



Canadian Association of Genetic Counsellors
Association Canadienne des Conseillers en Génétique

CAGC Statement on Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing

Canadians are increasingly accessing direct-to-consumer (DTC) genetic testing. DTC testing is defined as a test that is marketed directly to and ordered by the consumer, and not prescribed by the patient's healthcare provider. The CAGC believes that Canadians have the right to make informed decisions about DTC testing, taking into account the potential benefits, limitations and risks.

The CAGC believes that commercial providers of DTC genetic testing should engage in responsible marketing of their products, and provide customer support throughout the testing process. Ideally companies should provide consumer access to qualified medical genetics professionals.

Genetic counsellors are uniquely equipped to provide pre- and post-test genetic counselling to individuals who elect to pursue DTC genetic testing. However, Canadian consumers should be aware that the availability of provincially funded genetic counselling services for such tests may be unavailable or very limited.

Approved by the CAGC Board of Directors: April 11, 2018