

# EXPLORING ANCIENT AND INDIGENOUS WORDVIEWS

*WENDY ELLYATT*

WORKING/DISCUSSION DOC – 2022/23



## NATURAL SYSTEMS DYNAMICS



One nature.

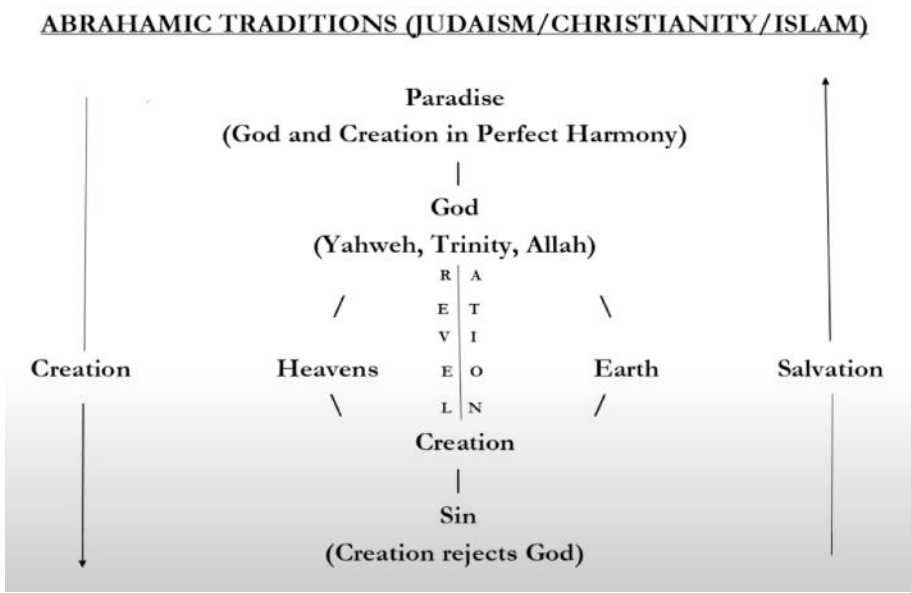
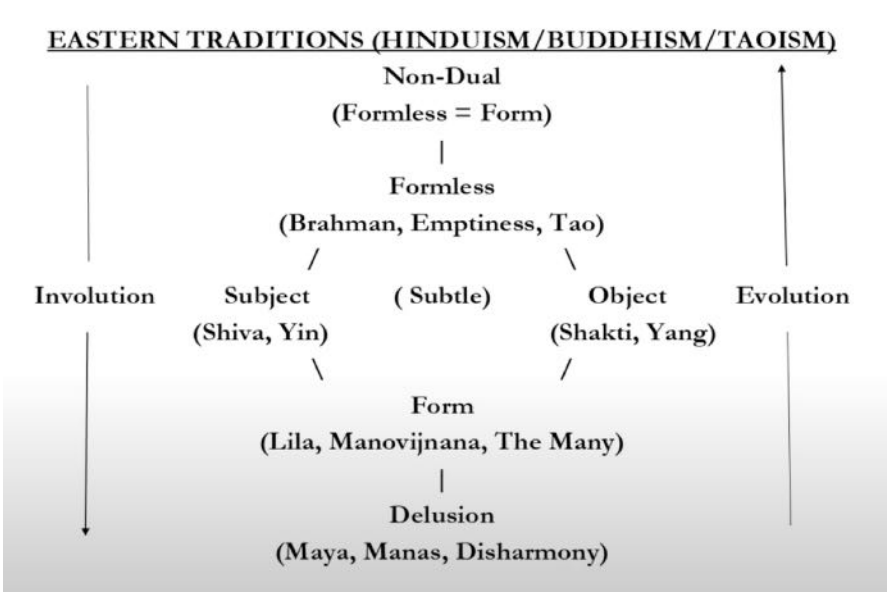
We are nature. All people, and all species.

We are interconnected with nature, and with each other. What we do to the planet and its living creatures, we do to ourselves.

David Suzuki Foundation

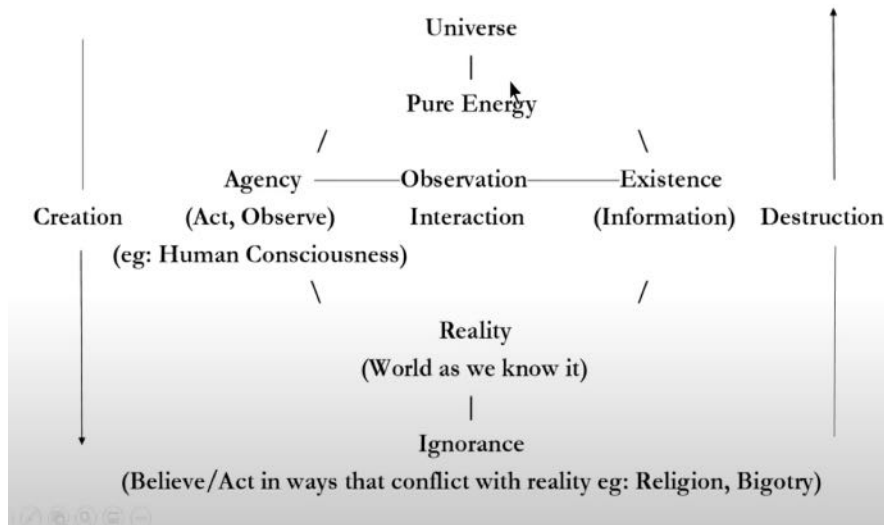


All human belief systems and worldviews stem from a particular relational context. We reflect the environments within which we live.




# Offering many interpretations of the same reality

## ATHEISM / SCIENTIFIC MATERIALISM



## DAVID BOHM





The worldviews and values of modern societies have been steadily influenced towards the extrinsic through growth-focused economic systems

- ▶ A focus on acquisition/the outer
- ▶ Materialism
- ▶ Having more
- ▶ Competition
- ▶ Inequality
- ▶ Constant growth
- ▶ People as a resource
- ▶ Nature as a resource
- ▶ Unsustainable futures



The current economic system  
is fundamentally flawed and  
**inevitably destructive.**

David Suzuki

quote fancy

Whereas the worldviews and values of Indigenous peoples remain more closely aligned with intrinsic worth and regenerative systems

- ▶ A focus on harmony/ the inner
- ▶ Gratitude
- ▶ Mutuality
- ▶ Reciprocity
- ▶ Circularity
- ▶ Thoughtfulness
- ▶ Respect of others
- ▶ Respect of nature
- ▶ Protection of Future Generations



They continue to acknowledge a symbiotic relationship between human beings and the natural world

