

Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) Applied Genomics Centre Backgrounder

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The KPU Applied Genomics Centre (AGC) is a research facility focused on developing genomic and metabolomic solutions for the agricultural sector, particularly in British Columbia. Focused on agricultural innovation, faculty and students at the AGC engage in a broad range of applied research projects that include finding solutions for the health of dairy cows and horses, improving sustainable crop production, and developing breeding programs for beef cattle, ornamental plants and new varieties of hops.

- Founded in January 2019, the AGC is located at KPU's Surrey campus.
- Led by Director Dr. Paul Adams, the AGC's work is also supported by four additional KPU faculty members, 11 research staff, and seven KPU student research assistants.
- The AGC is outfitted with specialized equipment for the purpose of doing genetics work, including DNA sequencing, SNP genotyping array, PCR, quantifying DNA, chemical analysis, and microscopy.
- Current research projects focus on dairy cow health and management, sustainable crop production, the development of new hop cultivars used in brewing beer, breeding of ornamental plants, equine health, salmon health, and beef cattle breeding.
- KPU's Applied Genomics Centre research opens up opportunities for students in health science, biology, horticulture, and brewing programs to gain critical research and development skills while engaged in projects that have a direct impact on their communities.
- The AGC engages many students directly in applied research projects, including 22 undergraduate students last year alone. Sixteen of those were paid research assistants, while six were honours research students.
- In 2022, the AGC engaged with 27 partners on its projects, including those from industry, government, higher education, associations, as well as several international partners.
- Just over \$9 million has been invested in the AGC, with funding coming from KPU, the Canadian Foundation for Innovation, the B.C. Knowledge Development Fund, Genome BC, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC, BC Ataxia Society, the Sherman Jen Education Foundation and industry partners.

For more information, please visit <https://www.kpu.ca/agc>

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