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## **Harnessing Microbial Diversity for Sustainable Use of Forest Biomass Resources**

<b>Status</b>	Approved
<b>Competition</b>	2010 Large-Scale Applied Research Project Competition
<b>Sector</b>	Environment/Forestry
<b>Genome Centre</b>	Genome British Columbia
<b>Project Leaders</b>	Lindsay Eltis and William Mohn, University of British Columbia

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### **Project Description**

**Towards a new range of bioproducts from forest biomass.** The forestry products industry is one of Canada's largest contributors to GDP, however, its role has been diminished by increasing competition, consumer demands for higher quality products and stakeholder interest in improved forest management. A key part of remaining competitive involves better management of forest biomass - a rich source of biofuels, feedstocks and other lignin-based products such as resins and carbon fibres. Together, these could contribute more than \$1 billion to GDP. With funding from Genome Canada, scientists are exploring the microorganisms found in soil that naturally degrade biomass. Unlocking the potential of forest biomass will lead to better forest management practices and improve the economics of lignin-based products. To expedite the wider use of these innovations, an integrated GE3LS component is investigating key technological, commercial organizational, environmental and societal issues. To expedite the wider use of these innovations, an integrated GE3LS component is investigating key technological, commercial organizational, environmental and societal issues.