

**THE REUNION OF  
THE CONDOR AND THE EAGLE  
WITH THE BOA AND JAGUAR**

*ABOUT THIS INITIATIVE*

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## ABOUT THIS INITIATIVE

The Reunion of the Condor and Eagle initiative combines not-for-profit development work with for-profit business and investment ventures. The core concept is that these two branches of the initiative must work together like the wings of a condor or eagle; each part is necessary and makes a vital contribution to the progress of the bird in flight. These two branches of the work will be carried out jointly by the Four Worlds International Institute for Human and Community Development (our non-profit arm) and Four Directions International (our for-profit arm), along with other and other interested partners in Canada and the Americas who chose to be part of the agreement. Our intention is to promote sustainable human prosperity and well-being for Indigenous people. Widespread research has shown that building up people's health, human capacity and social capital (trust, cohesion, cooperation) also greatly enhances that people's general capacity for sustaining profit-making ventures. Conversely, a significant portion of the wisely and fairly distributed returns on successful business ventures need to be re-invested in human and community development initiatives if Indigenous communities across the Americas are to emerge from the cycle of deprivation and dependency that has affected them for so long.

The core strategy of our initiative is sustained at the centre of the Reunion of the Condor and Eagle initiative, by the vision, values and guidelines for action described in our sixteen (16) principles for building a sustainable world, and on the strong cultural foundation of the Indigenous communities with which we work. These principles emerged out of an intensive formal consultation and participatory research development process with hundreds of Indigenous elders, communities and development practitioners across Canada and internationally over the past sixteen years.



## THE FOUR WORLDS PRINCIPLES FOR BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE WORLD COMMUNITY

These sixteen principles for building a sustainable world community emerged from a twelve year process of reflection, consultation and action within tribal communities across North America. They are rooted in the concerns of hundreds of aboriginal elders and leaders of thought, as well as in the best thinking of many non-aboriginal scholars, researchers and human and community development practitioners.

These principles constitute the software for the process of healing and developing ourselves (mental, emotional, physical, spiritual), our human relationships (personal; social, political, economic, cultural) and our relationship with the earth. They describe the way we must work and what we must protect and cherish.

We offer these principles as a gift to all who seek to build a sustainable world community.

### PREAMBLE

We speak as one, guided by the sacred teachings and spiritual traditions of the Four Directions that uplift, guide, protect, warn, inspire and challenge the entire human family to live in ways that sustain and enhance human life and the life of all who dwell on Mother Earth, and hereby dedicate our lives and energies to healing and developing ourselves, the web of relationships that make our world, and the way we live with Mother Earth.

### THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

*Starting from within, working in a circle, in a sacred manner,  
we heal ourselves, our relationships and our world.*

### STARTING FROM WITHIN

#### **Development Comes From Within**

The process of healing and development unfolds from within each person, relationship, family, community or nation.

#### **Vision**

A vision of who we can become is like a magnet drawing us to our potential. Where there is no vision, there can be no development.

#### **Culturally Based**

Healing and development must be rooted in the wisdom, knowledge and living processes of our cultures.

**Interconnectedness**

Because everything is connected to everything else, any aspect of our healing and development is related to all the others (personal, social, cultural, political, economic, etc.). When we work on any part, the whole circle is affected.

**WORKING IN A CIRCLE****Growth And Healing For The Individual, The Family And The Community Must Go Hand In Hand**

Working at one level without attending to the other is not enough. Personal and social development as well as top-down and bottom-up approaches must be balanced.

**Unity**

We need the love, support and caring of others to heal and develop ourselves. Unity is the starting point for development, and as development unfolds, unity deepens.

**Participation**

People have to be actively engaged in the process of their own healing and development. Without participation, there can be no development.

**Justice**

Every person must be treated with respect as a human being and a child of the Creator, regardless of gender, race, culture, religion or any other reason. Everyone should be accorded the opportunity to fully participate in the processes of healing and development, and to receive a share of the benefits.

**IN A SACRED MANNER****Spirituality**

Spirituality is at the center of healing and development. Connection with the Creator brings life, unity, love and purpose to the process, and is expressed through a heart-centered approach to all that we do.

**Harmonizing With Natural Law**

Growth is a process of uncovering who we truly are as human beings in harmony with the natural laws of the Universe.

**Walking In Balance**

Codes of morality, ethics and protocol teach us how to walk the road of life in a good way. Violating moral and ethical boundaries destroy the process of healing and development.

