

# Relaxed selection during a recent human expansion

Peischl, S.<sup>1,2,3\*</sup>, Dupanloup, I.<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Foucal, A.<sup>1,2</sup>, Jomphe, M.<sup>4</sup>, Bruat, V.<sup>5</sup>, Grenier, J.-C.<sup>5</sup>, Gouy, A.<sup>1,2</sup>, Gbeha, E.<sup>5</sup>, Bosshard, L.<sup>1,2</sup>, Hip-Ki, E.<sup>5</sup>, Agbessi, M.<sup>5</sup>, Hodgkinson, A.<sup>5,6</sup>, Vézina, H.<sup>4</sup>, Awadalla, P.<sup>5,7</sup>, and Excoffier, L.<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> CMPG, Institute of Ecology and Evolution, University of Berne, 3012 Berne, Switzerland

<sup>2</sup> Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics, 1015 Lausanne, Switzerland

<sup>3</sup> Interfaculty Bioinformatics Unit, University of Berne, 3012 Berne, Switzerland

<sup>4</sup> Balsac Project, University of Quebec at Chicoutimi, Saguenay, Canada

<sup>5</sup> Hôpital Ste-Justine, University of Montreal, Montreal, Canada

<sup>6</sup> Department of Medical and Molecular Genetics, Guy's Hospital, King's College London, London, UK

<sup>7</sup> Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, Department of Molecular Genetics, University of Toronto, Toronto Canada

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\* Equal contribution

## Correspondence

Stephan Peischl & Laurent Excoffier

CMPG, Institute of Ecology and Evolution

University of Berne

Baltzerstrasse 6

3012 Berne, Switzerland

Email: [laurent.excoffier@iee.unibe.ch](mailto:laurent.excoffier@iee.unibe.ch)

[stephan.peischl@bioinformatics.unibe.ch](mailto:stephan.peischl@bioinformatics.unibe.ch)

## 30 Abstract

31 Humans have colonized the planet through a series of range expansions, which deeply impacted  
32 genetic diversity in newly settled areas and potentially increased the frequency of deleterious mutations  
33 on expanding wave fronts. To test this prediction, we studied the genomic diversity of French Canadians  
34 who colonized Quebec in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. We used historical information and records from ~4000  
35 ascending genealogies to select individuals whose ancestors lived mostly on the colonizing wave front  
36 and individuals whose ancestors remained in the core of the settlement. Comparison of exomic diversity  
37 reveals that i) both new and low frequency variants are significantly more deleterious in front than in  
38 core individuals, ii) equally deleterious mutations are at higher frequencies in front individuals, and iii)  
39 front individuals are two times more likely to be homozygous for rare very deleterious mutations  
40 present in Europeans. These differences have emerged in the past 6-9 generations and cannot be  
41 explained by differential inbreeding, but are consistent with relaxed selection on the wave front.  
42 Modeling the evolution of rare variants allowed us to estimate their associated selection coefficients as  
43 well as front and core effective sizes. Even though range expansions had a limited impact on the overall  
44 fitness of French Canadians, they could explain the higher prevalence of recessive genetic diseases in  
45 recently settled regions. Since we show that modern human populations are experiencing differential  
46 strength of purifying selection, similar processes might have happened throughout human history,  
47 contributing to a higher mutation load in populations that have undergone spatial expansions.

48

## 49 Introduction

50 The impact of recent demographic changes or single bottlenecks on the overall fitness of  
51 populations is still highly debated (Lohmueller et al. 2008; Lohmueller 2014; Simons et al. 2014; Do et al.  
52 2015; Gravel 2016), but simulation and theoretical approaches suggest that populations on expanding  
53 wave fronts accumulate deleterious mutations over time (Peischl et al. 2013; Peischl et al. 2015), and  
54 thus build-up an expansion load (Peischl et al. 2013). This accumulation is mainly driven by low  
55 population densities and strong genetic drift at the wave front promoting genetic surfing of neutral and  
56 selected variants (Peischl et al. 2013). This relatively inefficient selection on the wave front leads to the  
57 preservation of many new mutations, unless very deleterious (Peischl et al. 2013). After a range  
58 expansion, both a decrease of diversity and an increase in the recessive mutation load with distance  
59 from the source is expected (Kirkpatrick and Jarne 2000; Peischl and Excoffier 2015). This pattern has  
60 recently been shown to occur in non-African human populations, where a gradient of recessive load has  
61 been observed between North Africa and the Americas (Henn et al. 2015b). Whereas the bottleneck out  
62 of Africa that started about 50 Kya (e.g. Gravel et al. 2011) must have created a mutation load, the exact  
63 dynamics of this load increase due to the expansion process is still unknown. It is also unclear if a much  
64 more recent expansion could have had a significant impact on the genetic load of populations.

65 The settlement of Quebec can be considered as a series of demographic and spatial expansions  
66 following initial bottlenecks. Indeed, the majority of the 6.5 million French Canadians living in Quebec  
67 are the descendants of about 8,500 founder immigrants of mostly French origin (Charbonneau et al.  
68 2000; Laberge et al. 2005). This French immigration started with the founding of a few settlements along  
69 the Saint-Lawrence river at the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century (Charbonneau et al. 2000). Most new  
70 settlements were restricted to the Saint-Lawrence valley until the 19<sup>th</sup> century, after which new remote  
71 territories began to be colonized. Bottlenecks and serial founder effects occurring during range  
72 expansions are thought to have profoundly affected patterns of genetic diversity, leading to large  
73 frequency differences when compared to the French source population (Laberge et al. 2005). Even  
74 though the French Canadian population has expanded 700 fold in about 300 years, its genetic diversity is  
75 actually not what is expected in a single panmictic, exponentially growing, population, as allele  
76 frequencies have drifted much more than expected in a fast growing population (Heyer 1995; Heyer  
77 1999). Indeed, it has been shown that genetic surfing (Klopfstein et al. 2006; Peischl et al. 2016) has  
78 occurred during the recent colonization of Saguenay-Lac St-Jean area (Moreau et al. 2011), and that the  
79 fertility of women on the wave front was 25% higher than those living in the core of the settlement,  
80 giving them more opportunity to transmit their genes to later generations. In addition, female fertility  
81 was found to be heritable on the front but not on the core (Moreau et al. 2011), a property that further

82 contributes to lower the effective size of the population (Austerlitz and Heyer 1998; Sibert et al. 2002)  
83 and to enhance drift on the wave front. Social transmission of fertility (Austerlitz and Heyer 1998) and  
84 genetic surfing during range expansions or a combination of both (Moreau et al. 2011) have been  
85 proposed to explain a rapid increase of some low frequency variants. It thus seems that differences in  
86 allele frequencies between French Canadians and continental Europe are due to a mixture of the  
87 random sampling of initial immigrants (founder effect) and of strong genetic drift having occurred in  
88 Quebec after the initial settlement, resulting in a genetically and geographically structured population of  
89 French Canadians (Bherer et al. 2011).

90 The demographic history of Quebec has not only affected patterns of neutral diversity, but also  
91 the prevalence of some genetic diseases independently from inbreeding (De Braekeleer 1991; Heyer  
92 1995; Laberge et al. 2005; Yotova et al. 2005), as well as the average selective effect of segregating  
93 variants (Casals et al. 2013). Even though French Canadians have fewer mutations segregating in the  
94 population than the French, these mutations are found at loci which are, on average, much more  
95 conserved, and thus are potentially more deleterious than those segregating in the French population  
96 (Casals et al. 2013). Recurrent founder effects, low densities and intergenerational correlation in  
97 reproductive success could all contribute to increase drift and reduce the efficacy of selection on  
98 expanding wave fronts, and thus lead to the development of a stronger mutation load (Gravel 2016). It  
99 is therefore likely that the excess of low frequency deleterious variants observed in French Canadian  
100 individuals (e.g. Casals et al. 2013), could be at least partly due to the expansion process rather than to  
101 the sole initial bottleneck.

102 To better understand and quantify the effect of a recent expansion process on the amount and  
103 pattern of mutation load, we screened the ascending genealogies of 3916 individuals from the  
104 CARTaGENE cohort (Awadalla et al. 2013) that were linked to the BALSAC genealogical database  
105 (<http://balsac.ugac.ca/>). Using stringent criteria on the quality of genealogical information (see  
106 Methods), we selected 51 (front) individuals whose ancestors were as close as possible to the front of  
107 the colonization of Quebec, and 51 (core) individuals whose ancestors were as far as possible from the  
108 front (see Methods, **Fig. 1**, and **Supporting Animation S1 and S2**). We then sequenced these 102  
109 individuals at very high coverage (mean 89.5X, range 67X-128X) for ~106.5 Mb of exomic and UTR  
110 regions and contrasted their genomic diversity to detect if sites with various degrees of conservation  
111 and deleteriousness had been differentially impacted by selection.

## 112 Results

### 113 French Canadians vs. Europeans

114 French Canadians are genetically very divergent from three European populations of the 1000  
115 Genome phase 3 panel (The Genomes Project 2015) (Great Britain, Spain, and Italy, **Supplementary Fig.**  
116 **S1**), as expected after a strong bottleneck. When focusing on SNPs shared between French Canadians  
117 and Europeans and thus on relatively high frequency variants, core individuals are found genetically  
118 closer to European samples than front individuals (**Supplementary Fig. S1B**), in keeping with stronger  
119 drift having occurred on the wave front. If we assess the functional impact of point mutations with GERP  
120 Rejected Substitution (GERP-RS) scores (Davydov et al. 2010), sites polymorphic in French Canadians are  
121 on average more conserved than sites polymorphic in European. Thus even though French Canadians  
122 have fewer polymorphic sites than 1000G populations from Europe, their variants are on average  
123 potentially more deleterious than those found in European samples (**Fig. 2A**), in line with previous  
124 results (Casals et al. 2013). Note that this results still holds if we focus only on SNPs that are shared  
125 between 1000G and Quebec samples, even though the distributions are slightly more overlapping (**Fig**  
126 **2A**).

