part for the services offered by the Node and meets all three of the following conditions: 1) nonexpendable tangible property; 2) having a useful life of more than one year; and, 3) a cost of $2,000 or more.
- Funds requested for equipment from Genome Canada must not exceed the lesser of ten percent (10%) of the total requested funds or a maximum of $200,000 over the funding period.

iii. Consumables:

- Costs for general maintenance of equipment used to provide the services offered by the Node.

NOTE: Consumables for services must be covered by cost recovery from projects.

iv. General and Administrative Costs

- Administrative costs may include, for example, costs associated with publications, communications and public outreach activities, website maintenance, office expenses, final reports and GIN Network activities.
- Administrative costs must not exceed five percent (5%) of the non-administrative costs of the budget.

1.1.1. Ineligible Costs for Genome Canada Funding

Examples of ineligible costs include the following:

i. Payments to persons working outside of Canada, e.g., salaries
ii. Indirect costs to the Node, including institutional overhead costs
iii. Rent, renovation or construction of buildings or facilities, and the opportunity cost of using existing infrastructure
iv. Inflation applied to consumables and equipment

If in doubt regarding eligibility of a specific cost, the applicant should consult the regional Genome Centre before incurring that cost.

1.1.2. Cost-recoverable Expenses

The following are not eligible as core operational costs, but are considered cost-recoverable expenses to be charged to the user of the technology services (see access policy for more detail). The list is not exclusive.

i. Salaries for technicians who operate equipment used to deliver technology services
ii. Salaries for technicians who perform quality control and quality assurance
iii. Salaries for data analysts who provide specific project support
iv. Consumables required to deliver technology services

1.2 Financing from Co-Funding

Genome Canada requires at least an amount equal to the funding requested from Genome Canada be obtained through funding from other sources. Any eligible co-funding must be scheduled to be expended at the Node during the period for which Genome Canada Core Operating Support funds are provided, i.e., April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2017. The co-funding must be used for the eligible co-funding costs and derived from the eligible sources defined below. 100% of the eligible co-funding must be secured (received or committed) before the time of release of funds.

1.2.1. Eligible Costs for Co-Funding

Eligible costs are defined as reasonable costs for activities **directly related** to help sustain the services provided to the genomics research community including value-added advice on appropriate technologies, study design, data acquisition and analysis.

Eligible costs may include the following:

i. Salaries:

- Salaries and benefits for team members for activities directly related to providing services.

- The actual cost of release time from teaching and clinical duties, if supported by a letter from the host institution.
- Annual inflation for salary expenditures in the second and later years of the funding period at actual rates as charged by the host institution.

ii. Equipment:

- Equipment is defined as any item (or interrelated collection of items comprising a system) which is used wholly or in part for the services offered by the Node and meets all three of the following conditions: 1) nonexpendable tangible property; 2) having a useful life of more than one year; and, 3) a cost of $2,000 or more.

iii. Consumables:

- Costs for general maintenance of equipment used to provide the services offered by the Node
- Consumables for services covered by cost recovery from projects.

iv. General and Administrative Costs

- Administrative costs may include, for example, costs associated with publications, communications and public outreach activities, website maintenance, office expenses, final reports and GIN Network activities.

1.2.2. Ineligible Costs for Co-Funding

Examples of ineligible costs include the following:

i. Payments to persons working outside of Canada, e.g., salaries
ii. Indirect costs to the Node, including institutional overhead costs
iii. Rent, renovation or construction of buildings or facilities, and the opportunity cost of using existing infrastructure
iv. Inflation applied to consumables and equipment

If in doubt regarding eligibility of a specific cost, the applicant should consult the regional Genome Centre.

1.2.3. Revenue Derived from Cost-recoverable Expenses (Fee for Service)

Revenue derived from cost-recoverable expenses charged to the users of the technology services (fee for service) is allowed as co-funding, except for revenue from Genome Canada funded projects. The following list of cost-recoverable expenses is not exclusive.

i. Salaries for technicians who operate equipment used to deliver technology services
ii. Salaries for technicians who perform quality control and quality assurance
iii. Salaries for data analysts who provide specific project support
iv. Consumables required to deliver technology services

NOTE: For revenue derived from fee for service, the documentation to support the co-funding must be based on finalized statements of work (SOWs). If the application is funded, signed SOWs confirming such work must be provided to Genome Canada before the time of release of funds. Evidence of actual fee for service revenues will be required as part of the quarterly financial reporting to confirm the level of co-funding. As with other co-funding sources, the actual results of fee for

service revenues received will be monitored on a quarterly basis in accordance with the reporting requirements of the Centres.