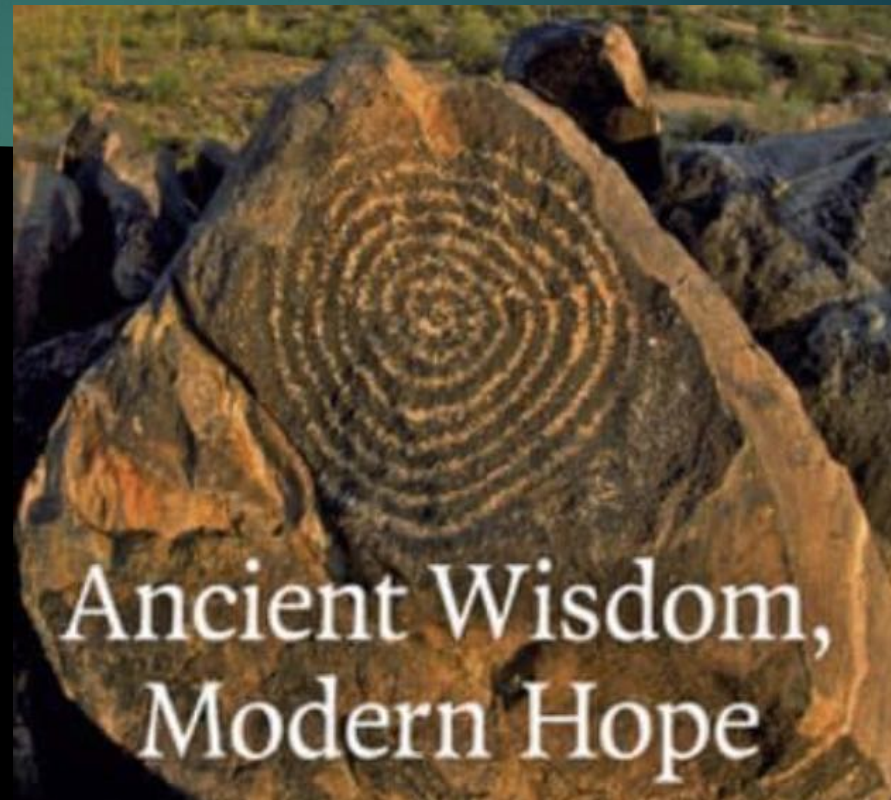


*(Inspired by the worldview series developed by Nish Dubashia)*

Wendy Ellyatt, 2022

# Ancient Wisdom

Many of the most ancient traditions in the world have shared an understanding about the relational nature of reality



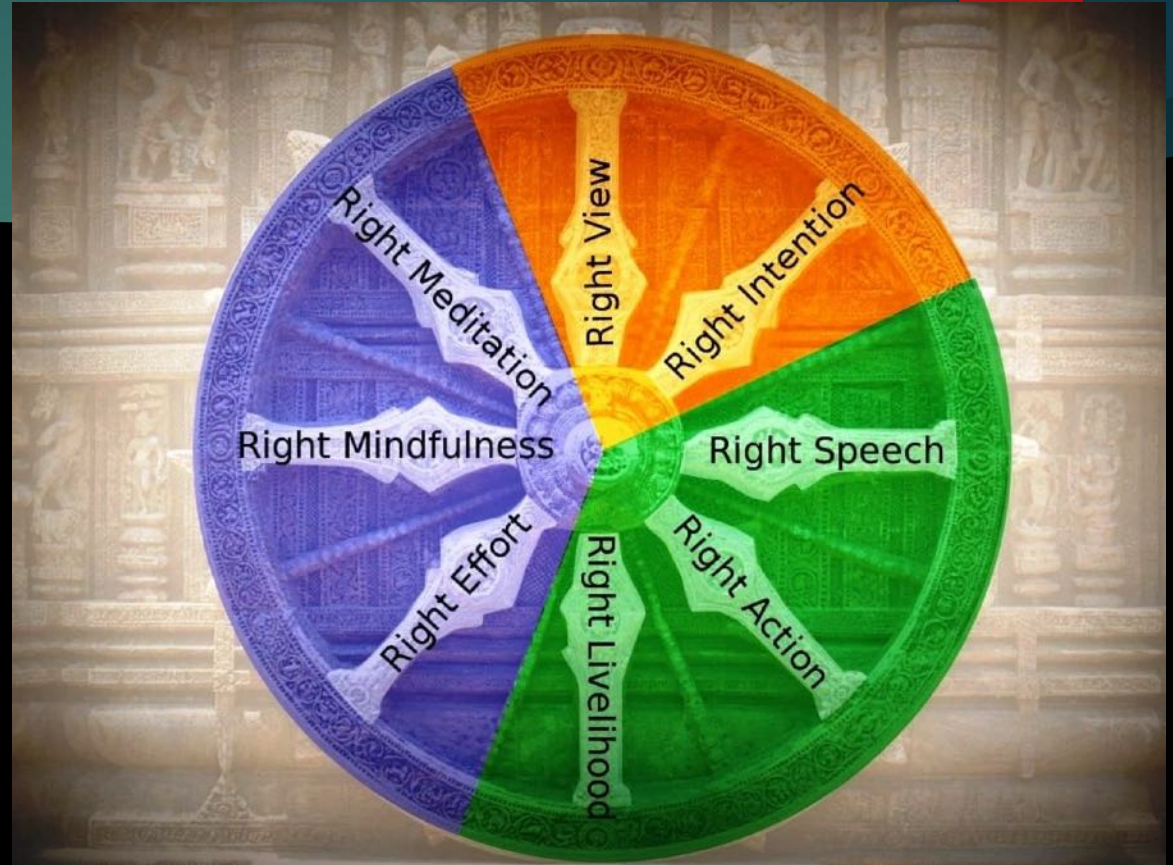




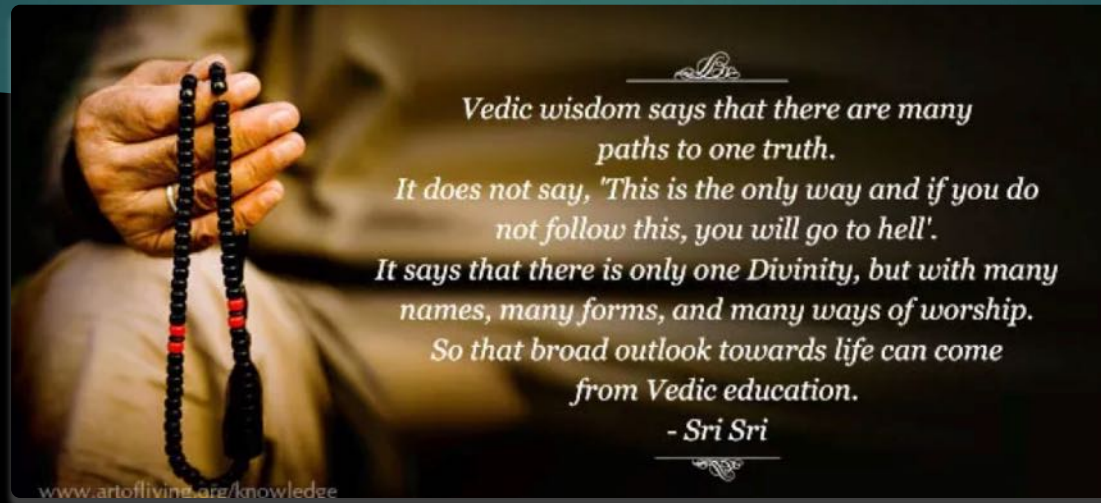
# I am not well unless we are well

- ▶ We exist within an immeasurable network of relationships
- ▶ Biologically, we are dynamic colonies rather than individuals
- ▶ The 'me' is really a 'we', which includes both human and non-human life
- ▶ Our every intention and choice impacts the whole
- ▶ We are co-creators of the futures that we want to see

# Buddhism Eightfold Path



*By Krisse (Own work) [CC BY-SA 3.0] via Wikimedia Commons (modified)*



# Vedic Wisdom



And many indigenous peoples are still maintaining these principles

## **Indigenous examples** (With more to follow)

At least a fifth of the world's land area is currently managed, used or occupied by indigenous peoples and local communities.

