

GSC Sequence to Innovate Award 2026

Terms and Conditions

1. Introduction

These Terms and Conditions (“Terms”) govern participation in the Technology Development Sequencing Competition (“Competition”) organized by Canada’s Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre (“Organizer”). By submitting an application, each applicant (“Applicant”) agrees to be bound by these Terms.

2. Eligibility Criteria

2.1. The Competition is open to individuals or teams affiliated with an academic, research, or not-for-profit institutions in Canada.

2.2. Applicants must:

- Submit a complete application form online by **Thursday September 10th, 2026**.
- Hold all necessary ethical and institutional approvals to use the proposed samples.
- Be able to submit samples for sequencing within six (6) months of notification of award.
- Agree to participate in the GSC Collaborator Forum 2026 on **Thursday October 29, 2026** if shortlisted.

2.3. Only one application per project is permitted. Collaborative submissions are allowed; however, one individual must be designated as the lead applicant.

3. Application and Selection Process

3.1. The Competition timeline is as follows:

- **Opening Date:** Wednesday August 12th, 2026
- **Closing Date:** Thursday September 10th, 2026

- **Shortlist Notification:** Thursday September 24th, 2026
- **Poster Presentation & Voting:** Thursday October 29th, 2026

3.2. The Organizer will review all eligible submissions and shortlist five (5) projects based on criteria including scientific merit, feasibility, innovation, and impact.

3.3. Shortlisted Applicants will be required to prepare a graphical abstract or poster summarizing their project for display at the GSC Collaborator Forum 2026.

3.4. Forum attendees will vote for their preferred projects of the 5 shortlisted projects. The two projects receiving the highest number of votes will be selected as winners.

4. Prize

4.1. Two (2) prizes will be awarded, each comprising GSC sequencing services valued at up to CAD \$15,000.

4.2. The prize is non-transferable, non-exchangeable, and not redeemable for cash or other alternatives.

4.3. The Organizer reserves the right to determine the scope and nature of the sequencing services, and to amend the value or form of the prize in case of unforeseen circumstances.

4.4. Prize award must be used for the proposed project unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Organizer.

5. Ethical and Legal Compliance

5.1. All Applicants must have obtained (or will obtain prior to any sample transfer) appropriate ethics approval for their proposed use of biological or human-derived samples.

5.2. The Organizer reserves the right to request proof of ethical approval prior to awarding any prize.

5.3. Applicants must comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and institutional policies governing their research and the use of samples.

6. Intellectual Property and Data Use

6.1. All intellectual property rights arising from the project will remain with the Applicant and/or their institution, unless otherwise agreed in writing.

6.2. The Organizer does not claim ownership of any project data but may request permission to reference anonymized or summarized findings for reporting or promotional purposes.

6.3. Applicants grant the Organizer a non-exclusive, royalty-free, worldwide license to use submitted Application materials (e.g., abstract, poster, title, project description) in connection with promotion and reporting of the Competition.

7. Confidentiality and Data Protection

7.1. All personal information collected as part of the application process will be processed in accordance with applicable data protection laws and the Organizer's privacy policy.

7.2. Applicants acknowledge and agree that the project summaries will be shared with reviewers and voters in the context of the Competition.

8. Limitation of Liability

8.1. To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Organizer accepts no liability for any loss, damage, or injury suffered or incurred by any Applicant or third party arising out of or in connection with participation in the Competition or use of the prize.

8.2. The Organizer shall not be liable for any failure to carry out or delay in performing its obligations due to events beyond its reasonable control.

9. Right to Cancel or Amend

The Organizer reserves the right to modify, suspend, or cancel the Competition, including the Terms, timelines, selection criteria, or prizes, at any time and without prior notice. Any changes will be communicated to Applicants via the official Competition communication channels.

10. Governing Law and Jurisdiction

These Terms shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of British Columbia, and any disputes arising out of or in connection with these Terms shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of that jurisdiction.

11. Contact Information

For all inquiries regarding the Competition, please contact us at innovate@bcgsc.ca.