

**Job Title:**

Genomics & Society Advisor

**Reporting Structure:**

Reports to the VP Communications and Societal Engagement

**Term:**

Full time, permanent

**Job Scope:**

This Genomics and Society Advisor (along with the current Genome BC Genomics & Society Advisor) will be a key force within the organization to better understand the societal context for genomic research. You will work collaboratively with Genome BC staff to implement activities that assist in understanding how we can efficiently and responsibly roll out genomics technologies to deliver social and economic benefits for BC. This includes supporting social, environmental and humanities led research on these questions as well as bringing in a wider diversity of voices for dialogue as research moves beyond the bench to incorporate broader societal perspectives. You will work with the research community to build research capacity and develop projects for national competitions and engage with broad stakeholder groups to help shape public policy.

To accomplish this integrative function, you possess the requisite training and experience to identify challenges through the incorporation of traditional genomics research and Social Science & Humanities research, societal and sector translation, uptake, and amalgamation of research results. You have an intuitive grasp of the sensitive, complex and rapidly changing societal and ethical concerns regarding the use of technologies like genomics and how its application can positively or negatively impact these issues. You should ideally have training in social sciences, humanities or environmental sciences and/or equivalent work experience (e.g. involving public policy and public administration, sociology, business, economics, political science, law, ethics, etc.)

**Duties and Responsibilities:****Building and Supporting Research Capacity**

- Continue to grow Genome BC's network of social science, humanities and related researchers;
- Support the development of meaningful BC-based research capacity to further understand societal issues relating to the application of genomics technologies;
- Assist sector development staff and potential Genome BC research teams in the development of large scale SSH-led and interdisciplinary projects, providing support to prospective social science and humanities researchers within these teams.
- Synthesize information on issues surrounding the responsible and efficient roll out of genomics from a provincial, national and international perspective;

**Creating Opportunities for Public Dialogue**

- Position Genome BC as a credible source of unbiased information for regulatory and policy decision makers, and the general public, providing written content for a public audience on key regional and national issues;
- Work with appropriate staff to develop additional engagement opportunities to broaden both: (i) the public's interest in and understanding of genomics and (ii) the understanding of questions and concerns held by the public and end-users surrounding its application;

**Other Responsibilities:**

- Maintain close working relationships with Genome Canada and other Genome Centres;
- Provide administrative functions and support for the Genomics & Society Board Committee.
- Respond to emerging issues and opportunities;
- Promote Genome BC's Genomics & Society Program and its social science and humanities research;
- Connect to national and international organizations, think tanks and thought leaders

### **Candidate Profile:**

The Genomics and Society Advisor will have a broad spectrum of skills and a strong track record in working in integrated, multi-disciplinary environments and communicating with stakeholders from different backgrounds possessing different perspectives. The selected candidate will help Genome BC achieve its goal of investing in applied and translational research projects that lead to measurable economic & societal benefits for BC and Canada.

Ideal candidate will have the following:

- Credibility with the SSH research community sufficient to act in an advisory role working with professors and assistant professors (i.e. Hold graduate degree (MPP, MPA, MBA or MSc, or PhD in social science and /or humanities discipline) or applicable work experience and experience with social sciences and humanities research methodologies)
- High-level understanding of genomics (e.g. sufficient to explain its applications to a non-expert audience such as the SSH research community, end-users or general public)
- Research and/or work experience in an interdisciplinary research or funding agency environment, with emphasis on facilitating the development of interdisciplinary teams or projects
- Ability to think critically and creatively and question status quo
- Ability to detect and flag, at high level, societal issues and opportunities across a broad range of sectors
- Capacity to engage experts within the research and end-user communities in further investigation
- Strong written and oral communications skills for academic and non-academic audiences
- Aptitude for reflecting on and translating high-level strategic plans into near and long-term action plans
- Outreach and engagement experience, facilitation experience highly encouraged

### **How to apply:**

Applicants should include a current CV with a cover letter indicating, anticipated start date and the names and contact information for at least two references. Please send application in MS Word or PDF via e mail to [careers@genomebc.ca](mailto:careers@genomebc.ca).

**Application Deadline: September 20, 2019 or until position has been filled**

We thank you for your interest in Genome BC. Only those candidates short listed for interviews will be contacted. No phone calls please.

### **About Genome British Columbia:**

Genome British Columbia invests in genomics innovation to address critical challenges in key economic sectors such as health, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, agrifood, energy, mining and environment. In addition to scientific programming, Genome BC works to integrate genomics and society by supporting responsible research and innovation and is committed to fostering an understanding and appreciation of the life sciences among educators, students and the public. [genomebc.ca](http://genomebc.ca)

*At Genome BC, we believe we are made stronger by our unique combination of culture, race, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital or family status, physical or mental disability unrelated to job requirements, genetic information, or age. We are committed to advancing a culture that values diversity and inclusivity, including recruiting and developing a well-qualified and diverse workforce that embraces and encourages different perspectives.*

### **Our Values:**

- **Integrity** is at the core of our decisions and actions
- **Empathy** is integral to our relationships

- **Commitments** are honoured with passion and purpose
- **Boldness** and agility motivate our pursuits
- **Curiosity** and wonder inspire us