

Indigenous Social Entrepreneurship: A Co-generated Approach

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Indigenous approach to development

The First Nations' **approach** to economic development is:

1. A predominantly **collective** one centered on the individual First Nation for the **purposes** of:
 2. **Attaining economic self-sufficiency** as a necessary condition for the realization of self-government at the First Nation level.
 3. **Improving the socioeconomic circumstances** of the people of the First Nations.
 4. **Preserving and strengthening traditional culture, values and languages** and the reflection of the same in development activities

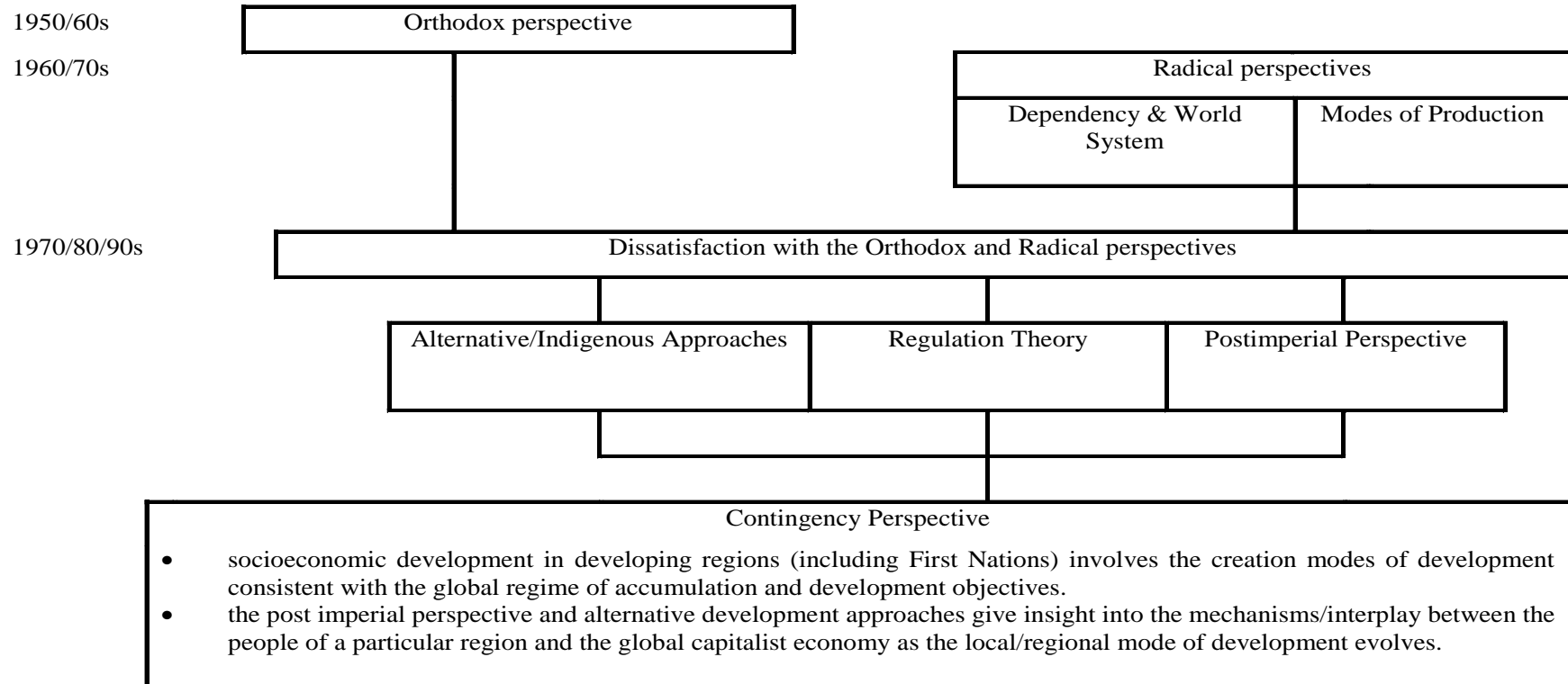
Involving the following **processes**:

5. **Creating and operating businesses to exercise the control** over the economic development process.
6. **Creating and operating businesses that can compete profitably** over the long-run in the global economy, to build the economy necessary to support self-government and improve socioeconomic conditions.
7. **Forming alliances and joint ventures** among themselves and with non-First Nation partners to create businesses that can compete profitably in the global economy.
8. **Building capacity** for economic development through: (i) education, training and institution-building and (ii) the realization of the treaty and Aboriginal rights to land and resources.