# World Indigenous Populations



World Bank, 2022

# Kogi People

- ▶ The need for a substantial epistemological and ontological shift in how the world is understood.
- ▶ Symbiotic dependencies that weave together to produce the world
- ▶ Life as a series of collaborative, cooperative relationships
- ▶ The mutual exchange necessary for living entities to prosper
- ▶ Reciprocity and harmony with nature
- ▶ Ritual and Ceremony
- ▶ Payments to Mother Earth for all that she gives



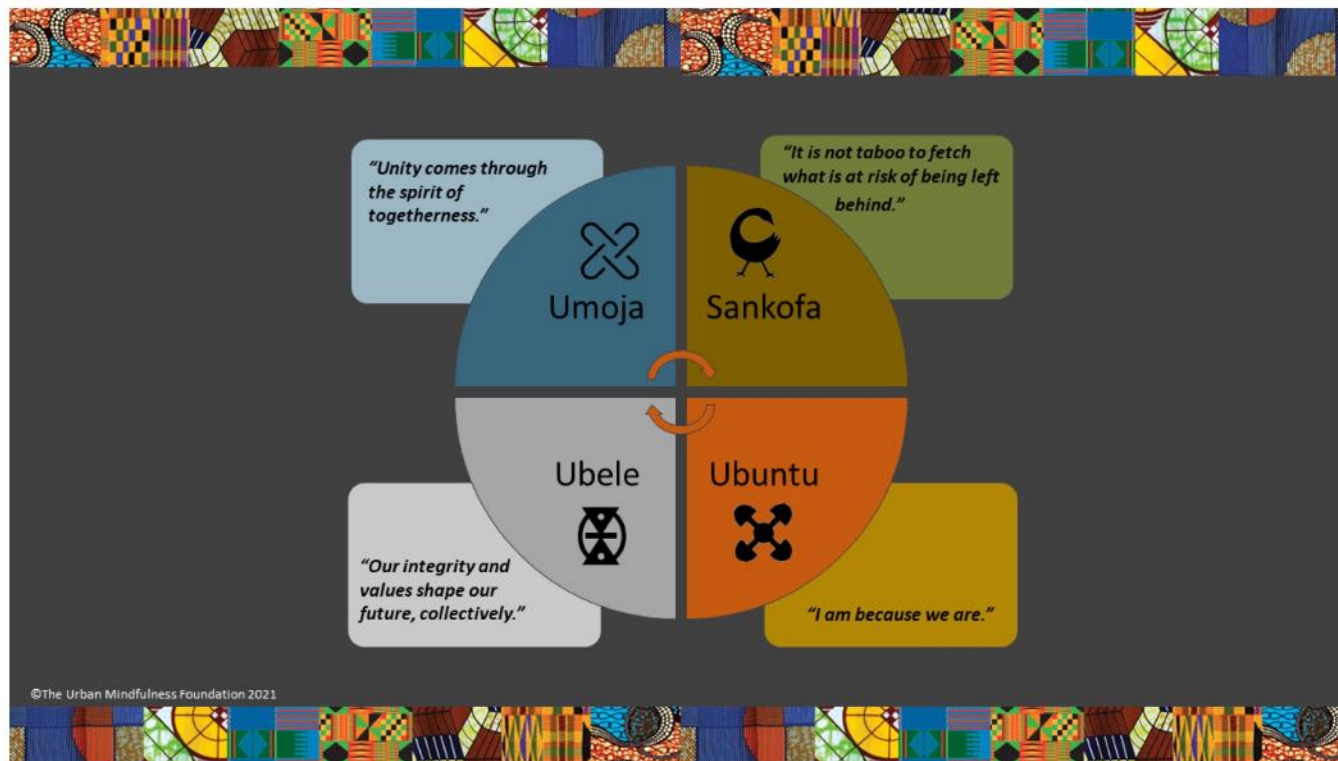


## 3. america

- ▶ being including of integral community systems, and must take account to recover balance and harmonization with Mother Earth
- ▶ When the Eagle Peoples meet with the Color Peoples, the summation process and the New Dawn will begin



# African philosophies of Sankofa, Ubuntu, Ubele and Umoja





# North American First Nations

The Sixteen Principles for building a sustainable, harmonious and prosperous world, emerged from a 50-year process of reflection, consultation and action within Indigenous communities across the Americas.

<https://fourworldsfoundation.org/our-principles>

## 16 INDIGENOUS GUIDING PRINCIPLES



STARTING FROM WITHIN  
WORKING IN A CIRCLE  
IN A SACRED MANNER  
WE HEAL AND DEVELOP OURSELVES, OUR RELATIONSHIPS AND  
OUR WORLD

## STARTING FROM WITHIN

- 1 In Unity, We Can Transform Our World**  
The web of our relationships with others and the natural world, which has given rise to the problems we face as a human family, can be changed.
- 2 Development Comes From Within**  
The process of human and community development unfolds from within each person, relationship, family organization, community or nation.
- 3 Vision Is Necessary For Development**  
A vision of who we can become and what a sustainable world would be like, works as a powerful magnet, drawing us to our potential.
- 4 Healing Is Necessary For Development**  
Healing the past, closing up old wounds and learning healthy habits of thought and action to replace dysfunctional thinking and disruptive patterns of human relations is a necessary part of the process of sustainable development.

## WORKING IN A CIRCLE

- 5 Interconnectedness**  
Everything is connected to everything else; therefore, any aspect of our healing and development is related to all the others (personal, social, cultural, political, economic, etc.). When we work on any one part, the whole circle is affected.
- 6 Unity Is Necessary For Development**  
Unity means Oneness. Without Unity, the common Oneness that makes (seemingly) separate human beings into 'community' is impossible. Disunity is the primary disease of the community.
- 7 Participation Is Necessary For Development**  
Participation is the active engagement of the minds, hearts, and energy of the people in the process of their own healing and development.
- 8 Justice**  
Every person (regardless of gender, orientation, race, age, culture, religion) must be accorded equal opportunity to participate in the process of healing and development and to receive a fair share of the benefits.

## IN A SACRED MANNER

### 9 Spirit

Human beings are both material and spiritual in nature. It is therefore inconceivable that the human community could become whole and sustainable without bringing our lives into balance with the requirements of our spiritual nature.

### 10 Morals And Ethics

Sustainable human and community development requires a moral foundation centered on the wisdom of the heart. When this foundation is lost, morals and ethical principles decline and development stop.

### 11 The Hurt Of One Is The Hurt Of All: The Honor Of One Is The Honor Of All

The basic fact of our oneness as a human family means that development for some at the expense of well being for others is not acceptable or sustainable.

### 12 Authentic Development Is Culturally Based

Healing and development must be rooted in the wisdom, knowledge and living processes of the culture of the people.

## WE HEAL AND DEVELOP OURSELVES, OUR RELATIONSHIPS AND OUR WORLD

### 13 Learning

Human beings are learning beings. We begin learning while we are still in our mother's wombs, and unless something happens to close off our minds and paralyze our capacities, we keep learning throughout our entire lives. Learning is at the core of healing and development.

### 14 Sustainability and Abundance

To sustain something means to enable it to continue for a long time. Authentic development does not use up or undermine what it needs to keep on going. To be able to inherently know and feel that every action and step we take in our physical and spiritual lives, allow for the abundant flow of the power of Nature, without any disharmony to our environment and to each other. As we harness the energy, for our usage, we co-create ways to give back more than we take; through intention, prayer, contemplation, and nurturing the seeds we sow.

### 15 Move To The Positive

Solving the critical problems in our lives and communities is best approached by visualizing and moving into the positive alternative that we wish to create, and by building on the strengths we already have, rather than giving away our energy, by fighting the negative.

### 16 Be The Change You Want To See

The most powerful strategies for change always involve positive role modeling and the creation of living examples of the solutions we are proposing. By walking the path, we make the path visible. Development must be rooted in the wisdom, knowledge and living processes of the culture of the people.

