



GenomeCanada

February 4, 2015

Loren H. Rieseberg
Botany Department
3529-6270 University Blvd
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z4

Re: **Genomics of Abiotic Stress Resistance in Wild and Cultivated Sunflowers**

Dear Drs. Rieseberg and Burke,

Congratulations to you, your co-applicants and collaborators on the success of your Pre-Application that was submitted to the **2014 Large-Scale Applied Research Project Competition in Genomics and Personalized Health**, a Genome Canada competition, in partnership with Western Grains Research Foundation, aiming to support projects focused on using genomic approaches within the agri-food and fisheries/aquaculture sectors to address challenges and opportunities related to global food safety, security and sustainable production.

A total of 54 Pre-Applications were submitted for review. The review of the Pre-Applications took place in two stages.

The first stage involved an initial review which was done “at-home” by an international College of Reviewers. The College members primarily assessed the merit of the research plan and the potential for social and/or economic benefits. For each Pre-Application, a score was calculated for both the research plan and social and/or economic benefits. Only those Pre-Applications with a score above a quality threshold for both the research plan and social and/or economic benefits were considered further. An overall ranking list was determined by calculating the mean of the means of the research plan and social and/or economic benefits for each Pre-Application.

The second stage involved a review by the Pre-Application Review Committee (PARC) that was chaired by Dr. Christopher Town from the J. Craig Venter Institute. The PARC members had broad expertise in research, technology development, research management and the translation of research results in the area of agri-food and fisheries/aquaculture. The PARC members were asked to consider which Pre-Applications should proceed to the Full Application stage based on the reviews from members of the College of Reviewers, as well as their own assessments and the discussion of the PARC as a whole. Using the ranking list created from the College reviews, 44 out of the 54 Pre-Applications were identified for review by the PARC. The PARC paid particular attention to the Pre-Applications around the potential cut-off and made a final recommendation to Genome Canada of which Pre-Applications should proceed to the Full Application stage.

Of the Pre-Applications reviewed, 27 were invited to submit a Full Application. The primary objective of the Pre-Application process was to ensure that those applicant teams proceeding to the Full Application

stage had a reasonable chance of success so as to make the most effective use of applicant and reviewer time. We estimate, based on the preliminary budget requests accompanying the Pre-Applications, that it may be possible to fund 10 to 15 Full Applications in the Competition.

Through your Genome Centre, you will also be given a Summary of Review. This document captures the Committee's observations and recommendations after full discussion. Applicants should consider and address the recommendations contained in the Summary of Review, in their Full Application.

A new section of the form (Appendix VIII – Response to Pre-Application Review Form) has been added to the existing Full Application Form, to provide you with an opportunity to address the recommendations from the PARC or to explain your rationale for why no changes were necessary. Your Genome Centre will work with you to help you make the most of the feedback and provide guidance as you prepare your proposal.

Thank you for your participation in the 2014 Large-Scale Applied Research Project Competition in Genomics and Feeding the Future and we look forward to receiving your Full-Application.

Yours sincerely,



Karen Dewar, Ph.D.
Director, Genomics Programs