

An invitation to [The Wheelhouse](#): A call diverse for diverse leadership

*Needed: A roundtable of open-minded thinking people to participate in a multidisciplinary approach to the development of a social-political-economic paradigm that recognizes human-activity must be limited to what our planet's interactive systems of life can sustain.*

The short story is this: Our existing forms of governance, whether the so called democracies, or the communist varieties, are leading humankind on a rampage against nature that is rightly referred to as Ecocide [R1]. The surface issue is excess human-activity – excess in both in global human population and in our collective resource throughput. Beneath the surface the *human predicament*, as coined by the *Club Of Rome* (COR)[R2], is an interactive multidisciplinary issue. Therefore, to deal effectively with the enormous complexity of *human-activity*, an interactive multidisciplinary approach must be used.

Environmental alarm bells are ringing on many vital areas. Peak oil stymies the paradigm of economic growth [R3]. Public knowledge of and reaction to our crisis' has been growing rapidly as thousands of organizations and individuals now demand change regarding whatever specific issue they see as most important. But these uncoordinated disparate initiatives are having little effect on the massive momentum of the growth paradigm. Nevertheless, the fact that many people are motivated to take some form of action offers hope. And perhaps it will present a window of opportunity – IF – there were an emergent social/political/economic network of a design they could endorse, and collectively begin to acquire the synergy of a dynamic system wherein the outcomes can be far greater than sum of the parts.

Today's governments have been and will continue to be ineffective at taking the lead toward vital change – the very nature of the central-control governments of today is a significant part of the problem. They have no viable long term goal. Feedback guiding policy is based on neither the physical limits or our planet nor the dynamic systems of nature that enable life. More on that in the companion essay *Journey From The Peak(s)*.

This invitation is being sent to a few specific individuals to encourage you to consider being a contributor in multidisciplinary discussions that may spell out the framework for a new *human story* – the foundations of a new paradigm. Today many relatively high profile individuals suggest that the old paradigm must be supplanted, including the money system, and replaced by a holistic Gaia centric approach to governance. [R3] And they are right!

An organization called, *Gaia Preservation Coalition* (GPC) [R4], will act as the starting hub for discussions. GPC has existed for over 20 years but has been rather dormant, except for an email information sharing list server. Nevertheless, the core purpose remains valid for this effort. It is to be:

*A gathering place for people who consciously acknowledge the human predicament and who seek with others its resolution through the creation and exploration of ideas and actions that move Humanity toward a more harmonious relationship within Gaia.*

Initial discussions will be on [gpc-pj@yahoogroups.ca](mailto:gpc-pj@yahoogroups.ca), a separate list serve specifically and only for wheelhouse discussions.

To start the discussions, [Section Four](#) of the manual, [Paradigm Junction](#) delineates a suggested template of a sustainable society that is governed using [dynamic principles](#). It envisions establishment of a viable goal, the use of feedback from earth sciences and human needs to regulate human-activity in an optimum rate such that, over time, that goal can be met. Since the overall governance approach mimics nature in many ways [R5], *Governance by Natural Processes* (GNP) seems an appropriate name.

Meaningful discussions will need contributors familiar with the issues of: *human psychology; biology; the Earth sciences; energy; population and social dynamics; economics; biopolitics; political*

science; dynamic systems, public relations, etc. This idea is presented graphically in Fig 6, *United Nations – Wheelhouse of human-activity*.

In a recent essay by Jim Kunstler called, *Heretics Unite!*, after his classic colourful dialogue describes rule by the catholic church for centuries, and with modern politics still bubbling with religion, Kunstler's closing paragraph shows his frustration in USA's lack of alternatives to the growth-era death-cycle. (Bold highlight mine)

*"It's especially disturbing to see the infiltration of the latest version of Jesus mumbo-jumbo - Southern Republican Nascar Evangelical orthodoxy - take over the collective mind of the USA. **The poverty of ideas this represents can't be overstated and the timidity of any opposition to it is a disgrace to our heritage. ...**"*

<http://kunstler.com/blog/2012/10/heretics-unite.html>

This poverty of ideas must end. For those able to recognize the futility of fighting to reform the old paradigm, my hope is to gather a few fellow heretics to design the outline foundations of a viable governance system and to reach out to the many who recognize the growth era must/will end.