1.2.4. Eligible Co-Funding Sources

Eligible co-funding sources may include funds obtained directly (or indirectly through cost-recovery from projects) from:

- Companies
- Venture capital or other investment funds.
- An industry consortium
- Institutional funds, trust funds, or foundations
- Charities and philanthropic organizations
- Departments and agencies of the federal government (e.g., Natural Resources Canada, Agriculture and AgriFood Canada, the Canada Foundation for Innovation and Economic Development Agencies)
- Departments and agencies of provincial and municipal governments
- Voluntary organizations
- Individuals

1.2.5. Ineligible Co-funding Sources

Funds obtained directly from the following sources are ineligible as co-funding:

- Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
- Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)
- Canada Research Chairs (CRC)
- Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCEs)

NOTE: With the objective of encouraging GIN Nodes to attract research projects with funding from these sources, thereby providing them access to the best of leading edge technologies, funds obtained from these sources indirectly through cost-recovery of expenses (i.e., fee for service) are eligible.

2. ADMINISTRATION

2.1 Node Readiness

Leader(s) of approved Nodes must meet, through formally submitted documentation, all relevant conditions that may be specified in the Notice of Award (NOA) received from Genome Canada and be in a position to receive Genome Canada funding by **April 1, 2015**. ***Genome Canada reserves the right to withdraw funding for any approved Node that is not ready to receive funding at that time.***

2.2 Conditions for Release of Genome Canada Funds

Before funds can be disbursed, several conditions for funding must be satisfied and are detailed below:

i. A letter signed by the CEO of the Genome Centre confirming to Genome Canada that: all agreements have been signed between the Genome Centre, Genome Canada, the lead

organization, the Node Leaders and the co-funding partners; all other conditions for release of funds have been met; and funds will flow to the Node upon receipt of funds from Genome Canada. The agreements must clearly demonstrate agreement among the relevant parties, on all significant issues including but not limited to, the nature of financial contributions, IP ownership and management, data release, the commercialization process, project management, ethics and biohazard certification, the role of the OC, the funding term, a termination policy, financial and administrative policies, and quarterly reporting of expenses and co-funding status, etc. The agreements must be in compliance with the agreement between Genome Canada and the lead Genome Centre.

ii. A revised budget, if specifically requested in the NOA, must be submitted. The budget must address all recommendations of the review panel and any changes to the budget as approved by the Genome Canada Board of Directors.

iii. In instances where Nodes are responsible for obtaining appropriate certification for research involving human subjects, human stem cells, animals, biohazards, radioactive materials or possible effects on the environment, the list of required certificates and acknowledgement that those certificates are in place must be provided. In order to release funds to an organization, Genome Canada will accept a letter from the appropriate officials at the organization confirming that:
    a. the organization will ensure that all relevant certifications are obtained in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, standards and guidelines, including but not limited to, the most current versions of the following: Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS); CIHR Guidelines for Human Pluripotent Stem Cell Research; Canadian Council of Animal Care (CCAC) guidelines and policies; Canadian Environmental Assessment Act; Public Health Agency of Canada's Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines; and Canadian Food Inspection Agency Containment Standards for Veterinary Facilities
    b. the organization will not flow funds to an investigator until all relevant certifications are obtained for the research to be undertaken
    c. the organization will provide the regional Genome Centre with copies of certifications upon request

iv. A commitment to acknowledge the contribution of the Government of Canada through Genome Canada, as well as all other relevant funders, in research publications, as well as all communications including press releases, posters, oral presentations and marketing materials. In addition, visual presentations such as seminars and websites must include the Genome Canada logo in compliance with Genome Canada's Brand Standards Guide http://www.genomecanada.ca/en/about/corporate/standards.aspx

v. A publication policy which includes a commitment to comply with Genome Canada's policy on Access to Research Publications http://www.genomecanada.ca/medias/PDF/EN/AccessResearchPublicationsPolicy.pdf

vi. Meet specific conditions or recommendations of the International Review Committee as detailed in the Notice of Award

vii. Meet other conditions established by Genome Canada

2.3 Management of Funding

Genome Canada funds for approved GIN Nodes will flow through the Genome Centres which manage the funding in accordance with established processes and procedures. Funds will be disbursed to Nodes quarterly based on their estimated cash needs. Regular financial quarterly reports by the Nodes will include the reporting of actual expenditures incurred to date and forecast

expenditures for subsequent quarters, as well as the level of co-funding. If the level of co-funding drops below 1:1, the level of Genome Canada funding will be adjusted accordingly.

