

**Bill Schroeder/Pierre Périnet**  
**Genetics Working Group Report**  
**2011 Annual Meeting**  
**Edmonton AB**

The Genetics working group met via conference call in 2011. The main activities of the working group have focused on development of terms of reference for a discussion paper on “A National Breeding Strategy and Action Plan for Native and Exotic Poplars and Aspens in Canada” with a tentative completion date for the 2012 annual meeting. The proposed discussion paper could include the following topics:

1. History of poplar/aspens collections in Canada
2. Status of current poplar and aspen collections
3. Major gaps in Canadian collections
4. Risks to exotic and native collections
5. Introgression between exotics and native populations/clones – what is the risk?
6. Challenges for long-term security of breeding programs
7. Ensuring accessibility of poplar and aspen as a Canadian resource
8. Role of genomics in poplar and aspen breeding programs
9. Recommendations to initiate, sustain and grow a National Breeding Strategy

The working group has developed a template for a series of bilingual fact sheets on poplar clones utilized in Canada. The fact sheets will contain information on breeding background, adaptation and resistance, morphological traits and recommendations.

Ongoing activities include development of recommendations for new poplar and willow collections and updates for poplar and willow clone database.