Go to the essay: *Journey From The Peak*.

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[R1] Ecocide: Polly Higgins is a barrister, author and international environmental lawyer advocating a different approach to preventing the destruction of our planet. Instead of our laws protecting the property rights of the few, we can shift to laws that impose responsibilities, duties and obligations for the benefit of the many. Voted by the Ecologist as one of the "[Worlds Top 10 Visionary Thinkers](#)" for her earlier work advancing the Universal Declaration of Planetary Rights, Polly has submitted a second proposal to the United Nations: [the Crime of Ecocide](#) <http://www.pollyhiggins.com/Welcome.html>

Many scientist, such as Guy McPherson, suggests we have many have already triggered the ultimate crime, human extinction: <http://guymcpherson.com/2013/01/climate-change-summary-and-update/>

[R2] Club Of Rome COR <http://www.clubofrome.org/?p=326>

[R3] Economic writers who recommend a paradigm of change to this tool of human exchange: [Korten](#), [Suzuki](#), [Rianne Eisler](#), [Nate Higgins](#), [Herman Daly](#), etc.

David Korten presentation to 39th Trinity Institute National Theological Conference on [Radical Abundance: A Theology of Sustainability](#) states: "The conversation cannot begin within the system of empire."

[R3] Commentary: Why peak oil threatens the International Monetary System

<http://www.resilience.org/stories/2013-01-07/commentary-why-peak-oil-threatens-the-international-monetary-system>

[R4] [Gaia Preservation Coalition](#) (GPC)

[R5] The '03 book, *Gaian Democracies: Redefining Globalization & People-Power*, Shumacher Briefing # 9 by Roy Madron, illustrated how governance should/could follow nature's patterns. All levels of government are shown to be semi-autonomous entities within a whole, like the heart, lungs, etc., act as semi-autonomous parts of a body.

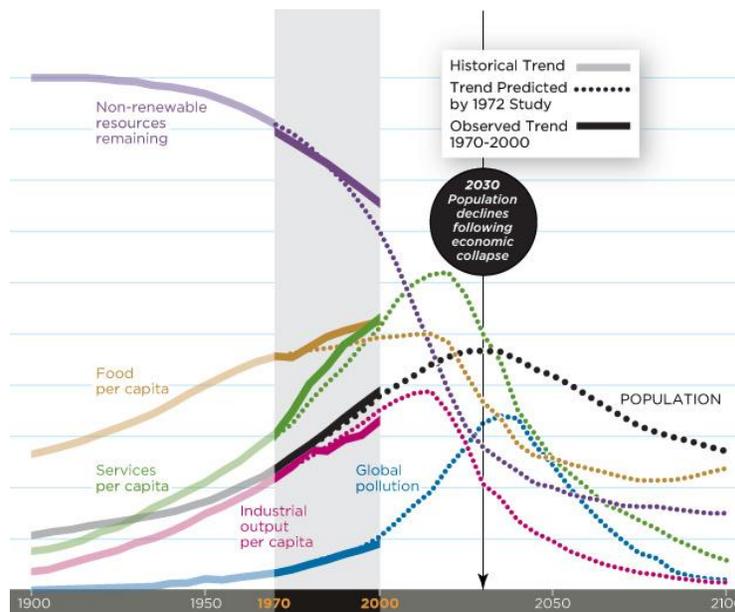
The study of fractal geometry within nature illustrates subsection similarities with the whole.

In the envisioned GNP semi-autonomous regional government administrates have departmental functions similar to higher levels of government.

End

## Journey from the peak(s)

Those of us concerned about our future often read about the peaks. It may be peak oil, peak topsoil or peak economic growth. And we know that peak biodiversity happened some time ago and that our ecological footprint is now 1.5 times what is sustainable. But as yet we have not yet reached peaks in either human population or in the rate of carbon dioxide we release in the atmosphere. In 1970 the coming peaks were graphically illustrated in the Club Of Rome's research report, *Limits To Growth*. Below is reprint of the standard run graph. But this one has been marked up to show what actually happen between the time period 1970 to 2010. *Smithsonian Magazine* had a recent story about Australian physicist Graham Turner who revisited, *Limits to Growth*. Turner concluded that the world remains on track for disaster with human population likely to peak about 2030. He found the predictions nearly matched the facts. "There is a very clear warning bell being rung here," he says. "We are not on a sustainable trajectory." The emerging realities of Anthropocentric Global Warming (AGW) and feedback effects now add yet another level gravity to the human predicament.