# Cree Nation

## Law of Healthy Relations



# Iroquois Focus on Future Generations

**"IN OUR EVERY DELIBERATION, WE MUST CONSIDER THE IMPACT OF OUR DECISIONS ON THE NEXT SEVEN GENERATIONS."**

<http://www.indigenouspeople.net/iroqcon.htm>

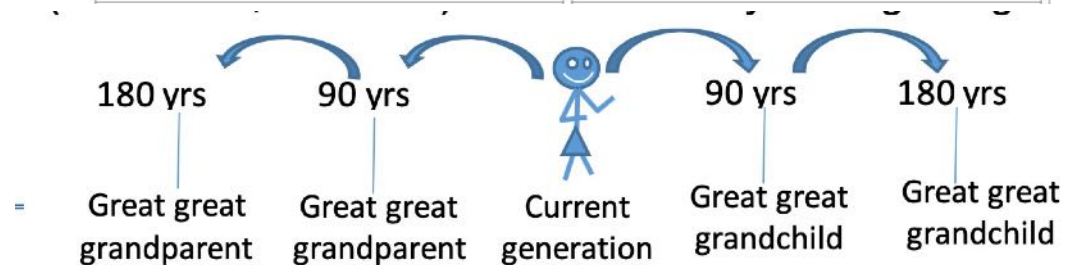
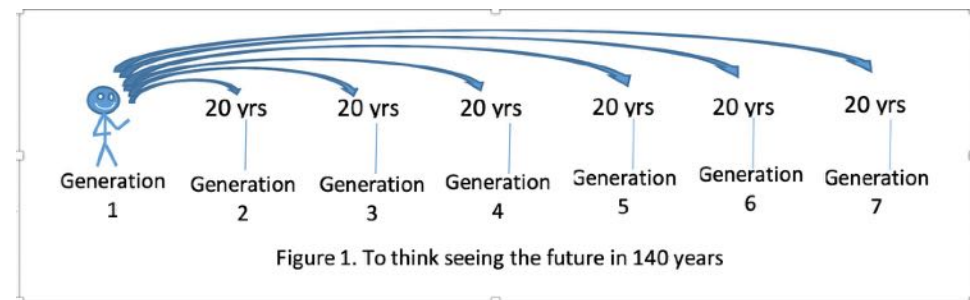
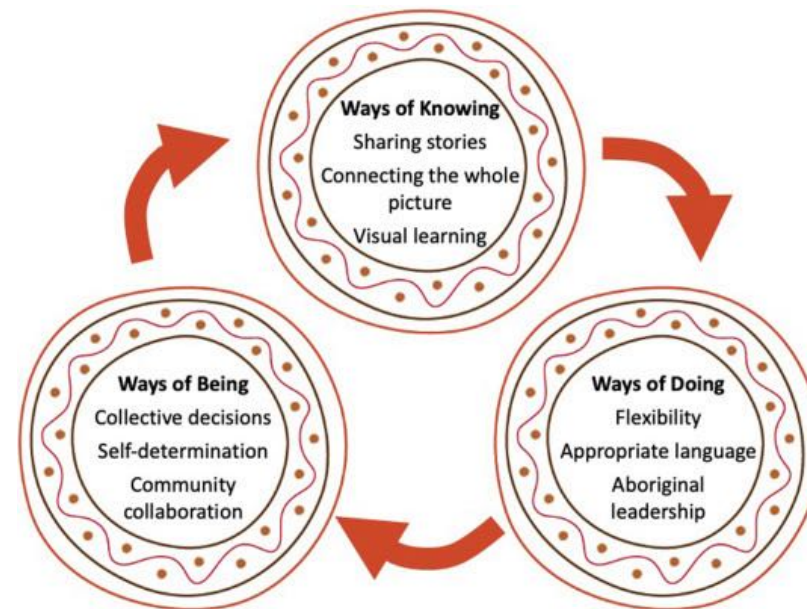
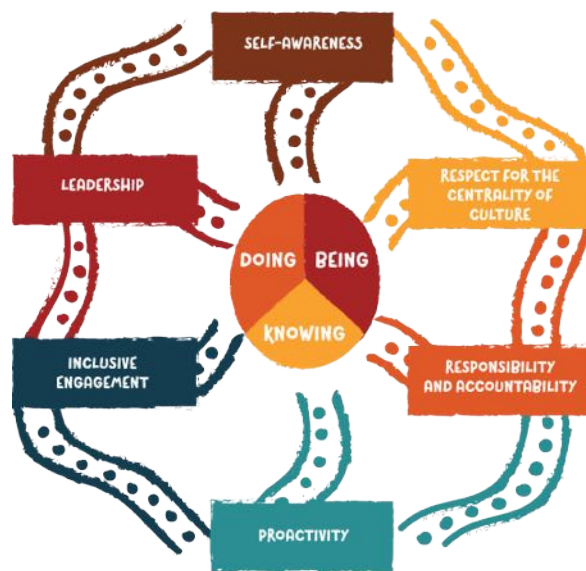


