

## MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release



### **PHSA announces CTAG to be the first research laboratory in Western Canada to receive CAP accreditation**

Vancouver, B.C. – The Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) is pleased to announce that its Centre for Translational and Applied Genomics (CTAG) has been granted full accreditation status by the College of American Pathologists (CAP). CAP is the world's largest association composed exclusively of pathologists certified by the American Board of Pathology and is widely considered the leader in laboratory quality assurance.

CTAG, a division of PHSA Laboratories, is a self-funded translational research facility, focusing on cutting-edge research and development. CTAG's mission is to develop novel laboratory tests to improve the management of a diverse spectrum of disorders including cancer, infectious diseases, and inherited syndromes.

CTAG is the only research laboratory to be accredited in Western Canada and one of only a few nationally. Research laboratories are a relatively new category for CAP, which typically accredits routine diagnostic facilities.

"We are proud that one of our labs is the first research facility to receive CAP accreditation," says Lynda Cranston, President and CEO, PHSA. "The process of accreditation has been a rigorous exercise, and I'd like to thank all CTAG staff for their careful adherence to CAP guidelines and requirements."

"This achievement will enable us to compete for large international clinical trials work, which will help to further establish CTAG as the leading centre for translational research and biomarker validation," says Dr. David Huntsman, Medical Director, CTAG. "We will be able to solidify CTAG's financial footing as a self-funded research centre within PHSA Laboratories."

The PHSA plans, manages and evaluates selected specialty and province-wide health care services across BC, working with the five geographic health authorities to deliver province-wide solutions that improve the health of British Columbians. CTAG's services include genomic analysis and a full service histology suite. Clients include pharmaceutical companies, biotechnology companies, principal investigators at PHSA, the BC Cancer Agency, and the University of British Columbia, as well as clinical trials groups and other health organizations. For more information, please visit [www.phsa.ca/CTAG](http://www.phsa.ca/CTAG).

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