### 127 Genomic diversity of front and core individuals

128 In French Canadians, front individuals have a significantly smaller number of variants than core  
129 individuals (**Table 1**) consistent with higher rates of drift. The allele frequencies in front and core  
130 individuals are overall very similar (**Supplementary Fig. S3**), but there is a significant deficit of singletons  
131 on the front as compared to the core ( $p_{\text{perm}} < 0.001$ , **Supplementary Table S4, Supplementary Fig. S4**),  
132 which is balanced by an excess of doubletons on the front ( $p_{\text{perm}} < 0.001$ ). Note that this pattern is  
133 consistently found for all GERP-RS score categories (**Supplementary Figs. S4-S7 and S9**). We then looked  
134 whether genes containing SNPs with large frequency differences between front and core (i.e. those with  
135  $F_{\text{ST}}$  p-value  $< 0.01$ ) were overly represented in some gene ontology (GO) categories. The top 25  
136 significantly enriched GO categories (**Supplementary Table S1**) are generally involved in very conserved  
137 processes like gene expression, development and cell growth (**Supplementary Fig. S15**), suggestive of a  
138 relaxation of selection rather than specific adaptations to the front environment.

### 139 Low frequency variants in front individuals are more conserved

140 The examination of low frequency variants that are enriched for deleterious mutations (Boyko et  
141 al. 2008; Nelson et al. 2012; Kiezun et al. 2013) should allow us to better evidence the presence of  
142 differential selection between front and core. We indeed find a negative relationship between the

143 frequency of mutations and their average GERP-RS scores (**Fig. 2B**), and low frequency variants (DAF <  
144 5%) have significantly larger GERP-RS scores, and are thus potentially more deleterious, on the front  
145 than in the core ( $p_{\text{perm}} = 0.038$ ). Since new variants should also be enriched for deleterious mutations  
146 (Boyko et al. 2008; Keinan and Clark 2012), we then focused on mutations private to front or to core  
147 individuals. With this additional filtering, the differences in GERP-RS scores between front and core for  
148 low frequency mutations are much more pronounced (**Fig. 2C**), with significant differences for both  
149 doubletons and tripletons ( $p_{\text{perm}} = 0.03$  and  $p_{\text{perm}} = 0.0025$ , respectively). We checked that these results  
150 were not due to our use of the GERP-RS scoring system by repeating analyses using CADD conservation  
151 scores (Kircher et al. 2014). We find overall very similar evidence of reduced selection in front  
152 populations (**Supplementary Figs. S8, and S10–S13**) for point mutations and for indels identified as  
153 under selection by CADD, suggesting that our results are robust to alternative deleteriousness scoring  
154 systems.

### 155 [New deleterious mutations have reached higher frequencies on the front](#)

156 We further enriched our data for new mutations that occurred during the colonization of Quebec  
157 by focusing only on French Canadian mutations that are not observed in the entire 1000G phase 3 panel  
158 and are private either to the core or to the front samples. In this filtered data set, we find a significant  
159 excess of predicted deleterious (GERP-RS score > 2) singletons in the core ( $p_{\text{perm}} < 0.001$ ), and an excess  
160 of doubletons in the front ( $p_{\text{perm}} < 0.001$ , **Supplementary Table S4**). Interestingly, the doubletons on the  
161 front are as conserved as singletons in both core and front samples, suggesting that doubletons on the  
162 front are variants that would be singletons in the core (**Fig. 2D**). To see if inbreeding could explain the  
163 observed excess of deleterious doubletons in the front, we compared samples from the region of  
164 Saguenay, where remote inbreeding is higher than in the rest of Quebec (**Supplementary Fig. S12**), with  
165 front samples coming from other regions of Quebec. We find that doubletons in less inbred non-  
166 Saguenay individuals are at loci that are on average more conserved than those of Saguenay individuals  
167 (**Supplementary Fig. S14**), showing that inbreeding cannot explain the increase in frequency of rare  
168 deleterious variants. Because it is difficult to estimate mutation load from sequence data (Lohmueller  
169 2014), we then used the sum of GERP-RS scores of new or rare deleterious doubletons per individual  
170 across the four GERP-RS score categories as a proxy for mutation load. As shown in **Figure 3**, the  
171 cumulative GERP-RS scores are similar in front and core individuals for neutral sites ( $-2 < \text{GERP-RS} < 2$ ),  
172 but significantly larger in front individuals for non-neutral GERP-RS score categories ( $\text{GERP-RS} \geq 2$ ),  
173 suggesting that differential selection has allowed mutations at more conserved sites to increase in  
174 frequency on the front.

## 175 Variants with low frequency in Europe have been more impacted by selection in the core

176 Because neutral sites should only be affected by drift and not by selection, stronger drift at the  
177 front should increase the variance of neutral allele frequencies (Gravel 2016), but should not affect their  
178 average frequency. In contrast, the frequency of deleterious variants should be smaller in the core if the  
179 purging of deleterious variants was more efficient. To test these predictions, we followed mutations that  
180 are singletons in European 1000G populations and that are still seen in Quebec. In agreement with  
181 theory, we find no significant difference in the average derived allele frequencies ( $x_d$ ) of European  
182 singletons predicted to be neutral (GERP-RS score between -2 and 2) ( $\bar{x}_d = 0.00720$  vs  $0.00717$  in front  
183 and core, respectively,  $p_{\text{perm}} = 0.34$ ), and a slightly larger variance of derived allele frequencies on the  
184 front (s. d. ( $x_d$ ):  $0.0163$  vs  $0.0159$ ,  $p_{\text{perm}} = 0.072$ ). Contrastingly, predicted deleterious sites have  
185 significant higher derived allele frequencies on the front than in the core ( $p_{\text{perm}} = 0.0146$  for sites with  
186 GERP-RS score  $> 4$ ), in keeping with higher selective pressures in the ancestry of core individuals.

187 Since differences between core and front individuals are strongest for rare alleles, these  
188 differences may have an impact on the homozygosity of recessive deleterious alleles and thus influence  
189 disease incidence. We used the ClinVar database (Landrum et al. 2014) to identify pathogenic variants  
190 (causing Mendelian disorders, Richards et al. 2015) in the set of SNPs segregating in French Canadians.  
191 The distribution of GERP RS scores for pathogenic variants is clearly shifted towards higher GERP RS  
192 scores as compared to the distribution for all SNPs loci (**Supplementary Figs. S23 and S24**), confirming  
193 that GERP RS is a valid deleteriousness scoring system. We find that front individuals have a 11.8%  
194 higher probability to be homozygotes for these pathogenic variants than core individuals, suggesting  
195 that the expansion process has also affected disease causing mutations. For rare deleterious variants  
196 (i.e., derived singletons in Europe with GERP-RS score  $> 2$ ), this excess in homozygosity is 9.5%. Of  
197 importance, this excess increases with GERP-RS scores and reaches approximately 90% ( $p_{\text{perm}} = 0.021$ )  
198 for sites with a GERP-RS score larger than 6 (**Fig. 4**). Note that this increase cannot be explained by the  
199 higher inbreeding level prevailing on the front, and that the differences in homozygosities between front  
200 and core become even more pronounced if one removes more inbred Saguenay individuals ( $p_{\text{perm}} =$   
201  $0.008$ , **Fig. 4**). This last result shows that stronger purifying selection in the core rather than higher  
202 inbreeding on the front is directly responsible for the lower frequencies of deleterious mutations in the  
203 core.

## 204 Likelihood-based demographic and selection coefficient inferences

205 We used the allele frequency distributions of mutations that are singletons in European 1000G  
206 populations and that are still seen in Quebec to estimate the parameters of a simple demographic

207 model for the settlement of French Canada. In this model, a small founding population splits off from  
208 the ancestral population, and then further splits into two subpopulations; the front and the core (**Fig.**  
209 **5A**). We estimate the effective population size of the founding population ( $N_{BN}$ ), the front ( $N_F$ ), and the  
210 core ( $N_C$ ) under a maximum-likelihood framework based on inter-generational allele frequency  
211 transition matrices (see Methods for details). We report here results for a model in which we fix the  
212 duration of initial bottleneck to one generation, but the analysis of a model with a 7 generation  
213 bottleneck yields qualitatively similar results, which can be found in the Supporting Information  
214 (**Supplementary Fig. S25**). We infer that French Canadians passed through a bottleneck equivalent to  
215  $\hat{N}_{BN} = 354$  effective diploid individuals, and that the front population was about 2.5 smaller ( $\hat{N}_{e,front} =$   
216  $3,972$ ) than the core population ( $\hat{N}_{e,core} = 9,977$ ) (**Fig. 5B**). We then used these maximum likelihood  
217 estimates (MLE) to estimate the contribution of the range expansion to the total variance in allele  
218 frequencies on the front as  $V_F = V_{BN} + V_{EXP}$ , where  $V_{BN}$  is the variance in allele frequencies after the  
219 bottleneck, and  $V_{EXP}$  is the remaining variance due to the expansion process. We find that  $V_{EXP}$  explains  
220 about 20% of the total variance in allele frequencies that occurred since the initial settlement at the  
221 expansion front. Therefore, we estimate that under our simple model, 20% of the genetic divergence  
222 between Europe and the front has been generated by the expansion process, whereas the remaining  
223 80% is due to the initial bottleneck shared by the core. We also estimated the strength of selection  
224 associated to rare variants under our estimated demographic model. In agreement with predictions, the  
225 MLE for the selection coefficient associated to predicted neutral variants is centered around zero,  
226 whereas the selection coefficients associated to predicted deleterious sites are clearly negative and  
227 decrease with increasing GERP RS score (**Fig. 6B**, maximum likelihood estimates and 95% confidence  
228 intervals:  $-0.006 < \hat{s}_{GERP[-2,2]} = 0 < 0.006$ ,  $-0.034 < \hat{s}_{GERP[2,4]} = -0.024 < -0.013$ ,  $-0.042 <$   
229  $\hat{s}_{GERP[4,6]} = -0.032 < -0.022$ ,  $-0.145 < \hat{s}_{GERP>6} = -0.072 < 0.001$ ). Note that the most negative  
230 selection coefficient for GERP-RS > 6 is not significantly different from zero due to the small number of  
231 sites belonging to this category.

