

## INTERPRETIVE KEY FOR 7-GENERATION GTB

As systems complexity work addressing the polycrisis (converging climate, environment, economic, political, technological, social, health crises), 7-Generation GTB (Greater Tkaronto Bioregion) is growing a **Tree of Life** – creating structures and processes to navigate through the polycrisis toward a fractally scale-linked story of Bioregional Earth.

**#ChangeTheStory** (bottom left) = A society is about the deep story we all share over time – the meanings, values, structures, processes that guide us collectively. Story is the most effective way human beings have to navigate through the world. Can we work toward a story of Bioregional Earth based on right relationships with each other and the Earth – one that puts life at the center of every decision and action in the context of Natural Law? To regenerate the Earth, we'll need this awareness woven into the ways we perceive, think, feel, and act.

**Ecopsychosocial Wellbeing** (top right) = We're working toward ecological (and by extension economic) integrity, personal wholeness, and social coherence – in the context of lifetimes across generations. I can't be okay unless we're okay, and we can't be okay unless the planetary life system around us is okay.

**7-Generation** (bottom) = We draw on an Indigenous concept of holistic, long-term thinking across seven generations while at the same time reflecting the modern context of a historic demographic shift. For the first time in history, as more people live longer, we will personally know (in our family and/or community) seven generations – our own generation; three before us (parents, grandparents, great-grandparents); and three after us (children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren). There is significant comfort, insight, and power in this ability to "touch time," to connect more generations than ever before. In addition to the intergenerational dynamic, the 7-Generation work is rooted physically in the land (place in the larger sense), and rooted metaphorically in the Indigenous 7 Grandfathers teachings. There is a convergence of people, place, and purpose.

**Social and Ecological Regeneration** (*left and right of tree trunk*) = Social regeneration works with generations in community for mutual support and learning, and collective action. The work connects *your life story* to the *story of other lives/life on the planet* into the even bigger story of *lifetimes across generations*. Ecological regeneration is about regenerative learning and practices rippling across a bioregion, our life place.

Fractal Scale-Linking from the Bioregion (tree trunk) = To "scale" in this context is to create meaningful relationships across nested scales for long-term impact. The bioregion (the place in which you live your life and which gives you life) is the smallest actionable scale that connects into planetary processes. Bioregions are holistic landscapes broadly defined by geography, ecology, and culture (including Indigenous history). What happens on the land through community projects must be coherent within the bioregion (Greater Tkaronto Bioregion, reflecting David Crombie's 1992 Regeneration report), and then what happens in the GTB connects into what's happening in the Great Lakes Basin with an understanding of planetary processes. A fractally scale-linked network of activated bioregions of at least 500,000 ha each reaching a critical mass of 1,000 landscapes could, cumulatively, regenerate the entire Earth. The bioregion is the difference that can make a difference. The GTB is the birth place of the Bioregional Earth network, both leading and learning from other bioregions.

Connect The Dots (tree crown at top) = We're weaving across seven broad (and often siloed) themes: environment and climate change, economy, community, health, education and lifelong learning, life course and aging, Indigenous worldviews and knowledge. As the lead for 7-Generation GTB, the Legacy Project core team is working simultaneously at the levels of grassroots community and leadership/policy. We're interconnecting people, organizations, and projects to each other for shared purpose; facilitating collective learning; weaving collaborations for systemic impact; and embodying structures and processes that build community resilience in the face of increasing risks.

This is the Legacy Project of our time. What's y/our legacy?