

Ethical Space; Science, and Indigenous Knowledge, Authority and Reconciliation

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BCCFA

June 9 2023

By: Gwen Bridge

Agenda Overview - Framework for the future

1. Why do we want to better relationships or collaborations between science and indigenous knowledge practitioners?

- Resolve conflicts that perpetuate inequality,
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People
- Conserve and manage natural resources sustainably, IUCN, COP 27, UN Water Summit

What do we need to know?

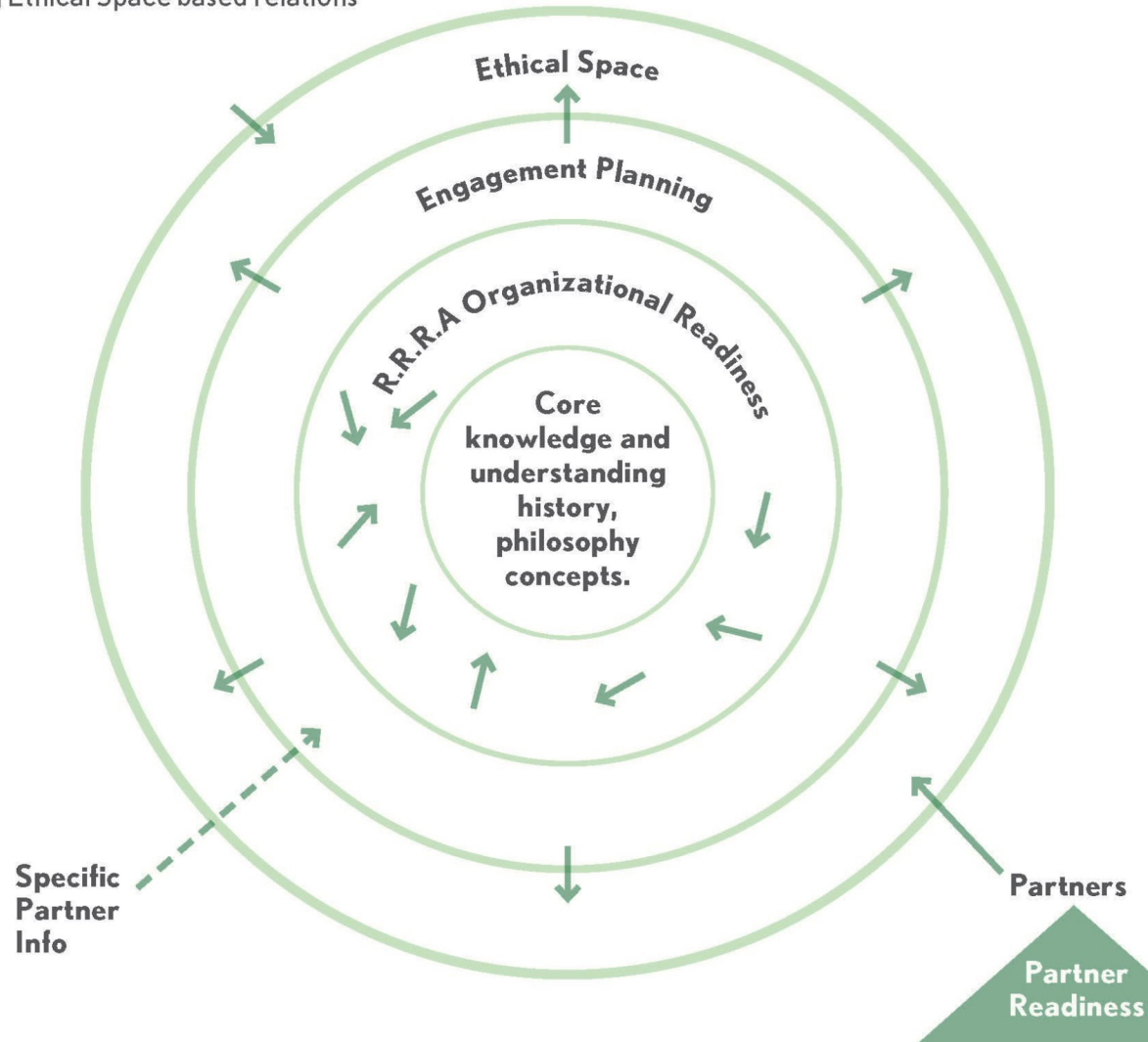
- UNDRIP
- Reconciliation: worldviews and ways of knowing?
- Structural characteristics of these worldviews?
- Deep understanding of the challenges to working together to establish partnership as beneficiaries of the land

2. 3. What happens when we know it?

