

# A RECONCILIATION-BASED APPROACH TO RESOURCE DECISION-MAKING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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# WHY AN EA RECONCILIATION APPROACH?

- Because the time is right. Supporting social indicators include:
  - More attention being given to Canada's constitutional principles
  - Over 200 increasingly prescriptive Supreme Court of Canada rulings
  - Numerous federal and provincial policy shifts
  - Growing international trends and obligations (UNDRIP, CBNRM... )
  - A growing number of supporting pilot projects and success stories

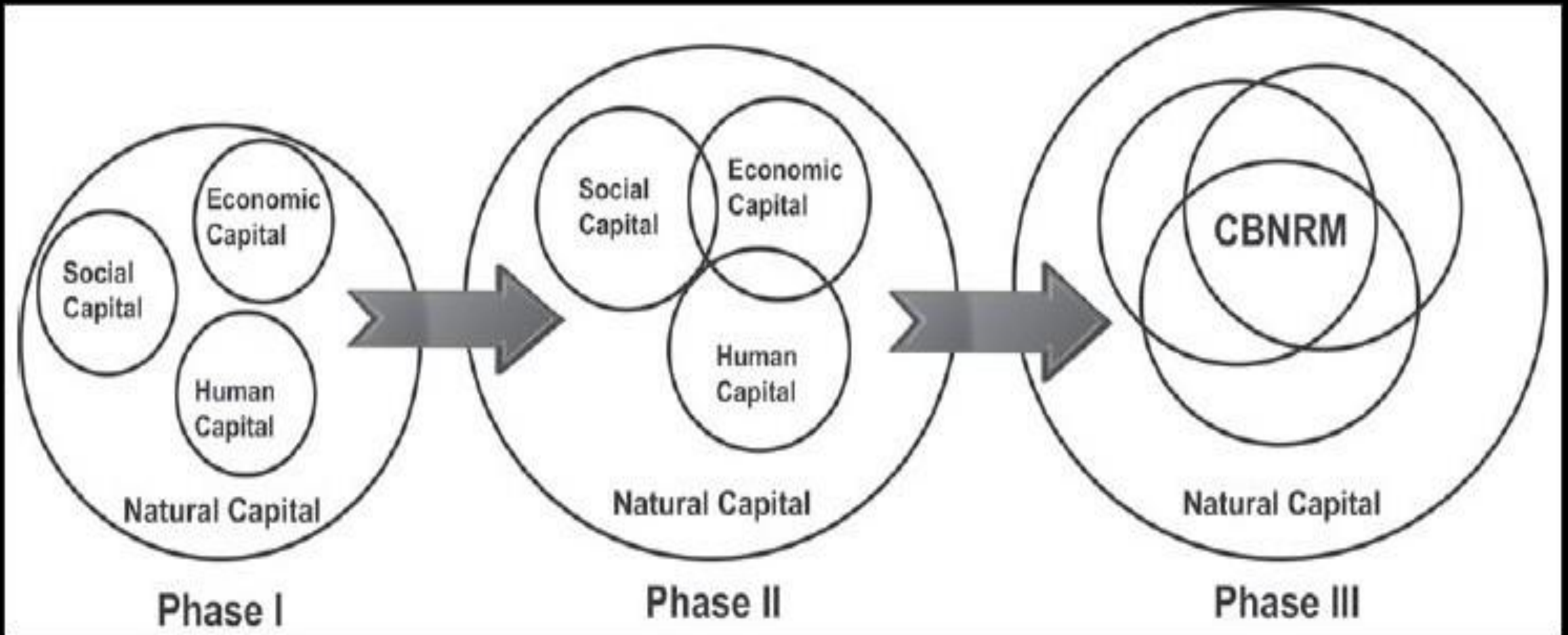
## **The Prophecy of the 8th Fire**

**They will come to a fork in the road. One road will lead to Materialism and Destruction.....for almost all living creatures....The other road will lead to a Spiritual Way upon which the Native People will be standing...This path will lead to the lighting of the 8th fire, a period of eternal peace, harmony and a "New Earth" where the destruction of the past will be healed**

**Anishnabe Prophecy**



# MAIN CONVERGENCE RESULTS: CBNRM



# WAHKOHTOWIN CHANGE COMPONENTS

- A Little Bit of Everything.....

# AT A HIGHER LEVEL WAHKOHTOWIN IS....

- Referenced as an Ontario community forestry best practice in a new book
- Publishing its “Return to Manitou Mountain” story
- Contributing to National Guardianship Network development
- Contributing to National community forestry network development
- The catalyst for a new book on community forestry economic theory
- Is working with FSC Canada on an FPIC reconciliation based best practice
- Helping shape a provincial forestry centre of excellence conversation



# RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP IMPLICATIONS

- Decisions are improved when made closer to the resources
- Decisions are improved when multiple resource sectors are integrated
- Better environmental information improves resource decision-making
- Multi-stakeholder collaboration reduces risk and improves equity
- Ongoing relationship building dialogue helps maintain momentum

# WAHKOHTOWIN EA RECOMMENDATIONS

- Shift towards EA decentralization – balanced approach
- Shift towards shared decision-making (FPIC)
- Shift to more precautionary approaches
- Increase the respect for Aboriginal knowledge systems
- Expand the scope of positive and negative effects
- Earlier and increased Aboriginal participant funding
- Integrate the Guardianship process development
- Shift towards shared decision-making

# CONCLUSIONS

- EA as a process is poised to shift in a transformative way
- Aboriginal considerations are paramount to a seamless transition
- There are ways to mitigate the effects of fear of change and public apathy
- Supporting legal, political, moral suasion and other tools are available
- Major expansion of the use of emotional intelligence in EA is required
- Local and regional success stories help fuel provincial/federal policy reform
- Wahkohtowin can help!