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Fall 2020 Program

Theme - Becoming a One Planet Region requires transformative change

A One Planet Region is one that has an ecological footprint equivalent to one planet's worth of bio-capacity and resources and yet ensures a good quality of life and good health for all. It is thus focused on ecological and social justice.

Given that our current footprint in this region is estimated to be about 3 - 4 planets, this requires a roughly 70% reduction in our collective footprint - and it has to happen quite swiftly. But since there is much potential for inequality to be heightened in such a rapid and profound transformation, this has to be a just transformation.

Fundamentally, we need a major cultural shift, creating new values - or perhaps re-discovering older values - about what we are and what we want to be, both as a community and as individuals. In this Fall 2020 series of Conversations, we will explore these new values and how such a transformation might be brought about.

Our Conversations in 2021 will be focusing more on imagining and starting to design and create a One Planet Region, exploring what policy changes and local and personal actions are needed. We may organise this around Bioregional's 10 principles of One Planet Living, which are the basis of the work of One Planet Saanich.

Revised approach to One Planet Conversations

We are taking a somewhat different and - we hope - more engaging approach to the next series of Conversations. Each will begin with brief presentations and then discussions between the presenters about the topic; we intend to include a wide variety of perspectives, including in particular the Indigenous perspective and the perspective of people of colour. This will be followed by a brief opportunity for questions only for clarification. This part of the program will last about 45 - 55 minutes and will end with one or two questions proposed by the presenters for the small groups.

For the second hour, we will break up into small groups based on neighbourhood/locality to continue the discussion of the issues raised in the first hour, and to develop, if appropriate, key points, concerns or questions to bring back to the main discussion. (This will require people to let us know their locality ahead of time, we will be setting up a process for this.) The intent is in part to encourage the creation of local small groups/networks that can continue the conversations after the meeting, perhaps evolving over time into local action nodes.

After about 40 minutes we will re-convene and hear back from groups that may have key points, concerns or questions to bring back to the main discussion and/or for the presenters to consider and respond to.

Note that while we will for now be doing this online, small local groups could also convene if they were comfortable and the provincial rules permit it. Once we are through Covid (not any time soon!) we will encourage people to attend in multiple sites across the region where they could hear the presentations and discussion online and then have local-level discussions in person.

Fall 2020 - Value shifts and cultural transformation

Jeremy Lent, in his new book *The Patterning Instinct*, writes in his chapter on “Trajectories To Our Future”, in which he discusses “the great transition”, that this “will only take place if enough people are conscious of its need and prepared to change their own values and behaviour to affect humanity’s direction”. The transition would have to be founded on a worldview in which root metaphors such as “nature as machine” and “conquering nature”, and economic and social principles based on selfishness and valuing the individual to the exclusion of the community have been replaced by a worldview “based on the emerging systems view of life - - recognizing the intrinsic interconnectedness between all forms of life on earth and seeing humanity as embodied integrally within the natural world”.

He sees three core values that would emerge from this new worldview as foundational principles for our major decisions. They are:

- an emphasis on quality of life,
- a sense of shared humanity and
- environmental sustainability

After first exploring the broad theme of values shift and the process of cultural evolution in September, we will explore each of these in turn (but in reverse order) in October - December

All Conversations will be online, using Zoom. The plenary sessions will be recorded and posted to our Youtube Channel - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDAavk-s3mWM9cLjdDhYGbA/>

The Program in Brief – see below for details

September 24th, 5 – 7 PM – Creating cultural change/evolution

- Key issues about change, what it is and how we bring it about, differing perspectives on societal transformation and cultural change, the potential we have to change ourselves, etc.

October 22nd, 5 – 7 PM – Valuing nature (includes, but much more than environmental sustainability)

- What would it mean for decision-making if this was a core value - Policy changes and local action

November 12th, 5 – 7 PM – Valuing community and cooperation (a sense of shared humanity)

- What would it mean for decision-making if this was a core value - Policy changes and local action

December 10th, 5 – 7 PM - Valuing quality of life

- What would it mean for decision-making if this was a core value - Policy changes and local action

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Program details

September 24th, 5 - 7 PM - Creating cultural change/evolution

- Key issues about change, what it is and how we bring it about, differing perspectives on societal transformation and cultural change, the potential we have to change ourselves, etc.

Speakers

Trevor Hancock, Jan Inglis, Jasmindra Jawanda

Trevor is a public health physician, and retired in 2018 from his role as a professor and senior scholar at the School of Public Health and Social Policy at the University of Victoria. His work has focused on two key themes: The relationship between human health and the natural environment, and how we can create healthier cities and communities. He now integrates these themes in his work on how to create healthy, sustainable 'one Planet' communities. He is then founding President of the Conversations for a One Planet Region and is a member of the Science Advisory Board of the new Cascade Institute at Royal Roads University.