## 232 Simulations can reproduce observed differences between front and core

233 Whereas it seems difficult to perform demographic inferences under a complex spatially explicit  
234 model, we can use forward simulations to see how well a model of range expansion can explain our  
235 observations (see Methods for details on the simulations). Our simulations reveal that the observed  
236 excess of singletons in core populations as well as the excess of doubletons in front populations are  
237 consistent with a model of range expansion (**Supplementary Fig. S19**), in keeping with previous results  
238 showing that range expansions leads to a flattening of the SFS (Sousa et al. 2014). Importantly,



239 simulations also confirm these features of the SFS for negatively selected mutations (**Supplementary**  
240 **Fig. S19**). Our simulations also confirm that an excess of homozygosity should develop on the front and  
241 that it should increase with the deleteriousness of mutations (**Supplementary Fig. S20**), in keeping with  
242 the observed patterns in Quebec (**Fig. 4**). Together, these results show that a model of range expansion  
243 can well explain most of the observed differences between front and core populations in Quebec.

## 244 Discussion

245 The interaction between demography and selection has been a central theme in population  
246 genetics. A particularly hotly debated topic is whether and to what extent recent demography has  
247 affected the efficacy of selection in modern humans (Lohmueller et al. 2008; Lohmueller 2014; Simons  
248 et al. 2014; Do et al. 2015; Gravel 2016). The original conclusion that European population show a larger  
249 proportion of predicted deleterious variants when compared to African populations (Lohmueller et al.  
250 2008) has been recently revisited in a series of studies that reached different and apparently opposite  
251 conclusions (reviewed in Lohmueller 2014). However, this controversy might have arisen because  
252 different studies focused on different patterns or processes. First, people focused either on measures of  
253 the efficacy of selection (the amount of change in load per generation) or on measures of the mutation  
254 load (see e.g. Gravel 2016, for a detailed study of this distinction). Second, people either measured the  
255 load as being due to co-dominant (Simons et al. 2014; Do et al. 2015) or partially recessive (Henn et al.  
256 2015b) mutations, which can lead to drastically different conclusions about the consequences of  
257 demographic change on mutation load (Henn et al. 2015a; Henn et al. 2015b). Finally, most theoretical  
258 and empirical work has focused on the effects of bottlenecks and recent population growth, but ignored  
259 the out of Africa expansion process and the spatial structure of human populations (Sousa et al. 2014 ).  
260 While it has now been shown that the out of Africa expansions that started more than 50 kya have led  
261 to the buildup of a mutation load in non-Africans that is proportional to their distance from Africa (Henn  
262 et al. 2015b), it was unclear whether an expansion load could develop during much shorter expansions,  
263 if it could be evidenced in very recent or ongoing expansions, and what are the exact genomic signatures  
264 of this expansion load.

265 We have used here a unique combination of historical records, detailed genealogical information,  
266 and genomic data to study the impact of such a recent range expansion on functional genetic diversity,  
267 and to disentangle the effects of genetic drift, purifying selection, and inbreeding during an expansion.  
268 The significant differences we have detected between front and core individuals all suggest that relaxed  
269 purifying selection on the front slightly but rapidly increases the frequency of deleterious mutations. The  
270 fact that front and core individuals mainly diverged six generations ago with respect to the position of  
271 their ancestors to the colonization front (**Fig. 1B**) suggests that the relaxation of natural selection can

272 affect remarkably quickly modern populations. The recent divergence between front and core  
273 populations (around 1780, **Supplementary Fig. S21**) has left traces in the genomic diversity of French  
274 Canadians that are of two kinds. First, front individuals show increased genetic drift relative to core  
275 individuals, as attested by their overall lower levels of diversity (**Table 1**), their larger genetic divergence  
276 from Europeans (**Supplementary Fig. S1**), and their lower estimated effective size (**Fig. 5B**). This result  
277 confirms the genetic surfing effect previously identified in the Saguenay Lac St-Jean region (Moreau et  
278 al. 2011), but it is not driven by samples from the Saguenay area (e.g. **Supplementary Fig. S14**). Rather,  
279 it is a property shared by all individuals with ancestors having lived on the front, and presently found in  
280 the most peripheral regions of Quebec (**Fig. 1**). Second, we find several lines of evidence showing  
281 relaxed selection in front individuals as compared to core individuals, which leads to the increase in  
282 frequency of rare and potentially deleterious variants. The evidence comes from the fact that sites  
283 targeted by mutations tend to be more conserved in front than in core individuals (**Fig. 2B-2D**), and that  
284 rare, putatively deleterious derived alleles, have a higher probability to be homozygous at the front (**Fig.**  
285 **4**). Relaxed selection is especially obvious when one considers deleterious mutations that were at low  
286 frequencies (singletons) in Europe and that have been kept at lower frequencies in core than in front  
287 individuals, or mutations that are now at low frequencies in Quebec and that are occurring at more  
288 conserved sites (and thus potentially more deleterious) in front than in core individuals (e.g., private  
289 doubletons and tripletons in **Figs. 2C and 2D**).

290 At first sight, the increased frequency of rare and potentially deleterious alleles (i.e. doubletons)  
291 in front individuals could be attributed to their higher inbreeding levels. However, there are several lines  
292 of arguments against this interpretation. First, we note that there are about 5% more doubletons on the  
293 front than in the core (21,332 vs. 20,284, **Supplementary Fig. S4**), which cannot be explained by a  
294 difference in inbreeding level of only 0.3% (**Supplementary Fig. S2**). Instead, individual based  
295 simulations show that the excess of doubletons at the front is consistent with a model of range  
296 expansion (**Supplementary Figs. S4 and S19**). Second, the proportion of doubleton sites where both  
297 derived alleles are in the same individuals is smaller than expected ( $1/101=0.99\%$ ) in both front (0.651%)  
298 and core (0.646%) individuals, which is indicative of similar ( $p_{\text{perm}} = 0.898$ ) levels of selection against  
299 derived homozygotes in both samples. Third, if higher inbreeding (and not relaxed selection) on the  
300 front had increased the frequency of all rare mutations irrespective of their deleterious effect, more  
301 deleterious mutations should have been better purged by selection than less deleterious mutations, and  
302 observed doubletons on the front should be on average less conserved. However, we find the opposite,  
303 with doubletons at the front being more conserved than in the core (**Fig. 2**), which means that the  
304 number of doubletons at highly conserved sites has increased proportionally more than at neutral sites.

305 Fourth, we find that less inbred individuals from the front tend to have rare variants that are more  
306 deleterious than more inbred individuals from the Saguenay area (**Supplementary Figs. S2 and S14**).  
307 Finally, the difference in inbreeding level between front and core individuals cannot explain the 2-fold  
308 increased expected homozygosity for extremely deleterious variants on the front (**Fig. 4**), and removing  
309 Saguenay individuals from the analysis amplifies the excess of derived homozygotes on the front (**Fig. 4**).  
310 A model of range expansion can however explain the increase in derived homozygosity at the expansion  
311 front (**Supplementary Fig. S20**). Taken together, these results suggest that differences between front  
312 and core individuals are mainly driven by increased drift at the expansion front and more efficient  
313 selection against deleterious mutations in the core.

314 In line with previous results (Casals et al. 2013), we find that all French Canadians present a much  
315 larger mutation load than Europeans (**Fig. 2A**). Even though it has been proposed that this is the result  
316 of a mere founder effect (Casals et al. 2013), current French Canadians descend from ~8500 French  
317 founders (Laberge et al. 2005), which implies a relatively mild founder effect that would take hundred to  
318 thousand generations to increase load to such an extent (Lohmueller et al. 2008; Peischl et al. 2013).  
319 More likely, this load could have been created during the initial settlement and range expansion that  
320 occurred in Quebec along the Saint- Lawrence valley. A major loss of diversity and an increase in the  
321 frequency of rare deleterious variants might indeed have occurred during the first 9 generations of the  
322 settlement of Quebec, until the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, before current front and core individuals  
323 actually diverged (**Fig. 1B**). The importance of these early generations is supported by genealogical  
324 analyses of the genetic contributions of the founders having lived at different periods. Early settlers  
325 have indeed contributed between 45% to 90% to the current French Canadian gene pool (Heyer 1995;  
326 Bherer et al. 2011), depending on the regions of Quebec, and early founders contributed proportionally  
327 more than later individuals to the current French Canadian gene pool (Heyer 1995; Bherer et al. 2011;  
328 Moreau et al. 2011). Overall, we estimate that the initial bottleneck is equivalent to that of a population  
329 of only 350 individuals, which is ~24 times smaller than the initial number of French Canadian migrants  
330 to Quebec (Laberge et al. 2005). This initial bottleneck shared between core and front populations  
331 explains about 80% of the variance in allele frequencies at the expansion front, whereas only 20% of this  
332 variance can be attributed to the separate expansion of the ancestors of front individuals (**Fig. 5**). Note  
333 that this latter value should be considered as a lower bound for the total contribution of the expansion,  
334 because front and core samples have a shared history of being on the expansion front in the first few  
335 generations in Quebec, and this shared expansion is absorbed into the estimate of the bottleneck  
336 population size in our estimation procedure.