- We practice open-mindedness and creativity to provide guidance towards a more equitable and sustainable future
- We understand our role and our influence in improving natural resource management

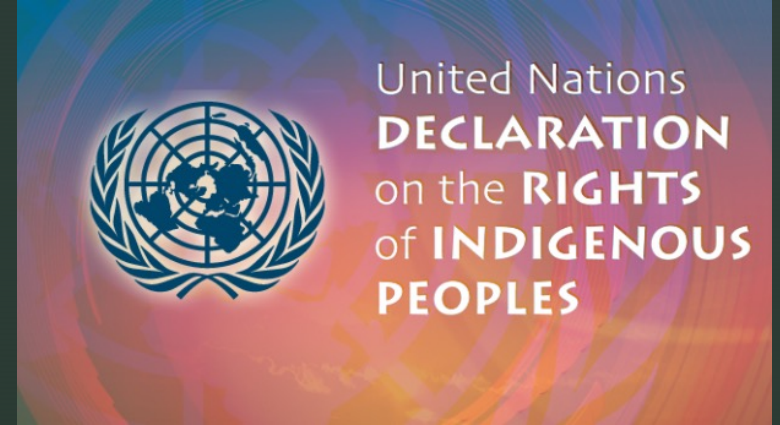
TRAJECTORY OF AWESOMENESS™

Establishing Ethical Space based relations



How to Prepare

How long have people been thinking it's important to learn from indigenous knowledge?