(copied from) <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/Looking-Back-on-the-Limits-of-Growth.html>

Today there is no upper level of government anywhere taking appropriate actions to avert uncontrolled human die-off, perhaps resulting in human extinction. Instead, national and state governments pursue infinite growth. This non viable goal is rooted in centuries of tradition from when the world was flat with vast frontiers to conquer. The outcome of "infinite world" thinking has resulted in an interconnected weave of national governments with constitutions and political/economic process that are now quite incapable of being changed by leaders in our times even though they may recognize the folly of the growth paradigm

That modern politicians were unable to deal with the growing human predicament was made clear to leaders of the Club Of Rome (COR) fifty years ago. Shortly after publication of, *Limits To Growth*, COR leaders invited a group of world leaders to meet with them and discuss just what *Limits To Growth* meant. As reported by Alexander King, co-founder COR [R1], after the meeting, a spokesperson for the national leaders told COR that indeed, they understood the implications, but none of them could do anything about it because they do not have the constitutional tools, and voters would never support the needed changes. That was fifty years ago and nothing has change. Our governments today remain unable to bring about the essential changes. If changes are to happen, they must be initiated from the bottom, not the top.

*No problem can be solved by the same consciousness that created it.  
We need to see the world anew. -- Albert Einstein --*

Many people will find it difficult to accept that we must abandon the form of governments that brought us modern society via fossil fuel energized exponential growth. To help accept this perspective change, here are the tiers of inept human governance ending with a key cause.

**Tiers of inept human governance** (relative to humanity's new challenges, unrecognized at the time of founding constitutional agreements):

The UN (United Nations): Summit after summit, the world's top political assembly, the *United Nations*, make hollow promises on even modest proposals to curtail global carbon dioxide release into the ever warming atmosphere. Informed young people recognize that their future well-being is not being served by this level of governance and have begun to speak out in many ways. The voice of the young is succinctly summarized by a 17 year old [R2] who was given an opportunity to speak this esteemed assembly. She clearly told them that, "*The interests of my generation are not at this table!*".

The UN's failure is because the United Nations is controlled by representatives of national governments. UN's failure to address reality was highlighted in '87 when the UN commissioned the *Brundtland Report* where the infamous oxymoron, *sustainable development*, was created.

The Nationals and lower levels: Governments often make useful initiatives toward the "greening" of energy production, but all such efforts are eventually trumped by the quest for "economic growth" – still driven by vast amounts of fossil fuel. And the issue of excess in human population is never considered.

But national governments are elected by voters.

The voters: For the majority, growth means jobs for workers and money for shoppers all to make voters happy to elect any government that promises to keep the good times rolling – all in accordance with today's "standards" – standards that are now heavily influenced by corporate controlled media. These artificial standards promote a high level of human activity based on a distorted image of human happiness. Human nature plays a significant role in this closed loop dilemma where voters would prevent, even an enlightened government, from taken the needed actions. What we are witnessing is a corporate instituted social control through a bastardized form of biopolicy [R3] to shape human behaviour to increase their profit.

Corporations, Big Banks and the Money system: After a century intense corporate hegemony, governments have been moved to grant them more and more power and self-regulation (another oxymoron). Originally the purpose of a corporation was to provide a service for the public. Their purpose is now to bring profit to shareholders.

But why must the economy grow? In most nations such as US, UK, and Canada, it is not the government but the private major banks that loan most of the debt-based fiat money into existence. This system is greed based and is a significant root cause of endless growth because the human activity needed to pay back a loan requires even more human activity to pay the interest on the loan. ([See chapter 3a MCP for details](#))

This extremely simplistic money thread is one component of the opaque ball of the world of money that is mostly commercially controlled. Non-transparent money flows are now interconnected and interwoven into virtually every commercial exchange of goods and human service. And this is just one tool leading to yawning rich/poor gap.

But the good times have been rolling much slower for the bulk of voters recently sparking the *Occupy Wall Street* movement that went global in 2011 chanted about the 1% that controlled the other 99. They have it right!