337 At first view, our estimations of selection coefficients (on the order of  $10^{-2}$ , **Fig. 5C**) for rare  
338 deleterious mutations are surprisingly higher than previous estimates (Eyre-Walker and Keightley 2007;  
339 Boyko et al. 2008; Racimo and Schraiber 2014; Henn et al. 2015b). A potential explanation for this  
340 apparent discrepancy is that our estimation is based on variants that were already rare (singletons) in  
341 Europe, and this set of variants should be enriched for more strongly deleterious variants than the set of  
342 all predicted deleterious mutations, which should include sites at high frequency (> 5%) that are  
343 presumably almost neutral (Boyko et al. 2008) despite being predicted as deleterious.

344 Overall, our results clearly suggest that due to the low effective size prevailing on the wave front  
345 of the colonization making selection less efficient than in the core, a small but significant mutation load  
346 has been generated in Quebec over a very short time (nine generations or less, see **Fig. 1** and  
347 Supplementary **Fig. S21**) by an increase in frequency of rare deleterious variants in front individuals by  
348 genetic drift. This excess of deleterious mutations on the front has probably only a minor effect on the  
349 total mutation load and on the fitness of most individuals, because these mutations are still at very low  
350 frequencies. Nevertheless, this wave front effect might be medically relevant as rare deleterious variants  
351 have a higher probability of being homozygous on the front than in the core, suggesting that rare  
352 recessive diseases should be more common in individuals whose ancestors lived on the front. In  
353 agreement with this prediction, we find that front individuals are indeed more likely to be derived  
354 homozygous for known pathogenic variants. Importantly, this effect is noticeably stronger than the  
355 relative risk to develop a rare disease because of inbreeding. In addition, the evidence of a relaxed  
356 selection on recent wave fronts suggests that prolonged periods of range expansions over hundreds of  
357 generations should have promoted the spread of deleterious mutations in newly settled territories, and  
358 have contributed significantly to global variation in mutation load and the burden of genetic diseases in  
359 modern humans.

360

## 361 Methods

### 362 Selection of individuals to sequence

363 We have selected individual to be sequenced by screening the genealogy of 3916 individuals of  
364 the CARTAGENE biobank (Awadalla et al. 2013), who could be connected to the BALSAC genealogical  
365 database (<http://balsac.uqac.ca>) thanks to the information they provided on their parents and  
366 grandparents. The BALSAC database includes records from all catholic marriages in Quebec from 1621 to  
367 1965, totaling more than 3 million records (5 million individuals). The ascending genealogies of the 3916  
368 CARTAGENE individuals were assessed for their maximum generation depth, their completeness defined  
369 as the fraction of ancestors that are traced back in an individual's genealogy at generation  $g$  relative to  
370 the maximum number of ancestors ( $2^g$ ) at that generation (Jetté 1991), as well as our ability to assess  
371 the front or core status of the ancestors. We thus first eliminated 420 genealogies which spanned over  
372 less than 12 generations (maximum generation depth  $< 12$  gen). We also eliminated 537 genealogies  
373 which had a mean depth smaller than 8 generations, 578 genealogies whose completeness (Jetté 1991)  
374 computed over the last 6 generations was less than 95%, and 97 additional genealogies whose  
375 completeness computed over the 12 generations was less than 30%. Genealogies were also filtered  
376 based on the quantity of information available for the computation of a cumulative Wave front Index  
377 ( $cWFI$ ), defined as  $cWFI = \sum_i GC_i \times WFI_i$ , where the summation is over all ancestors in the  
378 genealogy,  $GC_i$  is the genetic contribution of the  $i$ -th ancestor,  $WFI_i$  is the wave front index of the  $i$ -th  
379 ancestor, defined as  $WFI = 1 / (1 + g)$  (2011), and  $g$  is the number of generations elapsed since the  
380 foundation of the location where the ancestor reproduced (see ref. (Moreau et al. 2011) for more  
381 details). A  $cWFI$  value of 1 would imply that all the ancestors of the focal individual reproduced on the  
382 wave front. To ensure that differences in  $cWFI$  between individuals are not due to a lack of  
383 information on the core-front status of individuals in the genealogy, we eliminated 717 genealogies for  
384 which a single  $WFI_i$  was missing for any individual of the 6 most recent generations ( $WFI_i$  completeness  
385  $< 1$  for the 6 most recent generations) and 15 additional genealogies for which the  $WFI_i$  completeness  
386 until generation 12 was less than 0.5. We also excluded from the analysis genealogies for which the total  
387 number of individuals with computable  $WFI$  until generation 12 was either too small or too large, so that  
388 the  $cWFI$  was computed on genealogies of comparable total sizes. The 10% smallest and the 15%  
389 largest genealogies were thus eliminated (389 genealogies) from further analyses. The 1163 remaining  
390 individuals were ranked according to their  $cWFI$ , and we then selected individuals with the 10%

391 smallest and 10% highest  $cWFI$ . We also eliminated from these two groups those individuals that were  
392 too closely related. The kinship coefficient  $\phi$  (Wright 1922) was thus computed between all members of  
393 these groups to determine their relatedness. For 41 pairs of individuals more related than second  
394 cousins ( $\phi > 1/64$ ), one of the two individuals was removed at random. Finally, the 60 individuals with  
395 the lowest  $cWFI$  and the 60 individuals with the largest  $cWFI$  were selected for further DNA analyses.  
396 Among these, 51 individuals of each category for which peripheral blood samples were available in the  
397 CARTaGENE biobank were further considered for DNA extraction and sequencing. The geographic  
398 location of the marriage place of 102 individuals' parents is reported in **Figure 1** and examples of the  
399 location of the ancestors of front and core individuals at various periods are shown in **Supplementary**  
400 **Animations S1** and **S2**.

#### 401 DNA extraction, library preparation and sequencing

402 Peripheral blood samples preserved in EDTA tubes from 102 selected individuals from the  
403 CARTaGENE cohort were processed for DNA extraction using the FlexiGene DNA kit as recommended by  
404 the supplier (Qiagen). Total DNA was quantified by measurements with the NanoDrop 8000  
405 spectrophotometer (Thermo Scientific) followed by dsDNA quantitation with the QUBIT 2.0 fluorometer  
406 (Life Technologies). DNA libraries were prepared for each sample following the standard protocol of  
407 KAPA Library Preparation Kit for Illumina sequencing platforms. A Covaris S2 fragmentation (Duty cycle -  
408 10%, Intensity - 5.0, Cycle per burst - 200, Duration - 120 seconds, Mode Frequency - Sweeping,  
409 Displayed Power Covaris S2 – 23W) was performed on 1 $\mu$ g dsDNA input (50 $\mu$ l total volume) for each  
410 sample to generate 180 – 200 bp average size fragments. The resulting 3' and 5' overhangs were end  
411 repaired, 3'-adenylated and ligated to specific indexed adaptors. After a dual SPRI size selection of 250 –  
412 450 bp adapter-ligated fragments, final pre-capture library enrichment was performed by LM-PCR  
413 followed by a library amplification cleanup with magnetic beads (AMPure XP, Agencourt). Following the  
414 protocol for whole exome capture with the Roche NimbleGen SeqCap EZ Exome + UTR Library kit (User's  
415 Guide v4.2, <http://www.nimblegen.com/products/seqcap/ez/exome-utr/index.html>), the enriched  
416 fragments size distribution was then checked using a DNA 1000 chip on an Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer for  
417 whole exome capture validation. The 102 uniquely indexed amplified DNA samples were mixed into 34  
418 pool libraries of 3 different indexed DNA each, and were then hybridized to specific SeqCap EZ  
419 Hybridization Enhancing oligos at +47°C for 72 hours. After a washing step followed by a SeqCap EZ Pure  
420 Capture Beads recovery of the targeted sequences (here whole exome + UTRs), the multiplex DNA  
421 samples were amplified by a post-capture LM-PCR, cleaned with AMPure XP magnetic beads and  
422 bioanalyzed with a DNA 1000 chip to quantify and qualify the amplified captured multiplexed DNA

423 samples. Prior to sequencing step, a final validation by qPCR assays was carried on the DNA samples to  
424 assess the relative fold enrichment in pre-captured sequences versus post-captured ones. Finally, these  
425 34 DNA pools (one pool per lane) were paired-end (2x100bp) sequenced on an Illumina HiSeq 2500  
426 System.

## 427 Alignment and Variant Calling

428 Before mapping reads, a quality control was done using FASTQC, and trimming of the adapters  
429 and of poor quality read ends was done using Trim Galore ( $\geq Q20$ ). The reads were then mapped to the  
430 hg19 reference genome using BWA v 0.5.9r16 using the default parameters. PCR duplicates were  
431 removed using Picard-tools v1.56 (<http://broadinstitute.github.io/picard/>). We kept properly paired and  
432 uniquely mapped reads using Samtools v0.1.19-44428cd.