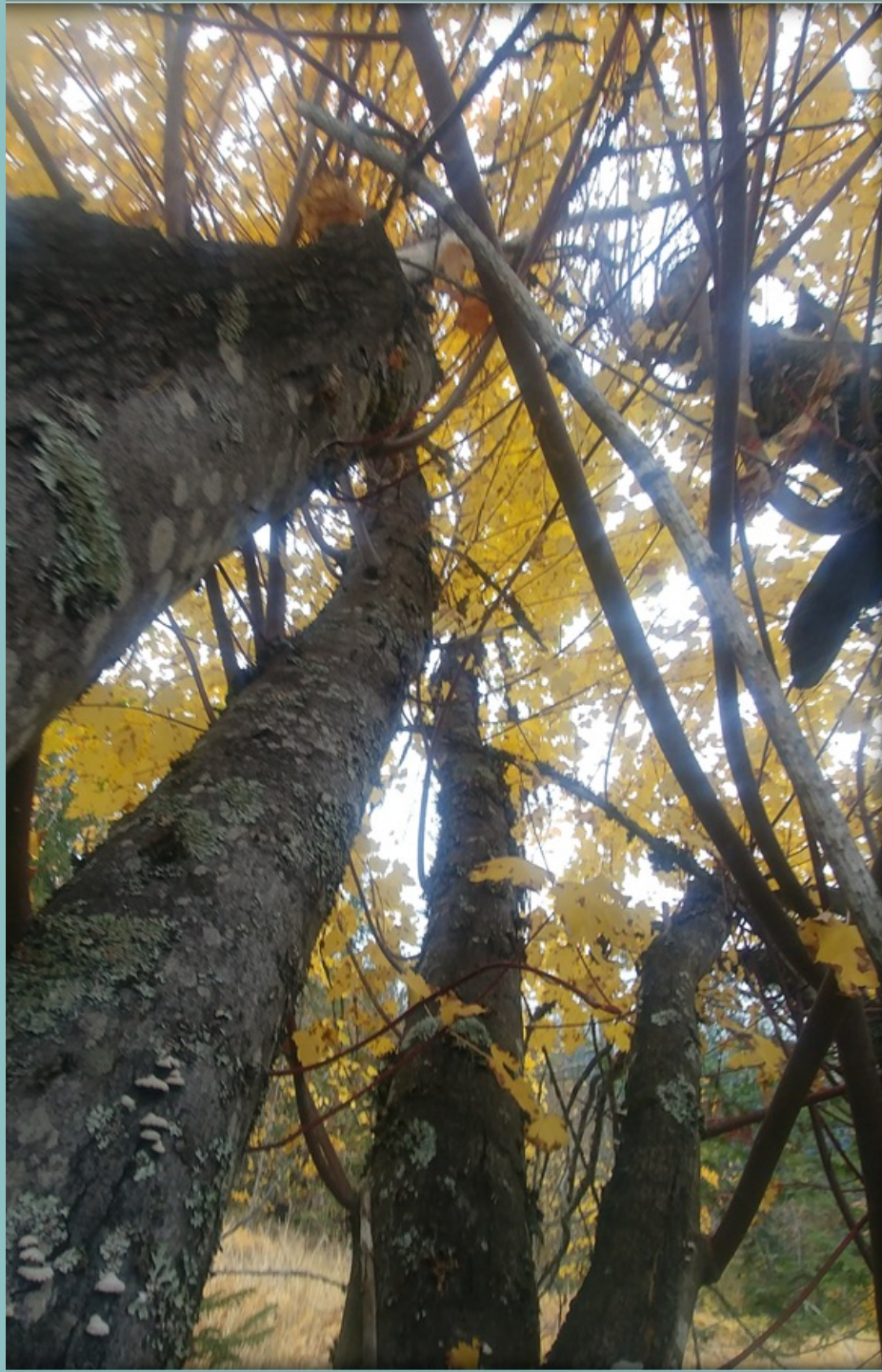


UNDRIP - 2007

- Highest level of international guidance endorsed by indigenous peoples –
 - Canada endorsed in 2016 C-15 2021
 - BC passed the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) in 2019
 - DRIPA Action Plan 2022

UNDRIP

- States to:
 - 1. acknowledge and recognize rights
 - 2. protect those rights
 - 3. pay to protect, redress, mitigate impacts to, those rights



- Article 25 The right to maintain and strengthen unique spiritual relationships with, and **responsibilities to, traditional lands, waters, and other resources for current and future generations**
- Article 27 To establish and implement, with indigenous peoples, a system whereby **indigenous people's laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems are recognized**, and indigenous rights can be adjudicated.



Article 31 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to **maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions**, as well as the **manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures**, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their **intellectual property** over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.

Reconciliation

- Canada, Truth and Reconciliation Commission 2015
 - 94 calls to action
 - 47. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous peoples and lands, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and *terra nullius*, and to reform those laws, government policies, and litigation strategies that continue to rely on such concepts.
 - To reconcile, the first relationship that must **heal is the relationship of indigenous people to their land**

How to reconcile?

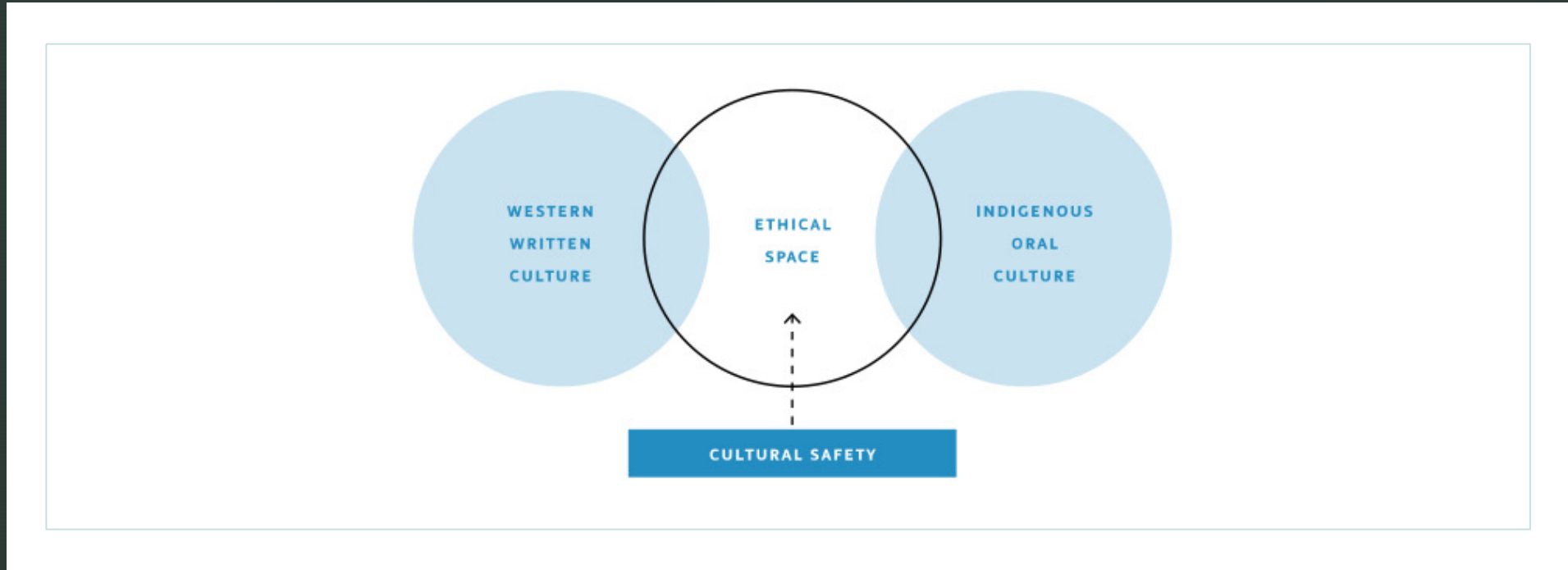
- What does reconciliation mean?
- It means sharing a vision, one that is in focus for both entities?
- We are seeing out of only one eye if we attempt to create a vision without indigenous people (the second eye)



