

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## RPC Executive Director Appointed to the Board of Genome Canada

June 24, 2016, Fredericton, NB - At a board meeting in Calgary this week, Eric Cook was appointed to the board of directors of Genome Canada. Genome Canada's vision is to harness the transformative power of genomics for the benefit of Canadians. Genomics have applications in healthcare, agriculture, aquaculture, mining, forestry, energy, and fisheries.

In the 2016 Federal budget, Genome Canada was one of the few innovation initiatives to receive funding with an investment of \$237 million.

Cook considers genomics to be a strategic, and transformative technology that cuts across many sectors. He noted, "We are entering the sixth wave of innovation, where biotech, including genomics, will be a major influence in our economy."

RPC has been active in biotech applications, including genomics, in aquaculture, mining, and environmental technologies. Successes have included:

- salmon brood stock selection applications
- world class in fish health expertise including strain typing of ISAV
- development of a DNA-based traceability technology that provides egg to plate traceability for cultured Atlantic Salmon
- a probiotics project that resulted in the collection and identification of 2000 marine bacteria with several applications
- development of an ISO 17025 accredited human DNA paternity and relationship testing service ([www.rpcgenetics.com](http://www.rpcgenetics.com))
- first lab in North America to be ISO 17025 accredited for wildlife forensics utilizing DNA for the prosecution of poachers
- developed, tested, piloted and deployed numerous bioleaching solutions for mineral extraction projects
- completed several bioremediation and biofuel research projects



*RPC Executive Director and CEO, Eric Cook, appointed to Genome Canada's board of directors.*

RPC continues to expand its capabilities in biotech and genetics and has recently commissioned a next generation genetic testing platform utilizing MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry. RPC is also expanding its capabilities in forensic science by adding capacity, skills and facility upgrades.

Genome Canada has a network of regional genome centres, including Genome Atlantic, where Cook served as Chairman until earlier this month. To learn more about Genome Canada, see [www.genomecanada.ca](http://www.genomecanada.ca). To learn more about RPC, see [www.rpc.ca](http://www.rpc.ca).

### About RPC

RPC is New Brunswick's provincial research organization (PRO), a research and technology organization (RTO) located in Fredericton and Moncton, NB. RPC's complement of 98 scientists, engineers and technologists are supported by a 13,000 sq. meter facility housing world-class analytical chemistry and material-testing laboratories, comprehensive life science capabilities, an internationally recognized fish health lab, extensive product development, design, manufacturing and testing services, and a wide variety of pilot facilities for the development and improvement of industrial and environmental processes and products.

RPC holds over 100 accreditations and certifications including a diverse ISO 17025 scope from the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) and is ISO 9001:2008 certified. Further information about RPC's services is available from [www.rpc.ca](http://www.rpc.ca).

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