Source: adapted from Anderson and Bone 1995a

Theoretical perspective

. Following this review, a ‘contingency perspective’ on development is proposed that is an amalgam of the three perspectives.



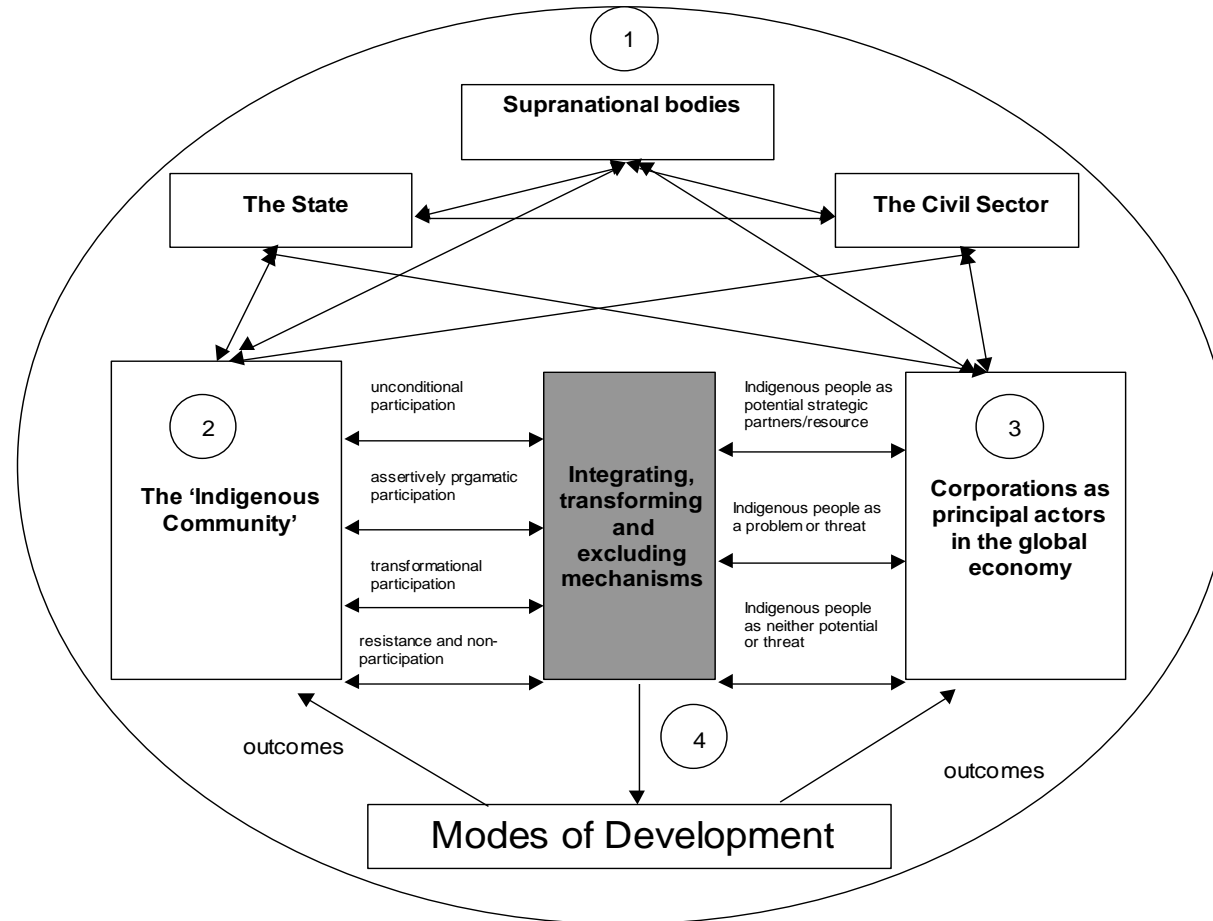
[Source: adapted from Anderson and Bone 1995a](#)

Regulation Theory

Regulation Theory - emphasizes contingency and human agency, including the importance of local factors to particular outcomes	Modes of Development analyzes the global economy “in terms of a series of modes of development based on the combination of the currently ascendant regime of accumulation and a variety of modes of social regulation”	Regime of Accumulation	- historically specific production apparatus through which surplus is generated, appropriated, and redeployed” within a defined economic system
		Modes of Social Regulation	- stability in the global economic system is dependent on the emergence of a set of social relations that preserve it, for a time at least, from catastrophic internal collisions and breakdowns - made up of a series of formal and informal structures of governance and stabilization ranging from the state through business and labour associations, to modes of socialization which create ingrained habits of behaviour