Ethical Space

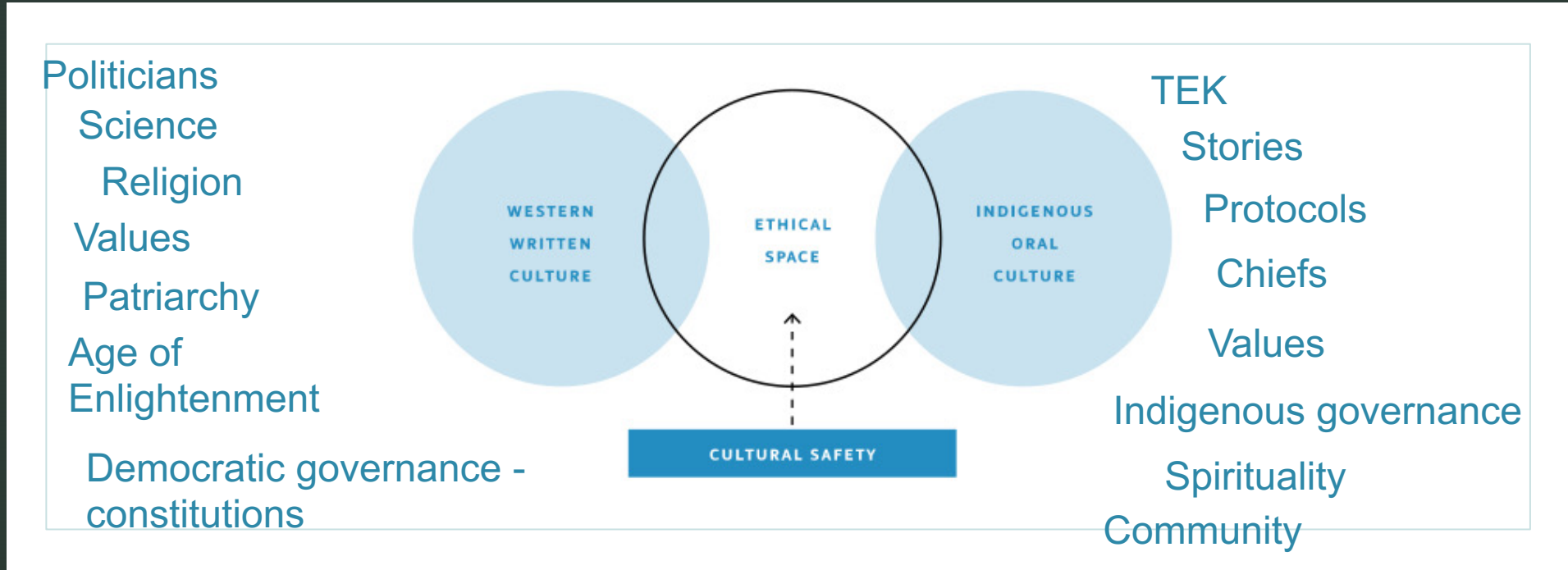
- Before we can reconcile, we need to understand what that other eye is seeing. We will miss our target if we don't have that **depth perception** provided by **binocular vision**
- “it means having a **visual field** which is put together by the brain with input from both eyes.”





