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FILS #68

[Dr Sally Aitken](#), Professor and Director - Forest Sciences Undergraduate Program and Centre for Forest Conservation Genetics, Department of Forest Sciences, University of British Columbia is the speaker for the 68th Forest Industry Lecture on **1 November 2012**. The lecture will take place at 3:00 pm in the Horowitz Theatre, University of Alberta.

["Can genetics help climate-proof our forests?"](#)

Abstract: Climate change is resulting in a profound mismatch between tree populations and the environments they inhabit. The current rate of climate change is likely too rapid for forests to remain healthy and productive through natural selection and adaptation. Most species also lack the ability to migrate quickly enough to track their optimal niches spatially. I will discuss how new population genomic approaches and traditional provenance trials are helping us understand past adaptation to temperature and moisture, and predict the roles of adaptation and plasticity in the future. I will also explore the risks and benefits of using genetic knowledge to guide assisted migration and reforestation strategies for future climates.