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Applied Metagenomics of the Watershed Microbiome

Integrated GE³LS Project	Linking Research to Action
Genome Centre	Genome British Columbia
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Project Description

The integrated GE³LS research project is an up-front engagement of key stakeholders involved and affected by the science project, with the purpose of creating an anticipatory governance (AG) framework. AG is a new approach for managing the uncertainties posed by future innovations.

The GE³LS team will focus on (1) the evidence required to transition a new test to practice as viewed by scientists, watershed managers and policy-makers, and (2) multi-stakeholder attitudes and interests, and their intersections, towards metagenomics-guided risk assessment for water safety.

The work builds on the idea that up-front engagement by social scientists allows shared learning among stakeholders and collaborative development of decision processes to manage the direction of complex innovations. It also supports several recent reforms to water governance, which suggest greater participation of communities. These developments reflect a general shift in which a range of non-governmental actors play a more significant role than in the past.