Figure 2. Understanding ourselves in a period of 360 yrs

# Australia: Aboriginal Values



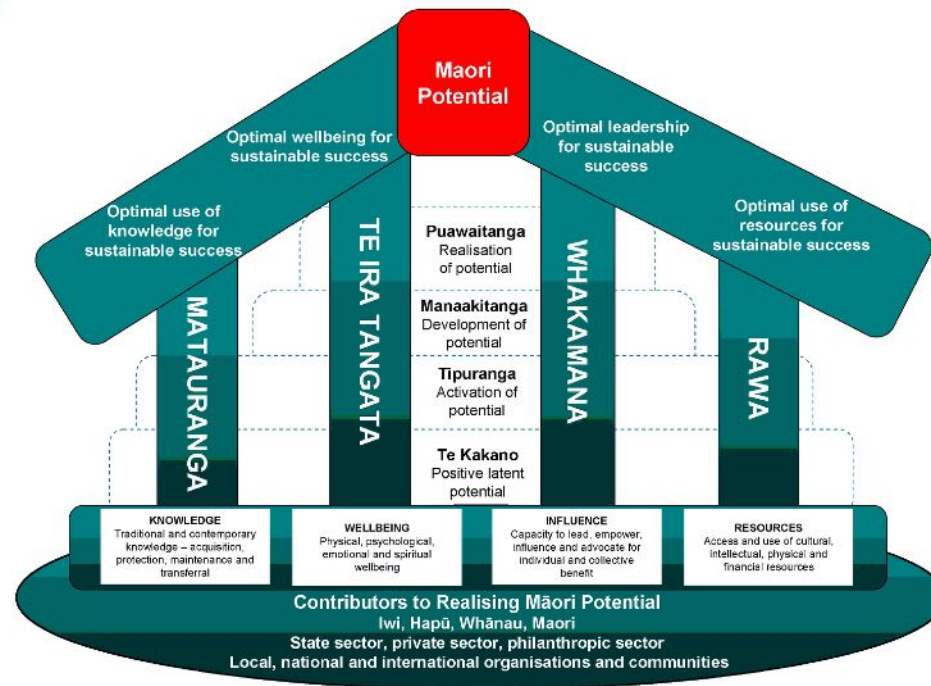
<https://iaha.com.au>

# New Zealand: Maori Values

Core Maori Values and Principles



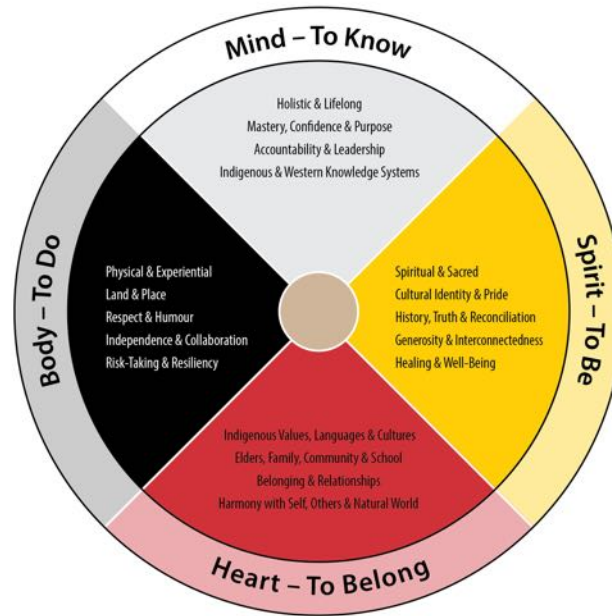
<https://www.nzedge.com>



# Canada



## Indigenous Education Holistic Lifelong Learning Framework

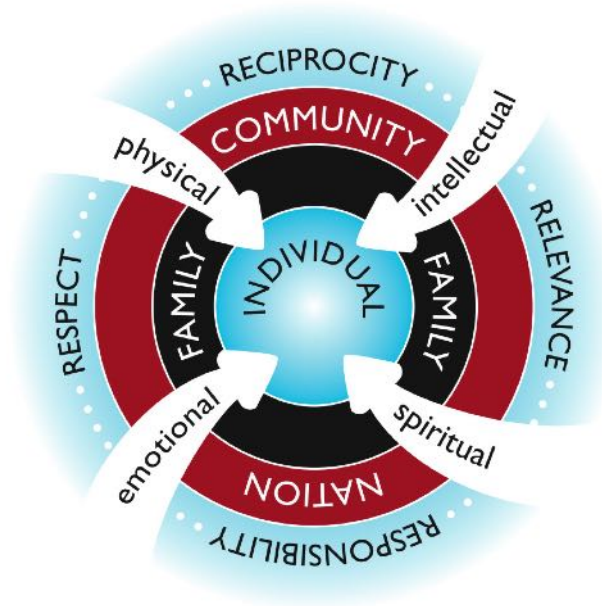


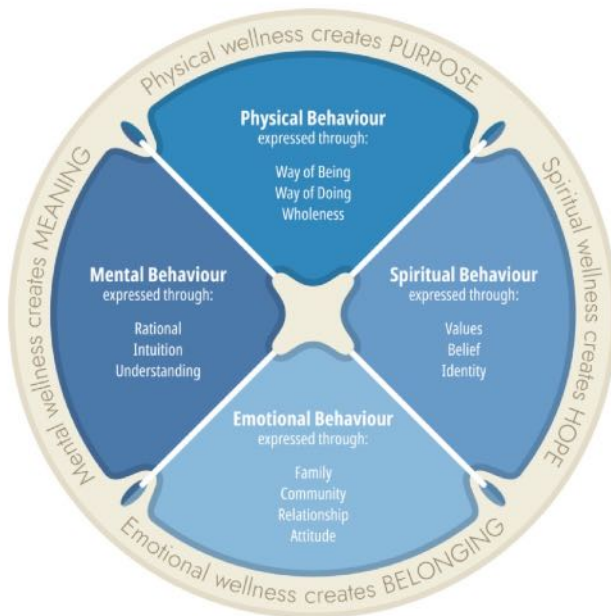
<https://cbe.ab.ca>



# Canada

[Mount Royal University](#) in  
Calgary, Alberta  
Aboriginal  
Science &  
Technology  
Education  
Program (ASTEP)





## Indigenous Wellness Framework

The IWF is a foundational framework that was developed by Elders and Knowledge Keepers who shared their understanding of what wellness is from an Indigenous point of view.

**Thunderbird Partnership Foundation**  
<https://thunderbirdpf.org/fnmwc/>

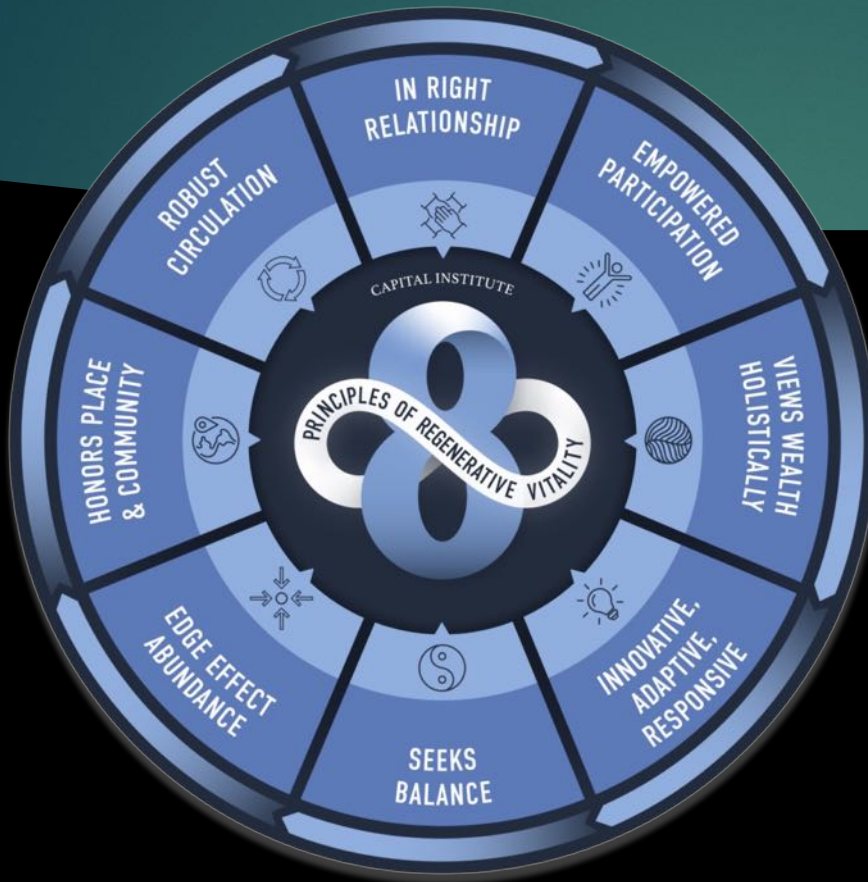




Contemporary Examples  
of organisations exploring  
this topic

# The Earth Charter (1987)

1. Respect Earth and life in all its diversity.
  1. Recognize that all beings are interdependent and every form of life has value regardless of its worth to human beings.
  2. Affirm faith in the inherent dignity of all human beings and in the intellectual, artistic, ethical, and spiritual potential of humanity.
2. Care for the community of life with understanding, compassion, and love.
  1. Accept that with the right to own, manage, and use natural resources comes the duty to prevent environmental harm and to protect the rights of people.
  2. Affirm that with increased freedom, knowledge, and power comes increased responsibility to promote the common good.
3. Build democratic societies that are just, participatory, sustainable, and peaceful.
  1. Ensure that communities at all levels guarantee human rights and fundamental freedoms and provide everyone an opportunity to realize his or her full potential.
  2. Promote social and economic justice, enabling all to achieve a secure and meaningful livelihood that is ecologically responsible.
4. Secure Earth's bounty and beauty for present and future generations.
  1. Recognize that the freedom of action of each generation is qualified by the needs of future generations.
  2. Transmit to future generations values, traditions, and institutions that support the long-term flourishing of Earth's human and ecological communities.