**Working From Principle**

Our plans and actions are founded on our deepest understanding of the principles that describe how the universe is ordered and how healing and development unfold.

**WE HEAL AND DEVELOP OURSELVES,  
OUR RELATIONSHIPS AND OUR WORLD****Learning**

Learning to live in ways that promote life and health is the essence of our development. Our primary strategy is therefore the promotion of this type of learning.

**Sustainability**

When we take actions to improve our lives or the lives of others, it is critical to avoid undermining the natural systems upon which all life depends and to work in ways that enhance the capacity of people to continue in the path of their own healing and development.

**Move To The Positive**

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

**Be The Change You Want To See**

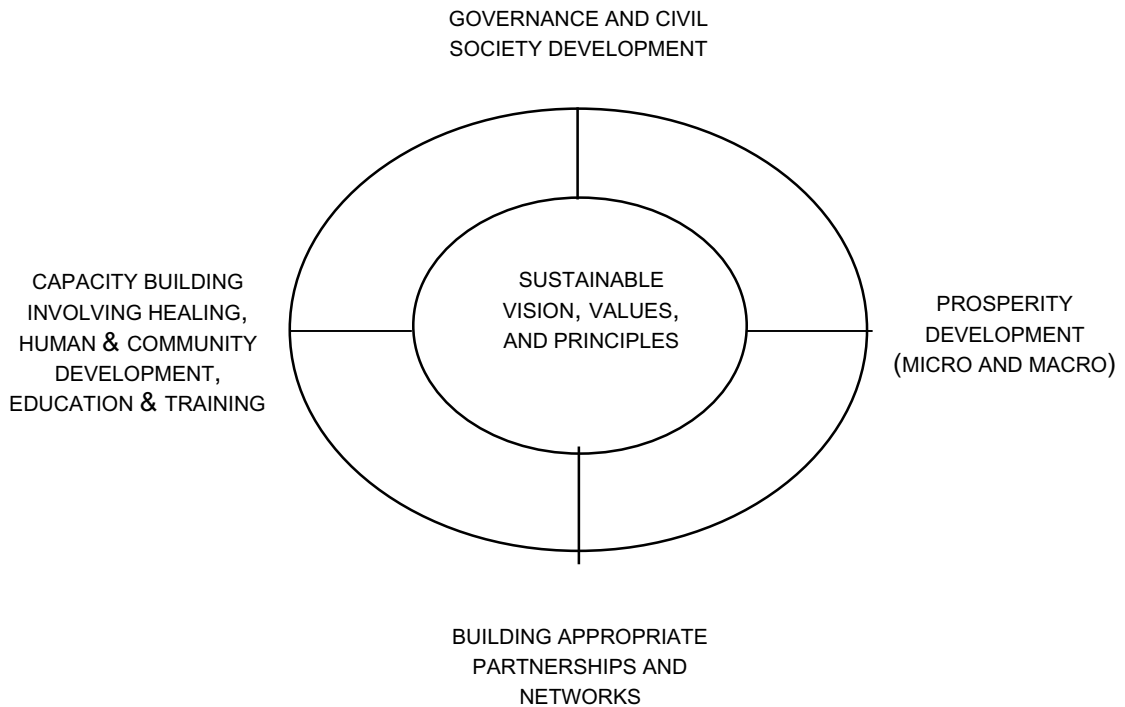
In all of our actions, we seek to be living examples of the changes we wish to see in the world. By walking the path, we make the path visible.

**LINES OF ACTION**

Based on this consultation and development process, there are four key lines of action that we believe must be woven together to create a sustainable development strategy for the Indigenous peoples of the Americas.

- 1) Prosperity Development
- 2) Capacity Building
- 3) Governance and Civil Society Development
- 4) Building appropriate partnerships and networks

This four-part strategy can be displayed using a medicine wheel as follows.