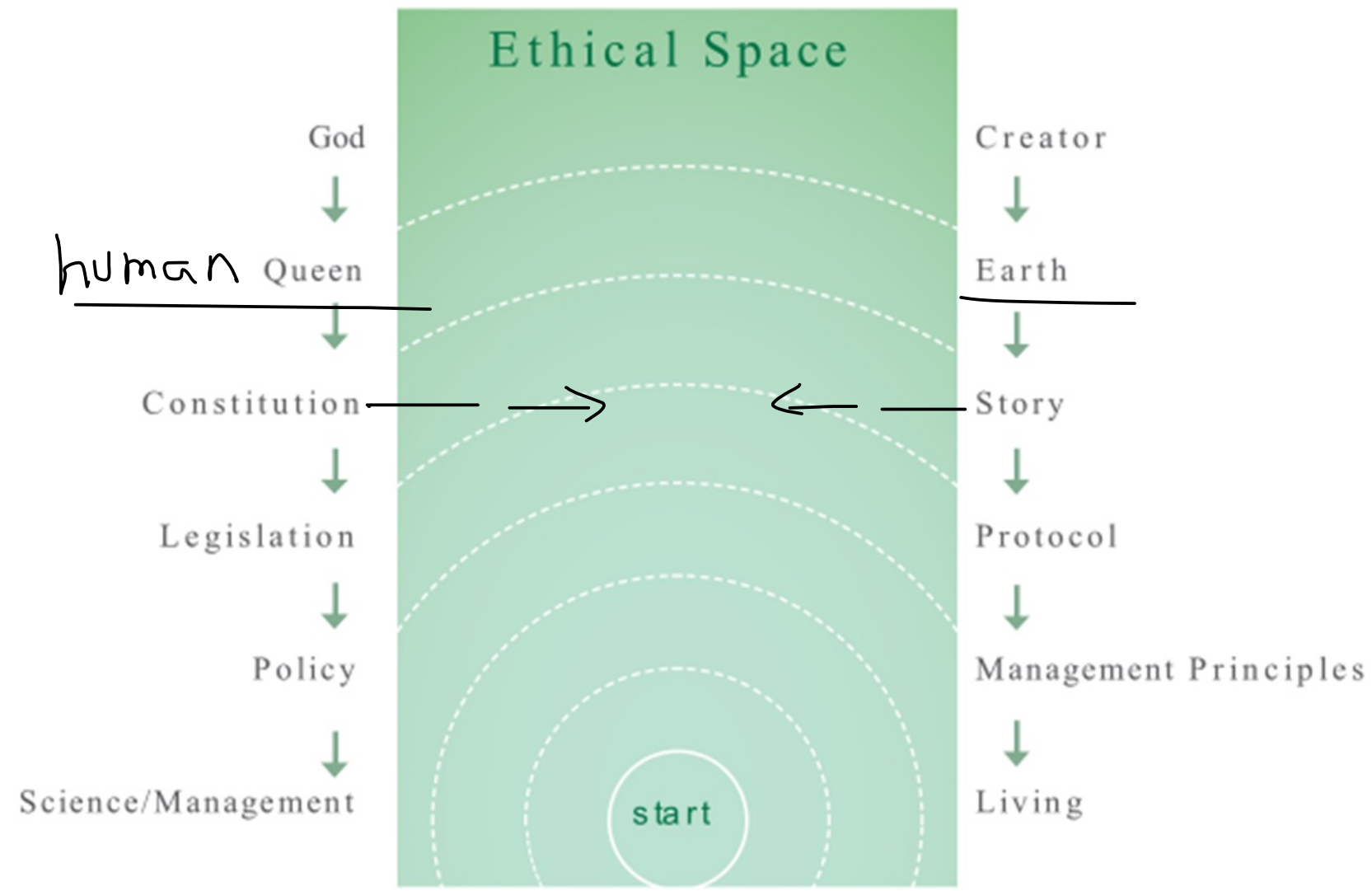
Reg Crowshoe, Voices of Understanding, Alberta Energy Regulator