# Capital Institute's Eight Principles

The human economy is a living system (albeit an unhealthy one today).

There are universal patterns and principles – “first principles” – we can define that broadly describe the qualities and tendencies of how life works.

If the human economy is to be sustainable over the long run, it must harness the regenerative process by aligning with these same “first principles” of living systems.

<https://capitalinstitute.org>

# Empowerment Institute's 7 Actions to Create Peace on Earth (1986)

## ACTION 1

A Critical Mass of Dream Keepers  
Share the Story With Your Network and Invite Them to Do the Same

## ACTION 2

And a Child Shall Lead the Way  
Pass the Torch of Peace to the Next Generation

## ACTION 3

Vive la Difference  
Befriend the Other

## ACTION 4

The Unitive Impulse  
Celebrate Our Shared Humanity

## ACTION 5

For the Common Good  
Shed Light on Acts of Cooperation

## ACTION 6

Blessed Are the Peace Makers  
Support Those Creating Peace on Earth

## ACTION 7

The World Heart  
Pray for and Become Peace on Earth

**Source and Elaboration:** [www.empowermentinstitute.net/peace-on-earth/277-7-actions-to-create-peace-on-earth](http://www.empowermentinstitute.net/peace-on-earth/277-7-actions-to-create-peace-on-earth)

# The Evolutionary Leaders Circle CALL TO CONSCIOUS EVOLUTION Our Moment of Choice I2010I

We recognize that the inner and outer aspects of life evolve together. A dramatic awakening in consciousness will involve an equally dramatic shift in outward aspects of our lives. In particular, we see the following as vital opportunities for our conscious evolution, both personally and collectively:

***Cultivating a Paradigm of Aliveness:*** We regard the universe as deeply alive and conscious by nature. In a living universe, our sense of subtle connection and participation with life around us is the basis for a compassionate and cooperative approach to living.

***Educating for an Evolving Consciousness:*** Awakening consciousness is the foundation for all the change we seek to see in the world. We can work to elevate our capacity for conscious reflection and creative action in our personal lives as well as our collective lives as communities. We must support research and educational strategies that optimize human capacities and explore the nature of consciousness.

***Restoring Ecological Balance:*** The balance of planetary ecosystems is fundamental to our survival. We must reverse the pollution of our global commons—the water, air and soil that nourish all life. We must encourage the proliferation of clean, renewable energy sources and expend all necessary resources toward mitigating the effects of climate change.

***Encouraging Conscious Media:*** We must find innovative ways to use the new electronic media as the mirror of our positive evolutionary story, investing in their capacity to reach across differences of generation, culture, religion, wealth, and gender to build a working consensus about our collective future.

***Engaging in Social and Political Transformation:*** More sustainable ways of living will require the support of a more conscious democracy and vibrant civil society from which more enlightened leaders will emerge. All individuals should be encouraged to use their gifts to create participatory, responsible and compassionate models of governance.

***Working for Integrity in Commerce:*** Conscious businesses that are aware of the scope, depth, and long-range impacts of their actions are key to achieving sustainability. Business must become an ethical steward of the Earth's ecology and consciously establish an economic basis for a future of equitably shared abundance.

***Promoting Health and Healing:*** The science of mind-body-spirit health has demonstrated the profound connection between the health of a whole person and the health of the system in which he or she lives. Whole systems healing, respecting both traditional knowledge and modern sciences, must be supported in physical, social, and spiritual domains.

***Building Global Community:*** The new story is about all of us who share this planet. Together, we can create a culture of peace that eliminates the need for armed conflict, respecting and appreciating the glorious diversity of our human family.

**Sources and Elaboration:** [www.evolutionaryleaders.net/acalltoconsciousevolution/the-call](http://www.evolutionaryleaders.net/acalltoconsciousevolution/the-call); [www.evolutionaryleaders.net/acalltoconsciousevolution/call-to-conscious-evolution](http://www.evolutionaryleaders.net/acalltoconsciousevolution/call-to-conscious-evolution); [www.evolutionaryleaders.net/acalltoconsciousevolution/context-for-conscious-evolution](http://www.evolutionaryleaders.net/acalltoconsciousevolution/context-for-conscious-evolution); [www.evolutionaryleaders.net/evolutionary-leaders](http://www.evolutionaryleaders.net/evolutionary-leaders)



# The Nine Points of Agreement Among the World's Religions (1984–2007)

1. The world religions bear witness to the experience of Ultimate Reality to which they give various names: Brahma, Allah, (the) Absolute, God, Great Spirit.
2. Ultimate Reality cannot be limited by any name or concept.
3. Ultimate Reality is the ground of infinite potentiality and actualization.
4. Faith is opening, accepting, and responding to Ultimate Reality. Faith in this sense precedes every belief system.
5. The potential for human wholeness—or in other frames of reference, enlightenment, salvation, transformation, blessedness, nirvana—is present in every human.
6. Ultimate Reality may be experienced not only through religious practices but also through nature, art, human relationships, and service to others.
7. As long as the human condition is experienced as separate from Ultimate Reality, it remains subject to ignorance, illusion, weakness, and suffering.
8. Disciplined practice is essential to the spiritual life; yet spiritual attainment isn't the result of one's own efforts, but the result of the experience of oneness (unity) with Ultimate Reality.
9. Prayer is communion with Ultimate Reality, whether it's regarded as personal, impersonal (transpersonal), or beyond both.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Using the most current wording, from Kurt Johnson and Robert David Ord. 2013. *The Coming Interspiritual Age*. Vancouver, BC: Namaste Publishing.

**Source and Elaboration:** The multi-decade Snowmass Inter-religious Initiative of Fr. Thomas Keating and others, as published in: Miles-Yepe, Netanel [Ed.]. 2006. *The Common Heart: An Experience of Interreligious Dialogue*. Brooklyn NY: Lantern Books; and at [catholicnetwork.us/2019/02/17/points-of-agreement-among-worlds-religions-and-guiding-our-spiritual-traditions-through-higher-levels-of-ethical-and-moral-behavior](http://catholicnetwork.us/2019/02/17/points-of-agreement-among-worlds-religions-and-guiding-our-spiritual-traditions-through-higher-levels-of-ethical-and-moral-behavior); [www.interspirituality.com/the-emerging-interspiritual-age](http://www.interspirituality.com/the-emerging-interspiritual-age); among many other sites online.

## Barbara Marx Hubbard's Wheel of Co-Creation (1998–2012)

### The 7 S's of Co-creation by Barbara Marx Hubbard

1. **Syntony:** attunement with the patterns of creation experienced as one's own inner motivation and intuition.
2. **Synergy:** the coming together of separate parts to form a new whole different from, greater than and unpredictable from the sum of its parts.
3. **Synchronicity:** the apparent a-causal relationship among events; coincidences that could not be planned by human mind but that appear to flow from a larger and more comprehensive design.
4. **Suprasex:** the passion to express unique creativity, stimulated by vocational arousal, comparable to sexuality at the next level; instead of joining genes to procreate, we join genius to co-create – to give birth to our greater Self and to our work in the world.
5. **Syntropy:** nature's tendency to form whole systems of greater complexity, consciousness and freedom; evolution's tendency to optimize.
6. **Spontaneity:** the experience of unpremeditated action and thought that flows naturally without thinking or planning; action that is **on the mark**, which facilitates and coordinates life.
7. **Self-creativity:** the tendency in nature to organize itself; autopoiesis; the inherent capacity in nature to self-organize without apparent outside manipulation, springing from the field of Universal Intelligence out of which everything is arising.