Although there was a near meltdown of the economic/monetary system in the fall of 2008, it was patched together and appears to run on borrowed time as "Wall Street" (the 1%) waged the tail of government in order to extract even more civil privileges from the 99% in the form of austerity measures. But monetary/economic meltdowns are as historically regular as the anticipated end of

a monopoly game. A [Wikipedia](#) article shows the regularity of economic crashes that have been a recurring theme over the past millennia.

Today's money system is killing us. Surely intelligent humans can design a money/banking system that could be used as one of the regulatory tools to initiate negative growth in human-activity!

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[R1] After reviewing the '92 book, *A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Steward's Handbook*, by Don Chisholm, Alexander King wrote a supportive letter including the comments about political leaders. His letter is page 4 of this pdf file: [p-Chapter12-Letters.pdf](#)

The complete manuscript can be seen from my home page, bottom, at <http://members.kos.net/donchism/index.htm>

[R2] In an article in Toronto Globe and Mail, TH Dixon had an article on the inept UN titled, Climate Summit Was a Pathetic Exercise in Deceit. Included is a link to the speech of the young lady.

<http://www.homerdixon.com/2011/12/12/climate-summit-was-a-pathetic-exercise-in-deceit/>

[R3] Biopolicy as used in the text about is use to promote spending, the opposite of this meaning expressed below. Nevertheless, it means using economic and political policy to shape human behaviour. It will be one of the component considerations in GND to provide dynamic influence on population and resource throughput.

See: <http://www.globalecointegrity.net/docs/conferences/samos/presentations/Arvanitis.pdf>

and

<http://www.ssb.no/english/research/projects/1302265637.08.html>

*The purpose of the BIOPOLICY project is to identify appropriate economic policy means for biodiversity protection in open lowlands and forests, in the context of the Nature Index for Norway. BIOPOLICY is a highly interdisciplinary project where a common basis for understanding threats to biodiversity, interpretations of targets for biodiversity conservation, and challenges for biodiversity policies will be developed through cooperation between natural scientists and social scientists, with an economic policy application of the Nature Index for Norway. Targets for biodiversity protection, specified in terms of the Nature Index, will be combined with economic models of environmental impacts of agriculture and forestry. These two economic models will be augmented by measures of biodiversity. The BIOPOLICY project will contribute to enhancing the basis for adaptive planning by economic policy means, where adaptive planning is understood as iterative implementation of policy means towards reaching a given policy target. In particular, the project addresses how various elements of biodiversity can be expressed and interpreted in terms of diverse disciplinary and societal perspectives, so-called narratives, that illustrate how different parts of society, interest groups, sector interests, lay people and politicians express their understandings of biodiversity threats and policies for biodiversity protection. The project comprises 15 research partners nationally and internationally.*

End of essay 2

### The Silo Effect VS Holism

*We live in a society exquisitely dependent on science and technology. We have also arranged things so that almost no one understands science and technology. This is a prescription for disaster. We might get away with it for a while, but sooner or later this combustible mixture of ignorance and power is going to blow up in our faces. – Carl Sagan –*

Sagan's comment is with regard to science and technology but it holds true in all specialty areas such as economics, biology, human psychology or law.

The silo effect is the opposite of systems-thinking and inhibits frank interdisciplinary discussions and potential solutions. Silo-effect is sometimes used to describe the silos of information specialities offered by our universities and colleges. This is where specialization starts, and the growing corporate financial influence in universities ensures that it stays that way. While today's societies require specialists, the silo-effect is certainly one of the factors leading to the disaster in Sagan's forecast. Where are the schools of holistic thinking?

The silo-effect VS cooperative efforts:

As I read email and blogs of friends and colleagues who all wish for a solution to the human predicament, I'm struck by how the silo-effect often causes nitpicking among allies. The problem seems to be that each of us have a hot button issue that seems to be more important than the hot button issue of others. Economist Herman uses the term, disciplinarity to describe this phenomenon [R1]. And we sometimes criticize allies for not dealing with "our" issue when they make efforts to deal with "their" issue. For example, a few people recently have dumped on Bill McKibbin because of a variety of things that he does not do, including recommending a carbon tax, or because he fails to place part of the blame on the American people's energy demands – poor Bill perhaps he feels his primary audience is not ready for this message. Like James Hanson et. al. on climate change, they're doing their best within their silo limits. But neither placing the blame nor implementing a universal carbon tax even begins to deal with *the real problem* in the long term.