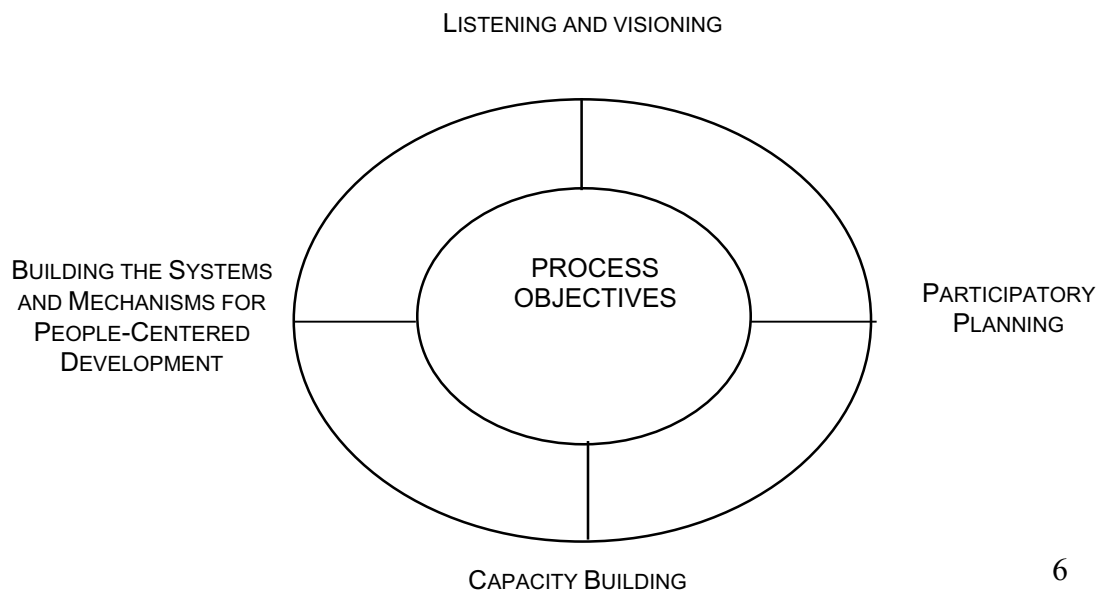


- 1) **Prosperity Development** Involves both micro-economic projects (including access to credit, capacity building and technical support, particularly related to small business developments) and medium to larger enterprises (requiring investment monies, capacity building of Indigenous business organizations and technical assistance, particularly related to product development, legal and financial support and marketing).
- 2) **Capacity Building** Relating to basic processes of human and community development; healing from trauma (when required); and, both formal and non-formal education and training initially tied to learning requirements for development and business projects on the immediate horizon.
- 3) **Governance and Civil Society Development** This sector entails building the capacity of local community and regional organizations and groups to contribute constructively to the common good. As well, it involves developing the capacity of Indigenous organization and Indigenous leadership to work effectively with their own communities and with the wider world.
- 4) **Building Appropriate Partnerships and Networks** This work includes connecting Indigenous organizations and communities with viable partners (both from across the Indigenous world and from the wider society); partners that bring a value-added contribution to Indigenous development and business initiatives. It also involves strengthening and mutually reinforcing Indigenous networks, so that the collective strengths of Indigenous people across the Americas can be brought to bear on specific international, national, regional and local development initiatives.

What we have just discussed describes the outcome objectives of our strategy, which tells us **what** we want to achieve. What follows describes the processes, i.e. **how** we plan to work to achieve these outcomes.

## PROCESS OBJECTIVES

The process we have already begun involves four (4) phases:



***I. Listening and Visioning*** - This phase involves relationship building, recovering cultural resources and local knowledge, establishing a values foundation, listening to and documenting the people's story and setting sustainable goals.

***II. Participatory Planning*** - This phase involves engaging the heart and minds of Indigenous people who are to benefit from our initiatives in mapping the real situation and in defining and planning strategic lines of action.

***III. Capacity Building*** - As a process, this aspect involves non-formal training, as well as formal (accredited) courses and programs; both which will eventually be offered by the Four Worlds College of Human and Community Development along with other related educational institutions of the Americas who would like to participate, as well as, technical support, coaching and mentoring for specific business and development ventures.

***IV. System Building*** - This aspect involves building sustainable processes and practical mechanisms that actually promote human and community development, at every level of society for all people (children, youth, adult women and men and elders) and in all sectors of life (economic, environmental, social well-being, governance and administration, cultural recovery and development, etc.).

***Building The Systems and Mechanisms for People-Centered Development***

All four phases will be repeated many times as the initiative unfolds. Each time it is, the dynamics of actions, informed by reflection, and leading in turn to refined action animates the work. In a certain sense, we are re-making the path by walking it and re-mapping the territory as we go. Yet, the innovative dimensions of this work are also guided and inspired by principles and perspectives that are rooted in thousands of years of Indigenous life and tradition.