Barbara Marx Hubbard's Wheel of Co-Creation as adapted by The Oracle Institute and the Building the New World Conference.

# FOUR WINDS SOCIETY

## The way of the HERO

Find your reference point internally; let it no longer be your ego but your divinity.

Approach people and situations with love.

**Nonjudgement**  
Transcend your limiting beliefs. Let go of your opinions about right and wrong, good and bad

**Beauty**  
Perceive loveliness even when there is ugliness; find the gift from Spirit. Bring beauty to every moment by sincerely smiling; beauty will seek and find you.

**Nondog**  
Immerse yourself in the flow of the universe. Let it be.

**Nonengagement**  
Do not take part in battles. Give up the need to be "right". Always believe the best of other people's words, intentions and actions.

**Nonsuffering**  
Do not write stories about your pain. Differentiate between suffering and pain and give up suffering

## The way of the LUMINOUS WARRIOR

Remain in the moment and enjoy life as an adventurous ride.

**Nonattachment**  
Let go of the labels you stuck onto yourself.

**Fearlessness**  
Actively practice non-violence in speech and action, because violence is rooted in fear.

**Certainty**  
Have an unwavering commitment to the path you have chosen. Let go of your worries and doubts Fulfill your dreams Have no other option but success.

**The way of the SEER**

Enter the stillness of your soul.

**Beginner's Mind**

Let go of all preconceived notions.  
Become childlike.  
Give up all expectations.

**Living Consequently**

Recognize the impact of each thought, intention and action.  
Be in perfect harmony with creation.

**Transparency**

Stop hiding parts of you from others.  
It is ok if those around do not embrace your many facets.

Be who you are  
and say who you are.

**Integrity**

Be true to your word and recognize its power to create reality.  
What you repeat to yourself and the universe will manifest.

**The way of the SAGE**

Become one with spirit.

**Mastering Time**

Time is non-linear, we operate in sacred time.  
Trust synchronicity, the universe conspires on your behalf.

**Owning your Projections**

Own the parts of yourself that make you feel uncomfortable and no longer hold anyone else responsible for your pain or happiness.

**No-mind**

Break free of your "monkey-mind" and get in touch with the Sage within, Spirit, God.  
Create a white canvas and dream onto it a world of beauty and grace.

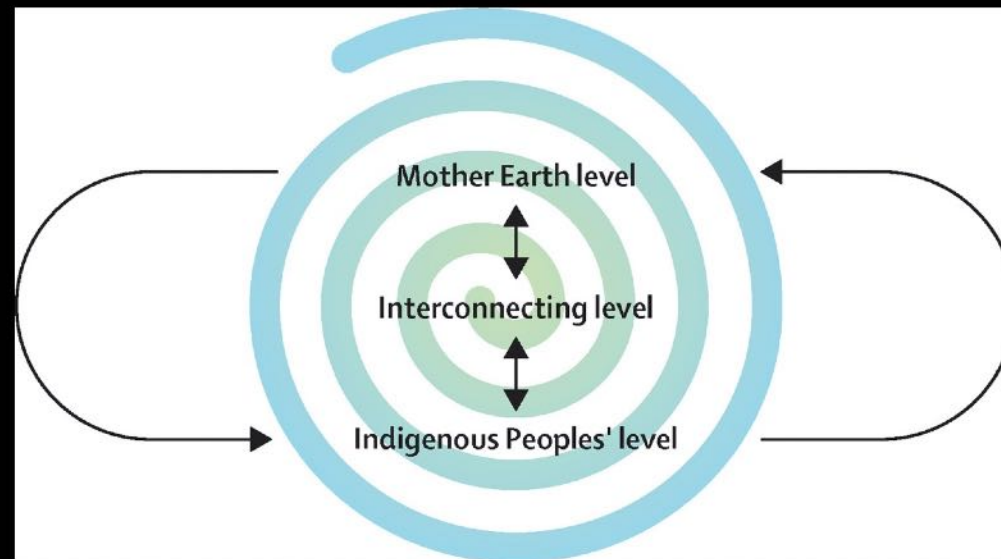
**Indigenous Alchemy**

Embark on a sacred journey and see only opportunities.  
You are Spirit.  
Step into your destiny.



**Figure 1.** Nested levels of knowledge and applications that surround healthy communities and ecosystems (adapted from [8]).

Indigenous Natural and First Law in Planetary Health (2020) Challenges Journal, Vol 11, No 29  
Nicole Redvers, Anne Poelina, Clinton Schultz, Daniel M. Kobei, Cicilia Githaiga, Marlikka Perdisat,  
Donald Prince and Be'sha Blondin  
<https://www.mdpi.com/2078-1547/11/2/29>

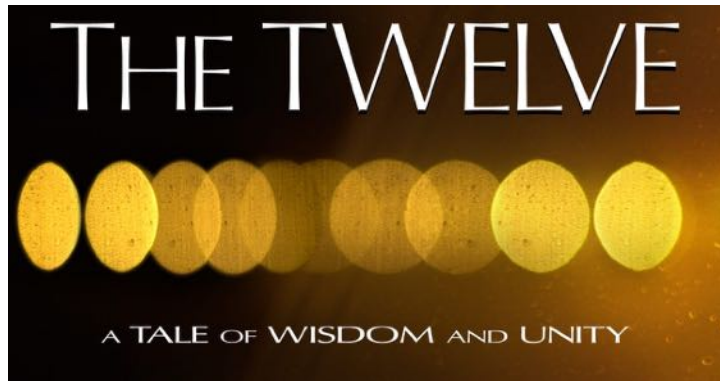


*The Lancet Planetary Health* 2022. 6e156-e163DOI: (10.1016/S2542-5196(21)00354-5)