Ethical Space frameworks

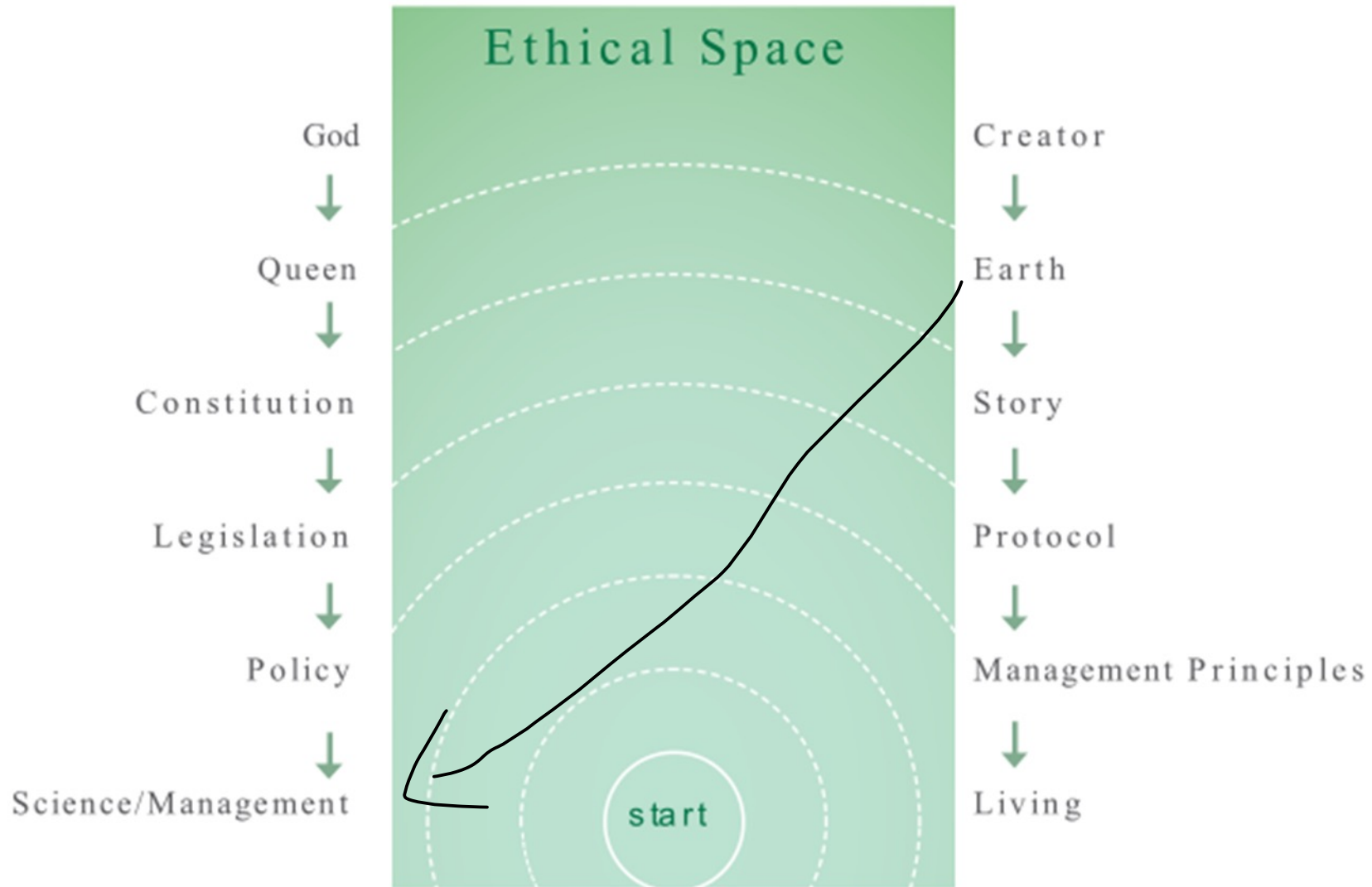


What is in those cultures?