433 After these steps, we estimated the mean sequence coverage per individual, across the targeted  
434 exomic and UTR regions of cumulative length ~106.5 Mb, to be between 67X-128X (**Supplementary Fig.**  
435 **S22**)

436 Realignment around indels and variants recalibration were performed with GATK v3.2-2. GATK  
437 v3.2-2 was also used to call variants using the workflow recommended by the Broad Institute  
438 (<https://www.broadinstitute.org/gatk/guide/best-practices?bpm=DNaseq>). We performed a first step  
439 using HaplotypeCaller, reporting the calls in GVCF mode. Then the joint genotyping calls were performed  
440 using the GenotypeGVCFs subprogram of GATK, to get the raw SNP and INDEL calls. The last step  
441 consisting in recalibrating and filtering the genotype calls was done with VQSR, using the recommended  
442 options separately on the SNP and INDEL calls.

## 443 Sequence analysis

444 We removed all variants associated with a quality score below 30. We kept 426,301 SNPs and  
445 43,081 indels and used ANNOVAR to functionally characterize these variants. **Supplementary Table S2**  
446 gives the number of variants in each ANNOVAR functional class.

447 Individual genotypes associated to low read depth ( $DP < 10$ ) and low genotype quality ( $GQ < 20$ )  
448 were marked as missing genotypes.

449 We also collected polymorphism data for 305 individuals from 3 European populations (British  
450 from England and Scotland (GBR), Spanish from Spain (IBS) and Italians from Tuscany, Italy (TSI),  
451 **Supplementary Table S3**) from the 1000 Genomes phase 3 panel (The Genomes Project 2015). Note  
452 that the 1000 Genomes phase 3 panel set of variants consists of polymorphisms called from a  
453 combination of both low and high coverage data (between 8X - 30X). Our comparison of French  
454 Canadians and individuals from populations of the 1000 Genomes phase 3 panel was restricted to the

455 genomic regions that were found in intersection between the targeted regions sequenced in the present  
456 study and the high coverage target of the 1000 Genomes phase 3 panel, which amount ~46.4 Mb.

457 We defined shared SNPs between French Canadians and individuals from the 1000 Genomes  
458 phase 3 panel as SNPs found in both datasets.

459 Differences in number of various types of sites were obtained by a permutation test consisting in  
460 randomly permuting individuals between front and core, reestimating the desired statistics on the  
461 permuted samples and estimating the p-value of the observed statistics in the generated empirical null  
462 distribution.

### 463 [Assessment of mutation effects](#)

464 The ancestral state of all mutations was characterized, following the 1000 Genomes project (The  
465 Genomes Project 2015), using the human ancestor genome inferred from the alignment of 6 primates  
466 (*Homo sapiens*, *Pan troglodytes*, *Gorilla gorilla*, *Pongo abelii*, *Macaca mulatta*, *Callithrix jacchus*)  
467 genomes  
468 ([http://ftp.1000genomes.ebi.ac.uk/vol1/ftp/phase1/analysis\\_results/supporting/ancestral\\_alignments/](http://ftp.1000genomes.ebi.ac.uk/vol1/ftp/phase1/analysis_results/supporting/ancestral_alignments/))  
469 The biological impact of SNPs was assessed via GERP Rejected Substitution (GERP-RS) scores (Cooper et  
470 al. 2005; Davydov et al. 2010), which measure, at a given genomic location, the difference between the  
471 expected and the observed number of mutations occurring along a phylogeny of 35 mammals. GERP-RS  
472 scores were obtained from the UCSC genome browser  
473 ([http://hgdownload.cse.ucsc.edu/gbdb/hg19/bbi/All\\_hg19\\_RS.bw](http://hgdownload.cse.ucsc.edu/gbdb/hg19/bbi/All_hg19_RS.bw)). Note that the human sequence was  
474 not included in the calculation of GERP-RS scores. The human reference sequence was indeed excluded  
475 from the alignment for the calculation of both the neutral rate and site specific ‘observed’ rate for the  
476 RS score to prevent any bias in the estimates. Mutations were classified as being “neutral”, “moderate”,  
477 “large” or “extreme” for GERP-RS scores with ranges [-2,2[, [2,4[, [4,6[ and [6,∞[, respectively. GERP-RS  
478 scores of 0 indicates that the alignment of mammalian sequences was too shallow at that position to get  
479 a meaningful estimate of constraint (Goode et al. 2010) and sites with such scores were removed from  
480 all analyses involving GERP-RS scores.

481 We also used the CADD method (Kircher et al. 2014) to assess the functional effect of SNPs and to  
482 characterize short indels. CADD integrates many diverse annotations including conservation metrics,  
483 regulatory information, transcript information and protein-level scores into a single measure (C score)  
484 for each variant (Kircher et al. 2014). CADD has been implemented as a support vector machine and  
485 trained to differentiate human-derived alleles from simulated variants. The rationale for this choice is  
486 that deleterious variants are depleted by natural selection in existing but not simulated variation. We  
487 used scaled C-scores, phred-like scores ranging from 0.001 to 99, in our analyses, as these scores are



488 easily interpretable. A scaled C-score larger than 10 indicates that the corresponding variant is predicted  
489 to be in the 10% most deleterious classes of variants. A scaled C-score larger than 20 indicates that the  
490 corresponding variant is predicted to be in the 1% most deleterious classes of variants. Mutations were  
491 classified as being “neutral”, “moderate”, “large” or “extreme” for CADD scores with ranges [0,10[,  
492 [10,20[, [20,30[ and [30,∞ [, respectively.

493 Most of our analysis in the main text relied on on SNPs and GERP-RS scores to assess their  
494 deleteriousness. We overall find very similar evidence of reduced selection in front populations using  
495 CADD scores for SNPs (**Supplementary Figs. S5,S7, S10 - S13**) or indels (**Supplementary Figs. S8 – S9**),  
496 suggesting that our results are robust to alternative deleteriousness scoring systems and to the choice of  
497 variants.

### 498 [Assessment of mutation load](#)

499 Assess mutation load from genomic data is an inherently difficult problem (see e.g., (Lohmueller  
500 2014) for a discussion of this problem). Instead, we use GERP-RS scores as a proxy for selection intensity  
501 and calculate, for each individual, the average GERP-RS score across all sites at which the focal individual  
502 carries a derived allele. We focus here on the average RS score per site. The average GERP-RS score per  
503 site is simply the average of GERP-RS scores calculated over all sites at which an individual carries at  
504 least one copy of a derived mutation:  $\frac{1}{n} \sum RS_i$ , where  $n$  is the number of segregating sites per individual,  
505 and  $RS_i$  is the GERP-RS score of site  $i$ . Note that this measure does not distinguish between  
506 heterozygous sites and derived homozygous sites. To account for the frequency of derived alleles we  
507 also calculated the average GERP-RS score across sites that have a given derived allele frequency.

### 508 [Detection of outlier SNPs and Gene Ontology analysis](#)

509 To detect potential outlier SNPs based on levels of genetic differentiation, we used the outlier  $F_{ST}$   
510 method proposed by Beaumont and Nichols (Beaumont and Nichols 1996) and implemented in the  
511 Arlequin software (Excoffier and Lischer 2010). In brief, this test uses coalescent simulations to generate  
512 the joint distribution of  $F_{ST}$  and heterozygosity between populations expected under a finite-island  
513 model, having the same average  $F_{ST}$  value as that observed. This null distribution is then used to  
514 compute the  $p$ -value of each SNP based on its observed  $F_{ST}$  and heterozygosity levels. SNPs with  $F_{ST}$   
515 values outside the 99% quantile based on the simulations were considered as outliers. These SNPs were  
516 then annotated to Ensembl gene IDs with the R package BiomaRt (Durinck et al. 2009). SNPs were  
517 mapped to a gene if they were located in the gene transcript or within 10 kb to it. If a SNP was allocated  
518 to more than one gene with this method, we uniquely allocated to the gene to which it is closest. If  
519 more than one SNP was assigned to a given gene, we only kept the SNP with the highest  $F_{ST}$  value.

520 We conducted a Gene Ontology (GO) enrichment analysis on the list of significant using the  
521 topGO R package (Alexa et al. 2006) . We applied the default algorithm using a Kolmogorov-Smirnov (KS)  
522 test to detect highly differentiated biological processes and obtain their p-values. This approach  
523 integrates information about relationships between the GO terms and the different scores of the genes  
524 (here, the p-values) into the calculation of the statistical significance. We kept in this analysis only GO  
525 terms which included more than 10 genes.

## 526 [Maximum likelihood estimation of past demography and selection coefficients](#)

527 We considered sites that are found as private singletons in the European 1000G populations and  
528 that are found polymorphic in Quebec. We used the current frequency of these variants in Europe as a  
529 proxy for their frequency during the foundation of Quebec. This allows us to directly estimate front and  
530 core effective population sizes without having to estimate additional parameters for the European  
531 population.

