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Contact: Justin Wood, CEO *Geneticks*  
Phone: 289-716-3654  
Email: [justin@geneticks.ca](mailto:justin@geneticks.ca)

### **Geneticks Statistics Center: Interactive tick maps and statistics**

Geneticks is pleased to announce the release of our Statistics Center! The Geneticks Statistics Center is a public resource designed to provide user-friendly access to tick and tick-borne pathogen data collected through our tick testing service. In the Statistics Center you will find interactive tick maps alongside relevant tick data such as infection prevalence, seasonal tick activity, and regional species compositions. The Statistics Center will be updated annually to reflect on-going changes in tick populations and tick-borne pathogen distribution in Canada. Visit [www.geneticks.ca/tick-testing-statistics](http://www.geneticks.ca/tick-testing-statistics) to view our new Statistics Center!

#### **What information can I find in the Statistic Center?**

The Statistic Center provides detailed analyses of tick submissions divided into national, provincial, and public health unit (PHU) regions. These divisions allow users to isolate geographically relevant data, and view statistics as they apply to their region specifically. Provincial data is currently available for five provinces (Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, British Columbia), whereas PHU data is currently available for three provinces (Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia). As our services and tick data grows, regional data will become more expansive.

#### **What ticks are included in the data?**

The data in the Statistics Center is an analysis of ticks submitted to Geneticks, as part of our paid testing service. This data does not include ticks from externally funded research testing projects or ticks where the submitting party has not consented to the use of their tick data.

#### **How is user anonymity protected?**

All identifying personal information associated with tick submissions was removed prior to analysis. Submission coordinates depicted in our maps are related to where users indicated they believe the tick was contacted. All coordinates have been lightly randomized to ensure user anonymity.

### **How often is the data updated?**

The data in the Statistics Center will be updated annually to reflect changes in tick populations and tick-borne pathogen distributions. Data from previous years will remain available on our website so that users can compare the most recent data against historical trends.

### **What are the limitations?**

It is important to understand that there are inherent limitations to this type of passive data collection. The data in our Statistics Center is reflective of ticks submitted to Geneticks as part of our paid testing service ONLY. The absence of tick species and/or their associated pathogens in this data does not preclude them from being present. Similarly, the presence of tick species and/or their associated pathogens does not guarantee that these species have established reproducing populations in these areas. These maps should not be treated as risk maps, but rather as tools for public education and awareness of ticks and tick-borne diseases in Canada.

### **Where can I learn more?**

Geneticks was recently featured on the Canadian Lyme Disease Foundation's "Looking at Lyme" Podcast (<https://www.lookingatlyme.ca/2021/05/mapping-ticks-in-canada-with-justin-wood/>) to discuss the launch of our Statistics Center. Check out episode 34 "Mapping Ticks with Justin Wood" above, or access our Statistics Center at [www.geneticks.ca/tick-testing-statistics](http://www.geneticks.ca/tick-testing-statistics) to learn more!

**Geneticks would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Canadian Lyme Disease Foundation for their generous support of this project.**

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*Geneticks* is a private laboratory offering accessible, reliable and comprehensive tick testing. Ticks are accepted from anywhere in Canada, and can be tested for up to a total of 14 tick-borne pathogens. *Geneticks* guarantees results are returned within 1-5 business days, allowing customers to make time-sensitive, informed decisions about their potential exposure to Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases. For more information, please visit <https://www.geneticks.ca/>