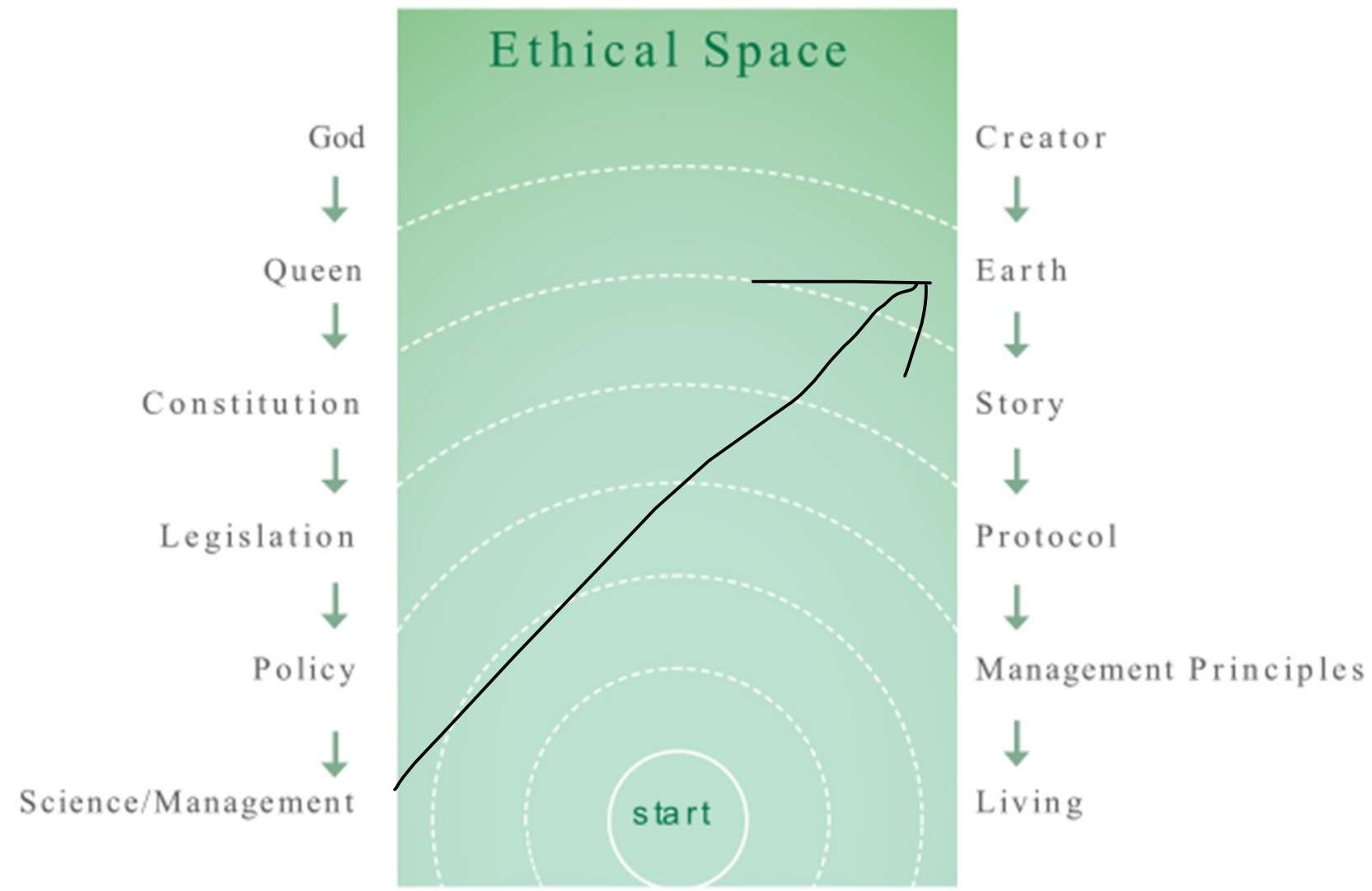
ETHICAL SPACE AND RECONCILIATION



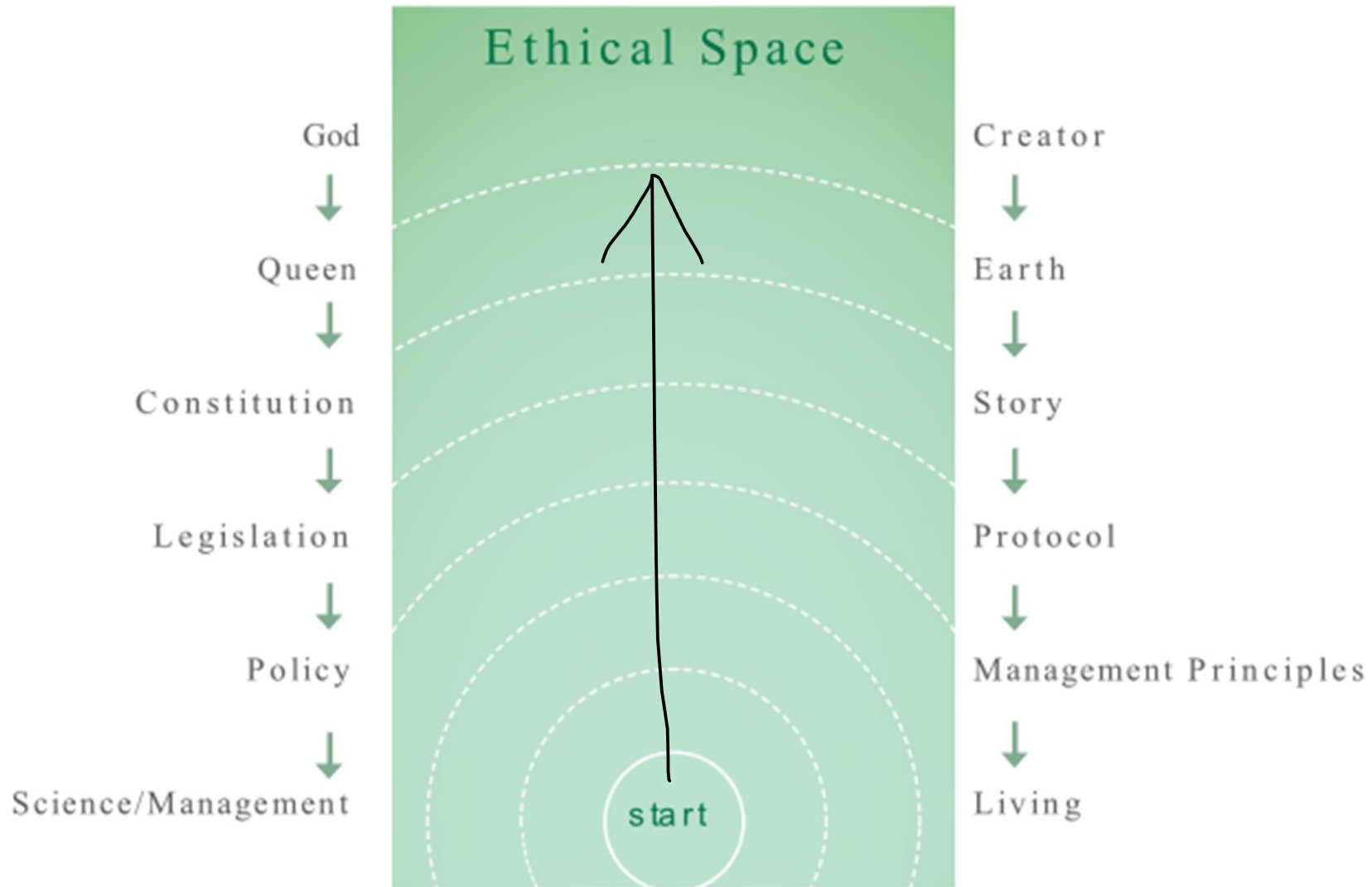
ETHICAL SPACE AND RECONCILIATION



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Indigenous Law and Policy – decision making

Sir Wilfred Laurier Memorial 1910

(<http://www.sfu.ca/~palys/OpenLetterToWilfredLaurier-1910.pdf>)

“These people wish to be partners with us in our country. We must, therefore, be the same as brothers to them, and live as one family. We will share equally in everything half and half in land, water and timber, etc. What is ours will be theirs, and what is theirs will be ours. We will help each other to be great and good.”;

i? s'caǎ w'tət (MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING)

Regional and Organizational Strategy

- Typical Planning - Theory of Change
- Ethical Space
- Creation stories and protocol

decisions

influence
systems

Common
goals

exploration
of assumptions

challenges

systems
taught us

⇒ decision
making
takes systems
guidance into
account
....

▀ Pragmatic approach

- What level are we working at? I understand the system
- Principle based approach, I understand the significance of the knowledge
- Transparency
- Capacity, challenges and supports?
- Trust and time.

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Action has meaning only in relationship and without understanding relationship, action on any level will only breed conflict. The understanding of relationship is infinitely more important than the search for any plan of action.

— J. KRISHNAMURTI

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<https://www.compassscicomm.org/ethical-space-indigenous-engagement-for-environmental-science-professionals/>



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