

Pan-Canadian Cancer Genomics Community of Practice Annual Report

Dec 2024 to Nov 2025

COMMITTEE PURPOSE

As precision medicine advances, genetic and genomic tests are increasingly required to identify biomarkers that can help inform cancer treatment and care. However, developing and implementing these tests in a timely and equitable way can be both complex and costly.

As clinicians and administrative leaders across jurisdictions in Canada begin to adopt and implement genomic tests, the variability and inconsistency of approach has introduced inequities in availability and access – both to genomic testing and related targeted therapies. Additionally, it has been noted that genomic data is not consistently collected or reported, creating barriers to information flow, as well as assessing impact and real-world evaluation.

In response, the Canadian Association of Provincial Cancer Agencies (CAPCA), Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC), and Canada's Drug Agency (CDA-AMC) have collaborated to support the establishment of a pan-Canadian Cancer Genomics Community of Practice (CoP). The purpose of the CoP is to facilitate knowledge sharing, discussions and collaborative strategic activities among individuals and organizations involved in laboratory medicine administration, cancer genomics assessment, and implementation.

The overall direction of the CoP is overseen by a Steering Committee comprised of representatives from CAPCA, CDA-AMC, CPAC and jurisdictional advisors in clinical and administrative roles in cancer programs. The Steering Committee oversees the identification and execution of the strategic priorities of the CoP.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES

Established Governance

- Multi-level governance structure includes tri-organizational executive sponsors (CAPCA, CDA-AMC, CPAC), Steering Committee, and CoP membership (co-chairs and pan-Canadian jurisdictional representation).
- Finalized Terms of Reference, validated by the CoP membership.

Strengthened Pan-Canadian Collaboration

- Engaged and facilitated knowledge exchange among key partners across 11 jurisdictions to identify current challenges and opportunities to inform the work of the CoP.

Elevated Patient and Workforce Perspectives

- Engaged a Patient Advisor to understand real-world challenges in biomarker testing and ground the work of the CoP
- Engaged an academic lead to learn about the development and approval process for a new Area of Focused Competency training program in molecular diagnostics to understand workforce gaps and training needs

Held Virtual and In-person Meetings

- Three CoP meetings were held: December 3rd, 2024 (in-person), April 23rd, 2025 (virtual) and September 23rd, 2025 (in-person)
- Two Steering Committee meetings were held: May 23rd, 2025 (virtual) and August 5th, 2025 (virtual)

Advanced Biomarker Assessment Framework

- Informed CDA-AMC's development of a consensus-based biomarker assessment framework to support decision making on funding and adoption of biomarkers in cancer care.

Defined Future Work

- Identified priorities and timelines to inform multi-year workplan.

PROPOSED WORK FOR UPCOMING YEARS

2025-26

1. Inform and support the development of the Biomarker Assessment Framework, led by CDA-AMC, to support consistent and transparent decision making on funding and adoption of biomarkers in cancer care
2. Conduct an environmental scan and partner mapping of Cancer Genomics Groups in Canada to support membership expansion, align CoP efforts with existing initiatives, and prevent duplication
3. Commence planning and development of a pan-Canadian inventory of biomarkers in cancer

2026-27

4. Expand CoP membership to include key partners such as clinicians and industry representatives
5. Inform the implementation of the Biomarker Assessment Framework across jurisdictions in Canada
6. Launch the pan-Canadian Inventory of Biomarkers in Cancer Care

2027-28

7. Develop a system to facilitate the exchange of controls across labs to support the establishment of assay protocols
8. Support further dialogue to inform planning for genomic data standardization

Ongoing

9. Discuss emerging trends, challenges and opportunities
10. Share expertise and best practices
11. Support planning to incorporate new evidence into standard practice
12. Exchange ideas, research findings, and practical experiences in cancer genomics