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# Le Ciel Foundation



<https://leciel.foundation.com>

## THE 13 WORKSHOPS OF THE HOLISTIC VISIONS SYMPOSIUM

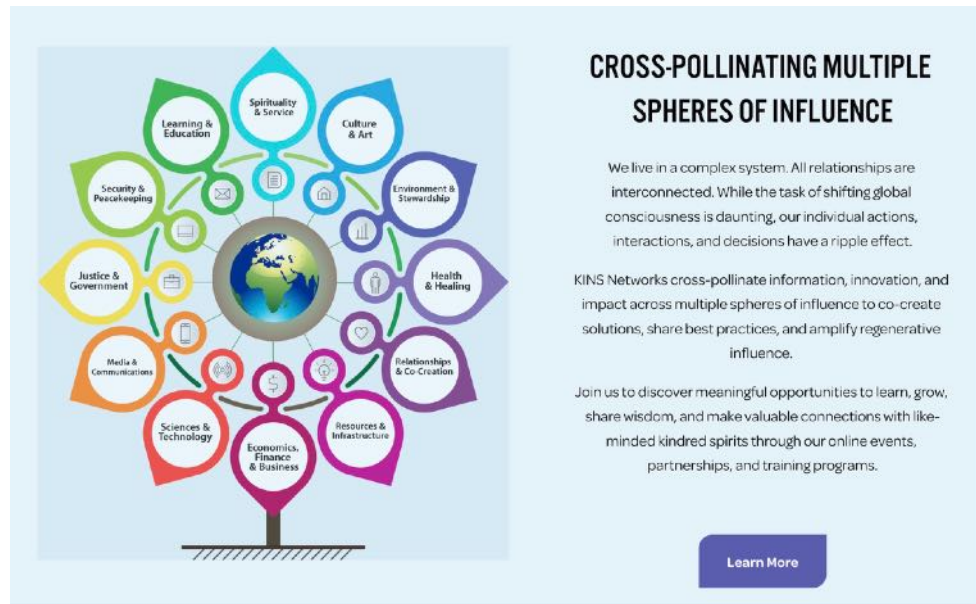


# Kinship Earth

## KINS Method Operating Principles

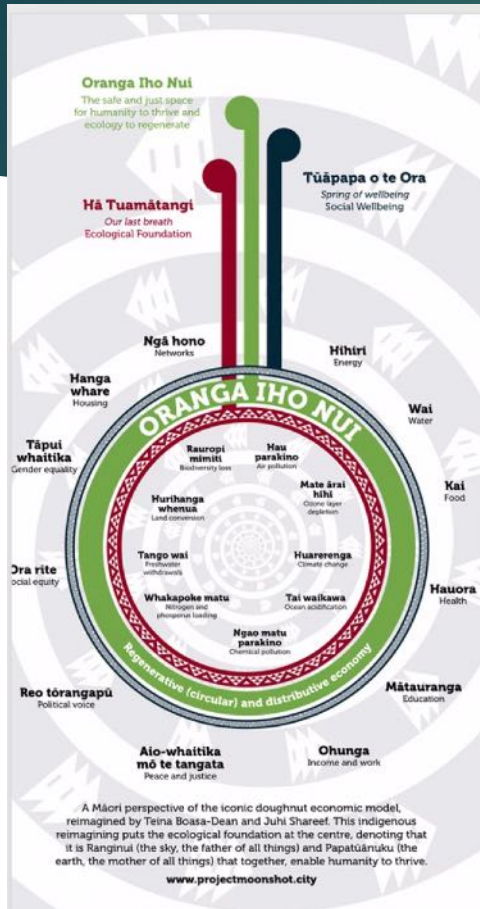
1. Our strategy is generosity and our intention is wonder.
2. We create agreements that are good for all stakeholders, especially Earth. We seek to create win/win/win situations - good for the individual, good for the community, and good for the planet.
3. Everyone does what we love to do and do well freely... and little else.
4. We sit at the table of unknowing and invite the Universe to co-create with us for the highest good for all concerned.
5. When we get upset, we go within to ask what within us is asking to be healed, and later we bring the story of that healing back to the group to enrich the field.
6. Everyone gets equal time to speak and we return each other's calls and emails promptly.
7. All information is available to all members all the time. We honor and encourage transparency in our communications. Honesty, integrity and respect are of the highest value.

Imagine what our world could look like when all groups of people agree to apply these principles. In the following section, we will explore each of these principles in more detail.



<https://kinshipearth.org>





## Te Reo Māori doughnut

The ego or the “I” is born of the division of our consciousness with self-consciousness, and it thrives in division and alienation. Thus, the nature of the ego is such that it is relentless in its denial of reality – this being the continuous, universal transformation, the cosmic flux we are all part of.

Without compassion, the ego can easily have us be our own worst enemy, no matter how wise our individual psyche, no matter how civil our society, no matter how profound our religion.

It is the compassionate element of our being that allows us to embrace our perceived errors and limitations, so we are able to learn from them, enjoy greater truth and be more in harmony with the universal ways.

<https://truehope.info/wordpress/te-reo-maori-doughnut/>



# The Fountain

For the natural order of our existence  
Sacred Territories | Sacred Cultures | Sacred Economics

## The Mother Earth Delegation of United Original Nations

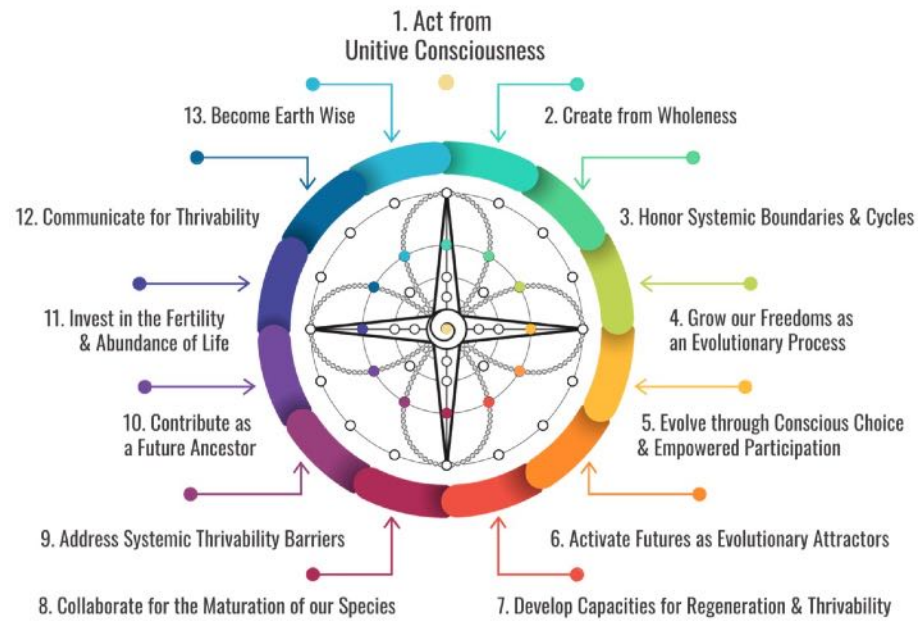


### The Mother Earth Delegation of United Original Nations



<https://thefountain.earth>

## OUR LIVING SYSTEMS PROTOCOLS



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[www.earthwisecentre.org/constitution](http://www.earthwisecentre.org/constitution)

FIRST  
PEOPLES

# PRINCIPLES OF LEARNING

Learning ultimately supports the well-being of the self, the family, the community, the land, the spirits, and the ancestors.

Learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential, and relational (focused on connectedness, on reciprocal relationships, and a sense of place).

Learning involves recognizing the consequences of one's actions.

Learning involves generational roles and responsibilities.

Learning recognizes the role of indigenous knowledge.

Learning is embedded in memory, history, and story.

Learning involves patience and time.

Learning requires exploration of one's identity.

Learning involves recognizing that some knowledge is sacred and only shared with permission and/or in certain situations.



For First Peoples  
classroom resources  
visit: [www.fnesc.ca](http://www.fnesc.ca)

fnesc



# Coast Funds, British Columbia

Coast Funds was created in 2007 out of mutual recognition by conservationists, First Nations, industry, and government that a sustainable economy is vital to conservation efforts in the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii areas of British Columbia.

<https://coastfunds.ca>




# Coast Funds

Photos courtesy of Pawanka Fund




**“We have more accountability than mainstream philanthropy because we are beholden to our ancestors, communities and future generations.”**

**- Koondée Woonga-gat Toor-rong**




Regenerative practitioners do not think about what they are designing as an end product. They think about it as the beginning of a process.

**REGENERATIVE DEVELOPMENT & DESIGN**  
A Framework for Evolving Sustainability



Co-evolution among humans and natural systems can only be undertaken in specific places, using approaches that are precisely fitted to them.

**REGENERATIVE DEVELOPMENT & DESIGN**  
A Framework for Evolving Sustainability



The sustainability of a living system is tied directly to its beneficial integration into a larger system. The smaller system contributes to the larger system's development and, in turn, receives nourishment for its own.

**REGENERATIVE DEVELOPMENT & DESIGN**  
A Framework for Evolving Sustainability



Regenerative development is grounded in a belief that we cannot make the outer transformations we envision for the world without making inner transformations in how we think and who we are able to be.

**REGENERATIVE DEVELOPMENT & DESIGN**  
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<https://regenesishgroup.com>



And more to come...

exploring core examples and principles,  
synergies and collaborative possibilities

*Wendy Ellyatt*

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