Nor will silo efforts to reduce population;

Nor will silo efforts for monetary reform;

Nor will silo efforts to make the world respond to the energy crisis;

Nor will silo efforts to deal with AGWarming;

Nor will silo efforts to save biodiversity;

Nor will silo efforts to stop Islamic jihad;

Nor will silo efforts to stop land grabs by absentee landlords (corporate shareholders).

Silo efforts toward resilient communities, such as *Transition groups* or dozens of others, are steps in the right direction but in the long term they will be swamped when chaos goes exponential.

Our prevailing paradigm has become a cancer riddled monolith wherein the various branches of governance are now globally interactive and self-reinforcing as they (we) devour and pollute the living systems that support it (us). It simply cannot be addressed piecemeal, indeed, it simply cannot be fixed at all; It is inoperable – terminal, in medical terms. When speaking specifically of AGWarming researcher David Wasdell states: "*We do not have the political instruments to deal with this crisis.*" [R2] Indeed we don't.

Our faulty paradigm is arranged such that today's highly programmable voters make emotional decisions based on recent media information and short term thinking. And voters, at least in "developed" nations, are limited to their specific silo of information. This makes us easy targets for programming to belief the popular myth, *economic growth is good for you! Your job depends on growth!* These myths are surrounded and reinforce by other supporting beliefs ranging from the belief that humans are distinct from and superior to our fellow species, to, "*shop until you drop for the sake of national economy*", or that the Gaian natural commons can be owned by individuals or corporations

with enough fiat money – money that has no basis in physical reality! Or that this fiat money represents real wealth! The money hoax has baffled gullible humans for centuries. The bible mentions that even Jesus threw the money changers out of the temple – and look at what happened to him! To add insult to injury, Christian communities now celebrate his birthday with a biopolicy induced spending spree, mostly on wasted products, as George Monbiot explains [R3].

On one hand we have centuries of compounding scientific discovery and innovation enable us to examine what we are doing to the planet. We even understand how biopolicy could influence human activity toward living sustainably. But on the other hand we have governance controlled by economic growth interests that have no viable goal. Today these disciplines remain in isolated silos.

UK PM Margaret Thatcher who once said TINA (*There Is No Alternate* – to corporate globalization and growth). But there is an alternate. We know we are at a paradigm bifurcation time. And we are the last chance generation who may start the bumpy ride to change by creating a negative growth vehicle called, *Governance by Natural Processes* (GNP).

For individuals reaching the point of acknowledgement that it's *game-over* for our familiar paradigm, it may lead to pre traumatic stress syndrome and denial for some. Or it be a point similar to the *bottoming-out* process, a term used in addiction recovery conversations. After bottoming-out their is acceptance that your recent way of life (whether paradigm or addictive substance) is at a dead end, there is can be a massive perspective change. Recovery has finally become possible. After bottoming-out, it's actually mentally refreshing on the other side.

Political heretics unite!

As mentioned in the invite essay, this note is sent to a few individuals who I feel could add to opening rounds of interdisciplinary discussions.

If you are interested in participating, please let me know.

Don Chisholm 613 476 1700

See *Paradigm Junction* - a glimpse of what our future could be like

<http://gaiapc.ca/PJ/PJ-Synopsis.pdf>

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[R1] Herman Daly, in his '89 book, *For The Common Good: Redirecting the Economy Toward Community, the Environment, and a Sustainable Future*. On page 34 he uses the word *disciplinolarity* to describe how the isolated disciplines (silo effect) causes speciality groups to place higher value on *their* issue than others. This issue adds difficulty to interdisciplinary discussions.

[R2] In order to set the tone of urgency, listen to this 8 minute talk by David Wasdell:

<http://www.aglmedia.co.uk/index.php/wasdell-ipcc>

[R3] George Monbiot's article, *The Gift Of Death*, deals with the resource was associated with Christmas.

<http://www.monbiot.com/2012/12/10/the-gift-of-death/>

End of Essays