



CGEn – CANADA'S NATIONAL PLATFORM FOR GENOME SEQUENCING & ANALYSIS

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CGEn – Canada's national platform for genome sequencing and analysis is a nationwide network led by The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Ont. that provides high-throughput genomics experimentation and analysis to researchers in Canada and around the world. Established in 2014, CGEn employs more than 250 staff and operates as an integrated platform, with nodes in Toronto (the Centre for Applied Genomics at The Hospital for Sick Children), Montréal (McGill Genome Centre at McGill University) and Vancouver (Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre at BC Cancer). CGEn is leading national-scale genomics projects, supporting Canada's international positioning.

CGEn provides a wide range of genomics services, including genome sequencing and analysis, that enable research in agriculture, forestry, fishery, the environment, health sciences and many other disciplines. CGEn's clients include essentially all research-focused Canadian universities, more than 130 provincial or federal government organizations and NGOs, and 145 companies ranging from startups to multinational biotech/pharma firms. CGEn's sophisticated sequencing, analysis and computing infrastructure is supported by a team of wet-lab scientists, bioinformaticians and statistical analysis experts.

Recently, CGEn led the delivery of the national HostSeq initiative, generating and building a databank of whole genome sequencing data and matched clinical information for more than 11,000 participants affected by COVID-19 across Canada. CGEn is also playing a pivotal role in the planning and delivery of the Canada BioGenome Project, which aims to sequence 400 reference-quality, annotated genomes of diverse Canadian species of significance for conservation planning, biodiversity preservation and economic growth.

Did you know?

- In 2022–23, CGEn produced data equivalent to 26,000 human genomes — more than 2 million gigabases.
- CGEn facilities have sequenced organisms such as bacteria and viruses, crops, trees, an extinct bird, a blue whale and even Canada's official animal, the beaver.