Jan is an independent educator, scholar, and practitioner with a Ph.D. in Social Construction from Tilburg University, and an MSc in Holistic Science from Schumacher College. Pursuing the question of how some people face change and transform the seemingly overwhelming situations they find themselves in, she has applied studies in body-focused psychotherapy, adult development, complexity sciences, citizen engagement, public issue analysis, popular theatre and deliberative democracy. She has written and presented widely on systemic change and complex issues, especially those related to climate change.

Jasmindra is an Urban Planner who is committed to "creating space for people and place" that lead to diverse, inclusive, socially just, sustainable, vibrant and resilient communities. With over 20 years of professional experience, Jasmindra has a varied career involving working in the areas of land use planning, community planning, social planning, cultural/education planning, environmental planning, gender planning, youth development, and international development. She has worked with diverse and marginalized populations including racialized and Indigenous peoples, immigrants and refugees, youth, women and peoples with diverse abilities. She has a Masters degree in Community and Regional Planning and her thesis was conducted in the Ecuadorian Amazon region.

October 22nd, 5 - 7 PM - Valuing nature (includes, but much more than environmental sustainability)

- What would it mean for decision-making if this was a core value - Policy changes and local action

Speakers

Gertie Jocksch, Shannon Waters (confirmed), others TBC

Gertie is a Sister of Charity of Halifax. She holds a Masters of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry from Regis College and the University of Toronto, Toronto, ON. A passion that has continued to evolve Gertie's work has been her concern and care for Mother Earth. Presently Gertie coordinates the work of The Living Language Institute Foundation developing Programs in Earth Literacies and facilitating programs; she also teaches in the area of Ecotheology and Ecofeminism.

Shannon is a Public Health + Preventive Medicine Physician, Connector and Hope Builder. In her current leadership role as Medical Health Officer for the Cowichan Valley Region at Island Health Shannon works to bring a voice to not only the health of her community but to Mother Earth. Shannon is of Hul'qumi'num ancestry from the Stz'uminus First Nation and a member of the Cowichan Watershed Board.

November 12th, 5 – 7 PM – Valuing community and cooperation (a sense of shared humanity)

- What would it mean for decision-making if this was a core value - Policy changes and local action

Speakers

Sharmake Dubow, Ron Rice, Clare Attwell

Sharmarke is a former refugee who fled civil war in Somalia at the age of 8, and spent 20 years seeking safe haven until Canada offered a home in 2012. He cast his first vote in October 20, 2018, and at the same time was elected as a Victoria City Councillor.

His outstanding activism has garnered him various awards and recognition including the Victoria Community Leadership Awards in 2017. At the national level, he was a member of the executive committee of the Canadian Council for Refugees. He has served in various organizations and groups as a volunteer, including the Crime Reduction and Education (CRED) Program Steering Committee for the Pacific Centre Family Services Association and the Victoria Tenant Action Group.

Before moving to Canada, he was a human rights advocate and worked with refugee organizations in North Africa. His passion and commitment to diversity, inclusion, and building equitable, inclusive and compassionate communities and his work for marginalized communities earned recognition and respect as a community leader and a voice for bold and courageous policies. He is tireless in his efforts to build relationships, collaborate and bring people together to improve the well-being of communities.

Ron is from Cowichan Tribes of the Coast Salish Nation and his hereditary name is Wush'q. He has worked with BC Aboriginal Friendship Centres since 1998 and accepted the post as the Executive Director of the Victoria Native Friendship Centre in January 2018.

He loves to plan events; most notably with the Cowichan 2008 North American Indigenous Games where he was the Manager of Cultural Events & Ceremonies and currently plans the Aboriginal Back to School Picnics, in 6-10 communities, province wide.

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In 2013 he received an Order in Council appointment to the Board of Governors for Camosun College in Victoria BC; ending his six year term as Board Chair. In September of 2020 he will accept an appointment to the Board of Directors for Island Health.

Clare is a textile and multi-media artist. When she is not working on her own art, she works as a community artist, using the arts in imaginative ways to help community groups explore complex issues such as cultural and spiritual identity, including community visioning. The themes she tackles in her art typically evolve out of her work with community. She is especially interested in exploring what makes complex systems functional, and in particular, how they relate to organizations and social systems. Clare has a Bachelor of Arts and a diploma in Arts Administration. She also serves on the board of COPR.

December 10th, 5 - 7 PM - Valuing quality of life

- What would it mean for decision-making if this was a core value - Policy changes and local action
Speakers - TBC