532 We modeled the evolution of allele frequencies at independent sites under random genetic drift  
533 and natural selection in two panmictic populations, denoted the core and the front. Variables describing  
534 properties of the front and core are denoted with sub- or super-scripts  $f$  and  $c$ , respectively. For  
535 simplicity, we only present calculations for the front. The core can be treated analogously. Then  $x_i^{(f)}$   
536 denotes the number of sites with a derived allele frequency of  $i$ . Let  $X_f(t) = (x_0^{(f)}, \dots, x_{N_f}^{(f)})$ , denote the  
537 SFS on the front where  $N_f$  is the effective population size at the front and  $t$  denotes the time (in  
538 generations) since the founding of Quebec. Assuming a Wright-Fisher model of drift and genic selection  
539 (that is, no dominance or epistasis), the SFS then evolve according to

$$540 \quad x_i^{(f)}(t+1) = \sum_{j=0}^{2N_f} x_j^{(f)} B\left(i, 2N_f, \frac{j(1-s)}{j(1-s) + 2N_f - j}\right),$$

541 where  $B(k, n, p)$  denotes the binomial distribution and  $s$  is the strength of selection against the derived  
542 allele. We calculate the current allele frequency distribution (16 generations after the onset of the  
543 settlement)  $X_f(16)$  with the initial condition  $x_i^{(f)}(0) = \sum_{i=0}^{2N_{BN}} x_i^{(BN)} B\left(i, 2N_f, \frac{i(1-s)}{i(1-s) + 2N_{BN} - i}\right)$ , where  
544  $x_i^{(BN)} = B(i, N_{BN}, \frac{1}{2n_0})$  is the expected allele frequency distribution in the bottlenecked population and  
545  $n_0$  is the sample size in Europe. We then obtain the expected allele frequency distribution for a sample  
546 of  $n_f = 51$  individuals by

$$547 \quad x_{i,sample}^f = \sum_{j=0}^{2N_f} x_j^{(f)} B(i, 2n_f, j/(2N_f)).$$

548 Let  $p_i^{(f)} = x_{i,sample}^{(f)} / (2n_f)$  be the relative frequency of sites with a derived allele frequency of  $i$ . To  
 549 account for the fact that we only consider sites shared between Europe and Quebec, we correct the  
 550 allele frequency distribution by multiplying the proportion of sites that are not found polymorphic at the  
 551 front,  $p_0^{(f)}$ , by  $(1 - p_0^{(c)})$ , i.e., we count only the proportion of sites where the derived allele is lost in  
 552 the front but that are polymorphic in the core, and then renormalize such that  $\sum_{i=0}^{2N_f} p_i^{(f)} = 1$ . We can  
 553 then calculate the likelihood from our data as

$$554 \quad L(Y_f, Y_c | N_f, N_c, s) =$$

$$555 \quad \binom{2n_f}{y_0^{(f)}, \dots, y_{2n_f}^{(f)}} (p_0^{(f)})^{y_0^{(f)}} \dots (p_{2n_f}^{(f)})^{y_{2n_f}^{(f)}} \binom{2n_c}{y_0^{(c)}, \dots, y_{2n_c}^{(c)}} (p_0^{(c)})^{y_0^{(c)}} \dots (p_{N_c}^{(c)})^{y_{2n_c}^{(c)}}$$

556 ,  
 557 where  $Y_f = (y_0^{(f)}, \dots, y_{2n_f}^{(f)})$  and  $Y_c = (y_0^{(c)}, \dots, y_{2n_c}^{(c)})$  denote the observed derived allele frequencies in  
 558 front and core respectively. The likelihood was then maximized numerically via a grid search in the  
 559 parameter space.

## 560 Individual Based Simulations

561 We performed individual based simulations of a range expansion in a 2D habitat consisting in a  
 562 lattice of 11x11 discrete demes (stepping stone model). Generations are discrete and non-overlapping,  
 563 and mating within each deme is random. Migration is homogeneous and isotropic, except that the  
 564 boundaries of the habitat are reflecting, i.e., individuals cannot migrate out of the habitat. Population  
 565 size grows logistically within demes. Our simulations start from a single panmictic ancestral population,  
 566 representing France. After a burn-in phase that ensures that the ancestral population are at mutation-  
 567 selection-drift balance, a propagule of founders is placed on the deme with coordinates (3,6) on the  
 568 11x11 grid representing French Canada (see **Supplementary Fig. S16**). During the next 6 generations, the  
 569 population expands along a 1 deme wide corridor in the middle of the habitat (representing the St-  
 570 Laurent river corridor). During these 6 generations, all colonized demes in French Canada receive  
 571 migrants from the ancestral populations in equal proportions. The number of migrants were chosen to  
 572 roughly match historical records (Haines and Steckel 2000). In particular, we chose 1000, 2000, 1000,  
 573 1000, 1000, and 2000 pioneer immigrants from the ancestral population for the first 6 generations,

574 respectively. After that, the expansion continues into the remaining habitat for 11 generations. See  
575 **Supplementary Fig. S16** for a sketch of the model.

576 We chose a carrying capacity of  $K = 1,000$  diploid individuals and the size of the ancestral  
577 population was 10,000. Migration rate was set to  $m = 0.2$  and the within deme growth rate was  $R = 2$   
578 (that is, at low densities the population doubles within one generation, reflecting the average absolute  
579 fitness of approximately 4 – 5 surviving children getting married per women (Moreau et al. 2011)). We  
580 simulated a set of 10,000 independent biallelic loci per individual. The genome-wide mutation rate was  
581 set to  $u = 0.1$ . Mutations occur only in one direction and back mutations are ignored. We performed two  
582 types of simulations: (i) evolution of neutral mutations, and (ii) evolution of sites under purifying  
583 selection. In the latter case, we assumed that all sites had the same selection coefficient  $s$ . Mutations  
584 interact multiplicatively across and within loci, that is, there is no dominance or epistasis. We also  
585 simulated and recorded the cumulative wave front index (cWFI) of each individual. The simulation code  
586 can be downloaded from: <https://github.com/CMPG/ADMRE>.

587

## 588 Data Access

589 Requests for data published here should be submitted to the corresponding authors, citing this  
590 study.

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600

## 601 Disclosure Declaration

602 The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

## 603 Figure Legends

604 **Figure 1:** Location and number of sampled individuals and distribution of the cumulative Wave  
605 front Indices (cWFI). **A:** Front and core sampled individuals are shown in white and  
606 gray, respectively. The numbers inside circles indicate the sample size for each  
607 location. **B:** The leftmost panel shows the distribution of cWFI among sampled  
608 individuals. The other three panels display the cWFI of the ancestors of the sampled  
609 individuals that lived 6, 9 or 12 generations ago, which shows that observed  
610 differences in cWFI between current samples have mostly emerged in the 6 most  
611 recent generations.

612 **Figure 2:** **A:** Distributions of average GERP-RS scores per site per individual in three European  
613 1000G populations, as well as in core and front individuals. Left: All sites. Right: Sites  
614 shared between 1000G samples and Quebec (t-test p-values =  $10^{-7}$  and  $10^{-5}$ ,  
615 respectively). **B:** Average GERP score per site having different Derived Allele  
616 Frequencies (DAF). The solid horizontal lines show the average GERP RS score per  
617 site. The violinplots show the the average GERP score distribution obtained by  
618 bootstrap (1000 replicates). **C:** Like B, but for mutations private to the front or to the  
619 core. **D:** Like B but for singletons and doubletons that are private to front or core and  
620 not found in the 1000G phase 3 panel. For the sake of clarity, higher DAF classes are  
621 not shown in panels B- D. Only SNPs with GERP scores larger than 0 were used for the  
622 calculations of GERP scores in all panels. Asterisks indicate significance levels obtained  
623 by permutation tests: \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ .

624 **Figure 3:** Distribution of the cumulative additive GERP-RS scores of doubletons in front and  
625 core individuals for different GERP-RS categories. Sites were considered if they were  
626 not seen in derived states in 1000G samples and if they were private to the core or to  
627 the front. Differences between front and core are significant for the three categories  
628 of sites potentially under selection ( $p = 10^{-11}$ ,  $10^{-9}$ ,  $10^{-4}$  for mildly, strongly, and  
629 extremely deleterious sites, respectively), but not for the neutral sites ( $-2 < \text{GERP-RS}$   
630 score  $< 2$ ,  $p = 0.34$ ).

631 **Figure 4:** Ratio of expected homozygosity for variants that are singletons in European 1000G  
632 populations.  $HR = E[q_f^2 / q_c^2]$  where  $q_f$  and  $q_c$  are derived allele frequencies in front  
633 and core individuals, respectively. The horizontal solid lines indicate HR for different  
634 GERP RS score categories. The dashed lines indicates the expected HR values that  
635 would be due to differences in estimated inbreeding levels between front and core,  
636 calculated as  $(q_c^2 + \Delta f q_c (1 - q_c)) / q_c^2$ , where  $\Delta f = f_{front} - f_{core}$ . Violin plots show the  
637 distribution of 5000 bootstrap replicates. We find significant differences between the  
638 expected values for GERP RS scores  $> 6$  (all individuals:  $p = 0.021$ , without Sageunay  
639 individuals:  $p = 0.008$ , obtained by bootstrap).

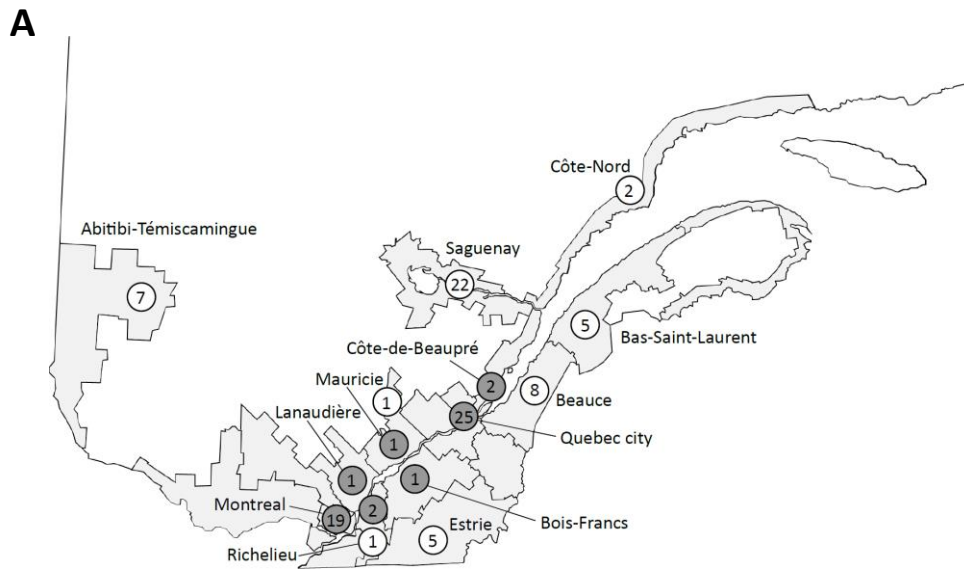
640 **Figure 5. A:** Sketch of the model used for maximum likelihood estimation. Likelihoods were  
641 calculated based on the expectation of the change in allele frequency distribution of  
642 rare variants (that is, singletons in the European sample). Marginal likelihoods and

643 MLE for effective population sizes of bottleneck, and in front and core (**B**), and  
644 selection coefficients for different GERP-RS categories (**C**). Shaded areas indicate 95%  
645 confidence intervals in (**B**), and horizontal bars indicate 95% confidence intervals in  
646 (**C**).