2.4 Accountability, Reporting and Performance Measurement

Funded GIN Nodes will submit to the Genome Centre on a regular basis, information and data as prescribed by the Centre in terms of timing, format and content, which will allow for the on-going assessment and monitoring of the performance of the Nodes. It is the responsibility of the individual leading the Node to participate in this process and to approve the reports. Funded Nodes must also agree to participate in and provide information for any evaluation-type activities that may be undertaken from time to time by Genome Canada or the Genome Centre, for up to five years subsequent to the end date of the Node funding.

2.5 Management of Changes

Over the term of a Genome Canada funded GIN Node, some adjustments can be expected to the initially approved plan, because of required changes to the scientific, managerial or financial conditions of funding initially approved by Genome Canada. In order to manage these adjustments, funded Nodes must follow the principles as outlined in Genome Canada's "Guidelines for the Management of Changes".

2.6 Annual Report on Users

Each Node will be required to submit to its Genome Centre annual reports that include a description of services delivered by the Node to all users. The report will include such details as the breakdown of the types of users (Genome Canada-funded, non-Genome Canada-funded, Canadian academic or industry, foreign academic or industry), the quantity and dollar value of each service provided to each type of user, etc. The complete reporting metrics will be transmitted from Genome Canada to the Node through the Genome Centres.

2.7 Final Reports

Within three (3) months of the completion of Node funding, each Node will be required to submit to its Genome Centre a final report that includes a description of the accomplishments of the Node relative to the approved objectives as well as a detailed financial report in a format as determined by Genome Canada. A percentage of the final payment will be held back pending receipt and approval of the Final Report.

2.8 Cost Savings and Pricing of Services

GIN Nodes must identify cost savings and these must be translated into lower pricing of services to users. Reporting of lower prices must be made to the designated regional Genome Centre on a regular basis but no later than once every twelve months. Assessment of efforts to produce costs savings and translation of lower costs to users will be made by the OC.

Should any additional requirements or restrictions be placed on new funds received for this competition, Genome Canada will ensure that the agreements between Genome Canada and the Genome Centres reflect these conditions and that the guidelines for this competition are modified, where necessary, to allow compliance with them.

APPENDIX D: Genomics Innovation Network Terms of Reference

Genome Canada's mission includes a commitment to provide researchers across Canada access to leading edge technologies in all genomics-related fields. To accomplish this, Genome Canada has established a network of genomic technologies innovation centres across Canada. The goal of this network, known as the *Genomics Innovation Network (GIN*), is to facilitate an environment that allows innovation centres across Canada to collaborate and harness their collective power for the advancement of genomics research in Canada.

The mission of the GIN is to create a mechanism for the innovation centres across Canada to work together collaboratively, which will also aid in providing the highest quality genomic technologies and advice to the research community. It is envisaged that each member of the GIN, to be designated as a *Node*, will provide researchers access to high throughput genomic technologies, such as DNA sequencing, RNA expression, protein identification and quantitation, and metabolomics, as well as new method and protocol development, data analysis and bioinformatics. Each Node will also assist researchers in the development of research proposals by providing advice on appropriate technologies, study design, data analysis and bioinformatics that improve the quality of the research.

Aims:

The aims of the Genomics Innovation Network are the following:

- Optimize access to leading edge technologies for Canadian researchers across all the Nodes.
- Promote the integration of complementary 'Omics technologies (including genomics, proteomics, metabolomics and associated enabling technologies, e.g., informatics) available within the network.
- Promote partnerships regarding technology transfer and sharing of innovative ideas.

Responsibilities:

The Nodes of the Genomics Innovation Network are required to:

- provide access to leading-edge technologies related to the field of genomics;
- be accessible by research projects funded by Canadian public and private sector organizations (in addition, access may also be provided to researchers from industry in Canada and academia and industry outside of Canada);
- be guided by the vision, mission and objectives of Genome Canada as articulated in its Strategic Plan;
- participate in efforts to optimize access to leading edge technologies across the Genomics Innovation Network by Canadian researchers;
- share expertise and best practices with other members of the Genomics Innovation Network; and,
- participate actively in Network activities (e.g., leaders' meetings, workshops, cross-training of staff).