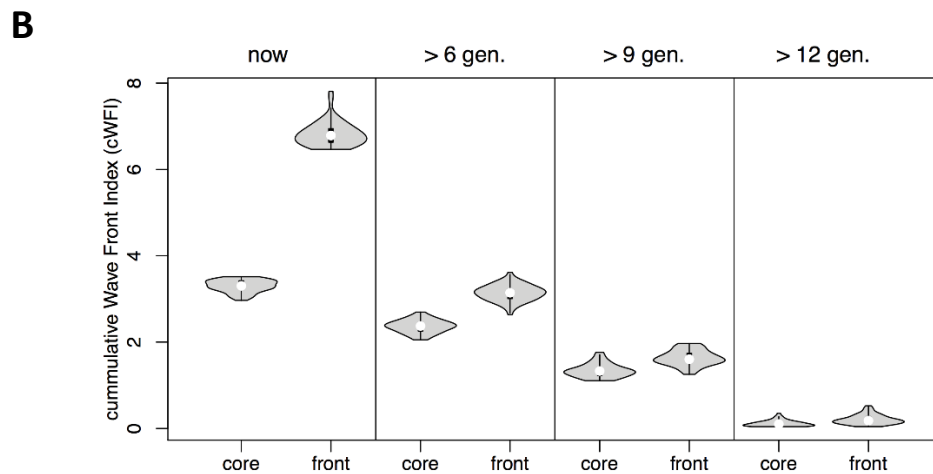
647

648 Figures

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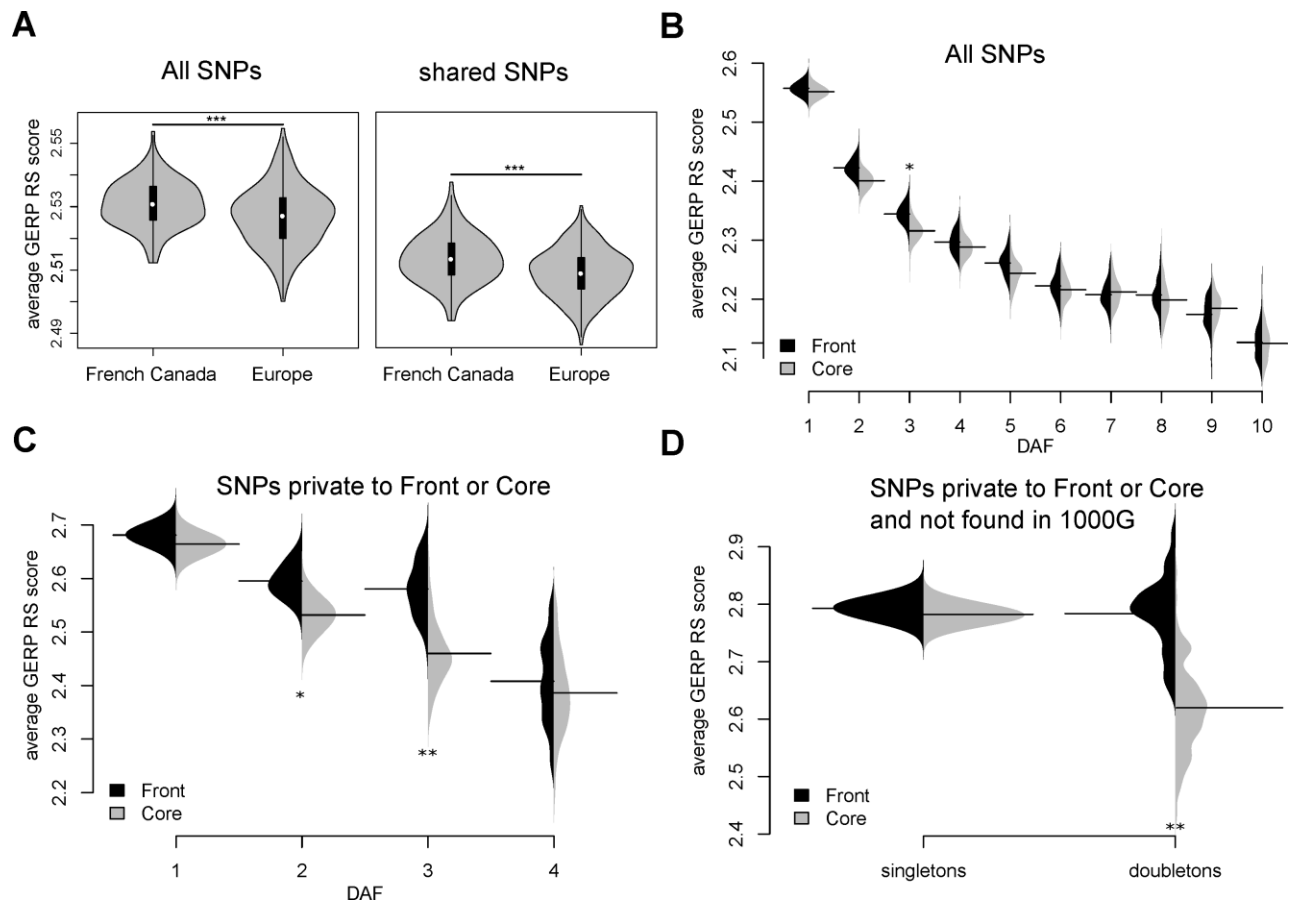


651

652

653 **Figure 1:** Location and number of sampled individuals and distribution of the cumulative Wave  
654 front Indices (cWFI). **A:** Front and core sampled individuals are shown in white and  
655 gray, respectively. The numbers inside circles indicate the sample size for each  
656 location. **B:** The leftmost panel shows the distribution of cWFI among sampled  
657 individuals. The other three panels display the cWFI of the ancestors of the sampled  
658 individuals that lived 6, 9 or 12 generations ago, which shows that observed  
659 differences in cWFI between current samples have mostly emerged in the 6 most  
660 recent generations.

661



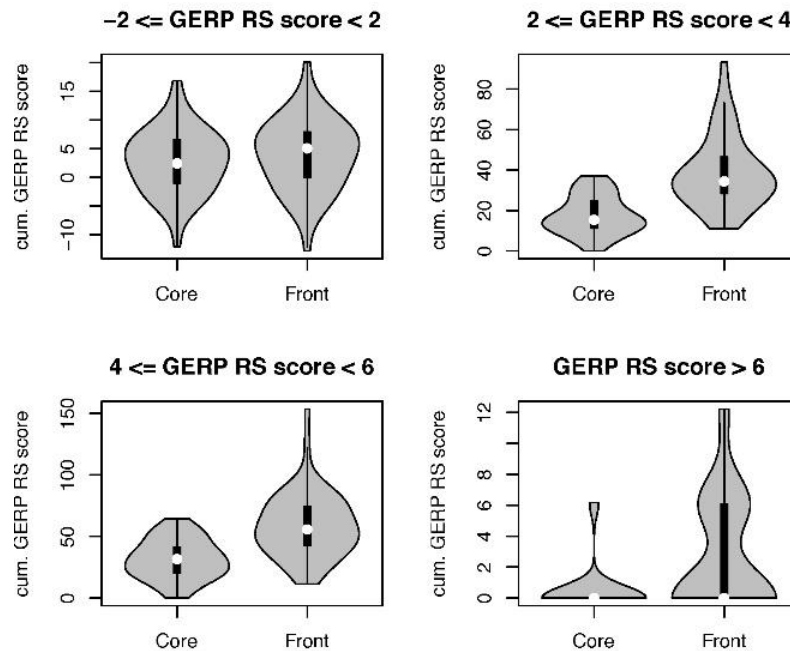
662

663 **Figure 2:** A: Distributions of average GERP-RS scores per site per individual in three European  
 664 1000G populations, as well as in core and front individuals. Left: All sites. Right: Sites  
 665 shared between 1000G samples and Quebec (t-test p-values =  $10^{-7}$  and  $10^{-5}$ ,  
 666 respectively). B: Average GERP score per site having different Derived Allele  
 667 Frequencies (DAF). The solid horizontal lines show the average GERP RS score per site.  
 668 The violinplots show the the average GERP score distribution obtained by bootstrap  
 669 (1000 replicates). C: Like B, but for mutations private to the front or to the core. D:  
 670 Like B but for singletons and doubletons that are private to front or core and not  
 671 found in the 1000G phase 3 panel. For the sake of clarity, higher DAF classes are not  
 672 shown in panels B- D. Only SNPs with GERP scores larger than 0 were used for the  
 673 calculations of GERP scores in all panels. Asterisks indicate significance levels obtained  
 674 by permutation tests: \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ .

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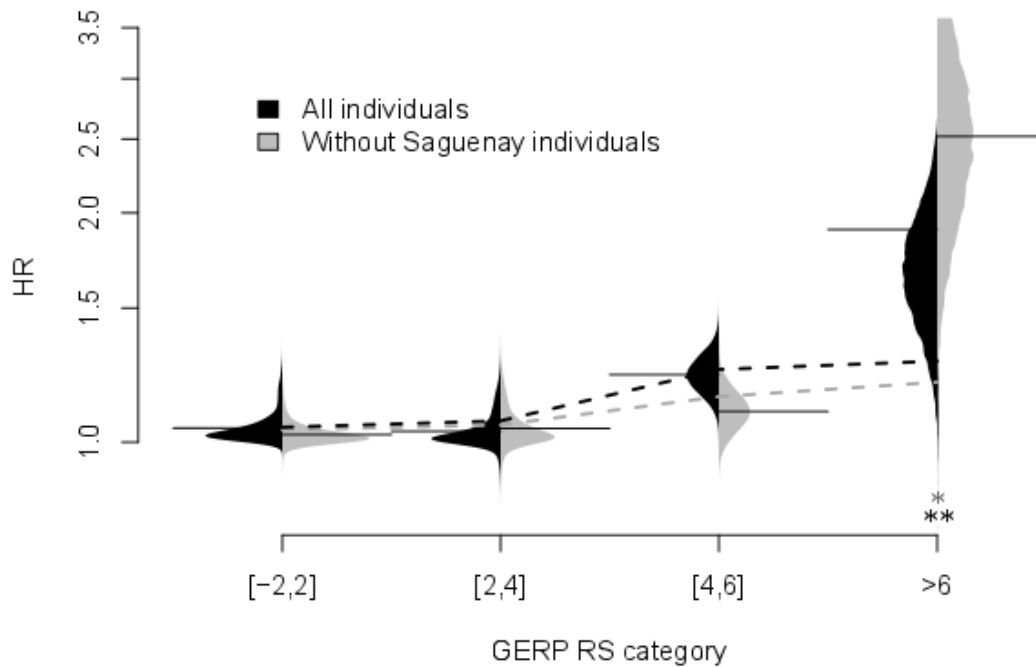




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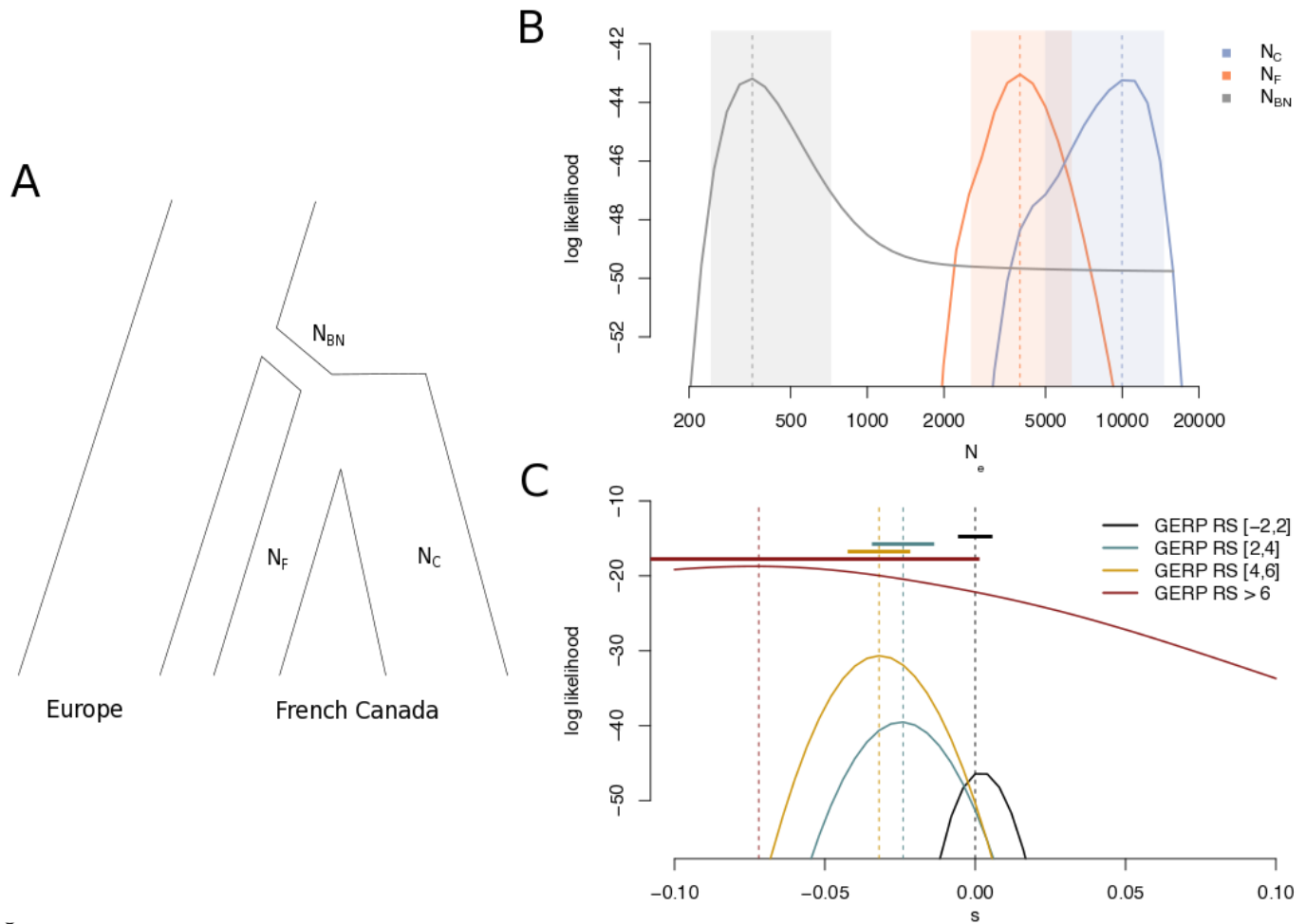
678 **Figure 3:** Distribution of the cumulative additive GERP-RS scores of doubletons in front and core  
679 individuals for different GERP-RS categories. Sites were considered if they were not  
680 seen in derived states in 1000G samples and if they were private to the core or to the  
681 front. Differences between front and core are significant for the three categories of  
682 sites potentially under selection ( $p = 10^{-11}$ ,  $10^{-9}$ ,  $10^{-4}$  for mildly, strongly, and extremely  
683 deleterious sites, respectively), but not for the neutral sites ( $-2 < \text{GERP-RS score} < 2$ ,  $p$   
684  $= 0.34$ ).

685



686

687 **Figure 4:** Ratio of expected homozygosity for variants that are singletons in European 1000G  
 688 populations.  $HR = E[q_f^2 / q_c^2]$  where  $q_f$  and  $q_c$  are derived allele frequencies in front  
 689 and core individuals, respectively. The horizontal solid lines indicate HR for different  
 690 GERP RS score categories. The dashed lines indicates the expected HR values that  
 691 would be due to differences in estimated inbreeding levels between front and core,  
 692 calculated as  $(q_c^2 + \Delta f q_c (1 - q_c)) / q_c^2$ , where  $\Delta f = f_{front} - f_{core}$ . Violin plots show the  
 693 distribution of 5000 bootstrap replicates. We find significant differences between the  
 694 expected values for GERP RS scores > 6 (all individuals:  $p = 0.021$ , without Sageunay  
 695 individuals:  $p = 0.008$ , obtained by bootstrap).



696

697 **Figure 5. A:** Sketch of the model used for maximum likelihood estimation. Likelihoods were  
 698 calculated based on the expectation of the change in allele frequency distribution of  
 699 rare variants (that is, singletons in the European sample). Marginal likelihoods and  
 700 MLE for effective population sizes of bottleneck, and in front and core (B), and  
 701 selection coefficients for different GERP-RS categories (C). Shaded areas indicate 95%  
 702 confidence intervals in (B), and horizontal bars indicate 95% confidence intervals in  
 703 (C).

704

705

706 **Tables**

707 **Table 1:** Summary of genetic diversity in front and core samples.

Type and number of polymorphism	core (n=51)		front (n=51)	Total (n=102)
Total No. of SNPs				426,301
No. of SNPs with inferred ancestral/derived state	314,483	>	308,396	396,424
No. of SNPs without missing data	266,547	>	261,355	328,372
No. of exonic SNP	83,653	>	81,763	107,525
No. of non-synonymous SNP	40,750	>	39,595	55,133
No. of SNPs private to one of the two groups of individuals	78,310	>	72,353	150,663
No. of SNPs without missing data and not seen in 1000G phase 3 panel	31,608	>	29,811	56,669
No. of SNPs without missing data, private to one of the two groups, and not seen in 1000G phase 3 panel	26,858	>	25,061	51,919
No. of indels	33,789	>	33,297	43,081
Heterozygosity				
All sites	0.0588	≈	0.0586	
Exons	0.0548	≈	0.0547	
Introns	0.0632	≈	0.0630	
5' UTR	0.0489	≈	0.0487	
3'UTR	0.0623	≈	0.0623	

708

709 Significant differences between front and core are indicated by “>” (permutation test,  $p_{\text{perm}}$

710 <0.001), and non-significant differences are indicated by “≈” ( $p>0.05$ ).

711

712

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