Adapted from: ([Hirst & Zeitlin, 1992: 84-85](#); [Scott, 1988: 8](#))

Figure 1: The Development Framework



Areas of Investigation

1. the impact of the "state", the "civil sector" and supranational bodies on the on the multiple overlapping modes of social regulation and and therefore on the participants in the global economy, and the influence of the participants on the "state" and the civil sector.
2. Indigenous approaches to economic development including current circumstances and objectives, approach to participation in the global economy including strategies for participation transformation and/or resistance, expected outcomes, actual outcomes.
3. Corporate responses to Indigenous issues, particularly motivating forces, strategies, expected outcomes, and actual outcomes.
4. Expected and actual Modes of Development emerging from the inter-relationships among #1, 2, & 3 in particular places, at particular times, and changes over time.

Three key shifts

three significant global paradigm shifts that are exerting significant impacts on Indigenous business, economic development and entrepreneurship in Canada and globally. These are:

- (i) a shift to a **flexible global economic system** that involves an increase in local-global alliances, particularly between transnational corporations and subnational/local groups;
- (ii) the **increasing emphasis of sustainable development** (economic, environmental, social and cultural) and,
- (iii) the **increasing recognition of the Indigenous peoples' rights and title** to traditional land, resources and other assets.

The 'new economy': flexible accumulation

The Fordist equilibrium is well described by Getimis and Kafkalas (1992, 74) as consisting of:

- *The Fordist compromise, a regime of accumulation according to which mass production was matched with mass consumption through a constant sharing-out of value added and the parallel growth of real income and productivity.*

and

- *Keynesian policies, a mode of regulation whereby social legislation, collective bargaining, and welfare measure, together with credit controls, [that] allowed the regulation of demand and investment.*

The 'new economy': flexible accumulation

- response to the crisis in Fordism has involved, and continues to involve, a "selective move from mass production to various forms of flexible production" (Norcliffe 1994, 2).
- A new system of creation, production and distribution of goods and services ...
 - defined by a distinct set of relationships, interdependencies, and forms of interaction among suppliers, producers, distributors, and customers.
 - demands new approaches to organizing, operating, and measuring the performance of both individual companies and clusters of cooperating companies. It will entail sweeping changes in social institutions, as well as social and personal values (Goldman 1995, 1).
- the crisis in the global economy has resulted in "new opportunities for the location of economic activities" and that "the geography of post-Fordist production is said to be at once local and global" (Amin and Malmberg 1994, 222) .
- Komninos (1989) says that there has been a shift to the local as an important level of regulation as a result of the collapse of the national modes associated with Fordism.

Indigenous Rights

- **International Labour Organization Convention 169** Article 14 calls for the recognition of Indigenous peoples' ownership rights over the lands that they have traditionally occupied and usage rights over lands to which they have traditionally had access for their subsistence and traditional activities.
- The **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People** recognizes
 - the importance of lands and resources to Indigenous people,
 - the right to develop in their own way,
 - that these rights are inherent to their existence as Peoples, and
 - that these rights are essential rebuilding Indigenous communities as Indigenous people wish to rebuild them.
- The **World Bank** requires that borrowers develop an Indigenous Peoples Plan, incorporating a framework for ensuring free, prior, and informed consultation during project implementation.

Indigenous Rights in Canada

- Indigenous rights are enshrined in the Canadian Constitution
- Historic treaties and modern land claim agreements covering roughly 40 percent of Canada's land mass, which have been ratified and brought into effect since the announcement of the Government of Canada's comprehensive land claims policy in 1973.
- Historic and modern treaties and the constitution recognize Indigenous rights on their traditional territories similar to those recognized by supra national bodies

Indigenous Rights in Canada

Truth and Reconciliation Commission 2016

- the Supreme Court of Canada has highlighted at a fundamental level is that Aboriginal communities have a right to an equitable place at the table in relation to natural resource development in Canada. Their empowerment through *Tsilhqot'in* and earlier decisions has the potential to be immensely exciting as a means of further economic development in Aboriginal communities and prosperity for all
- the time is now for governments, Aboriginal communities, and resource sector companies to work together to build partnerships for the future.... We need to keep building a national consensus that responsible resource development that takes account of sustainability issues and that respects Indigenous communities, contributes positively—very positively—to Canada and its future.
- sustainable reconciliation on the land involves realizing the economic potential of Indigenous communities in a fair, just, and equitable manner that respects their right to self-determination. Economic reconciliation involves working in partnership with Indigenous peoples to ensure that lands and resources within their traditional territories are developed in culturally respectful ways that fully recognize Treaty and Aboriginal rights and title.

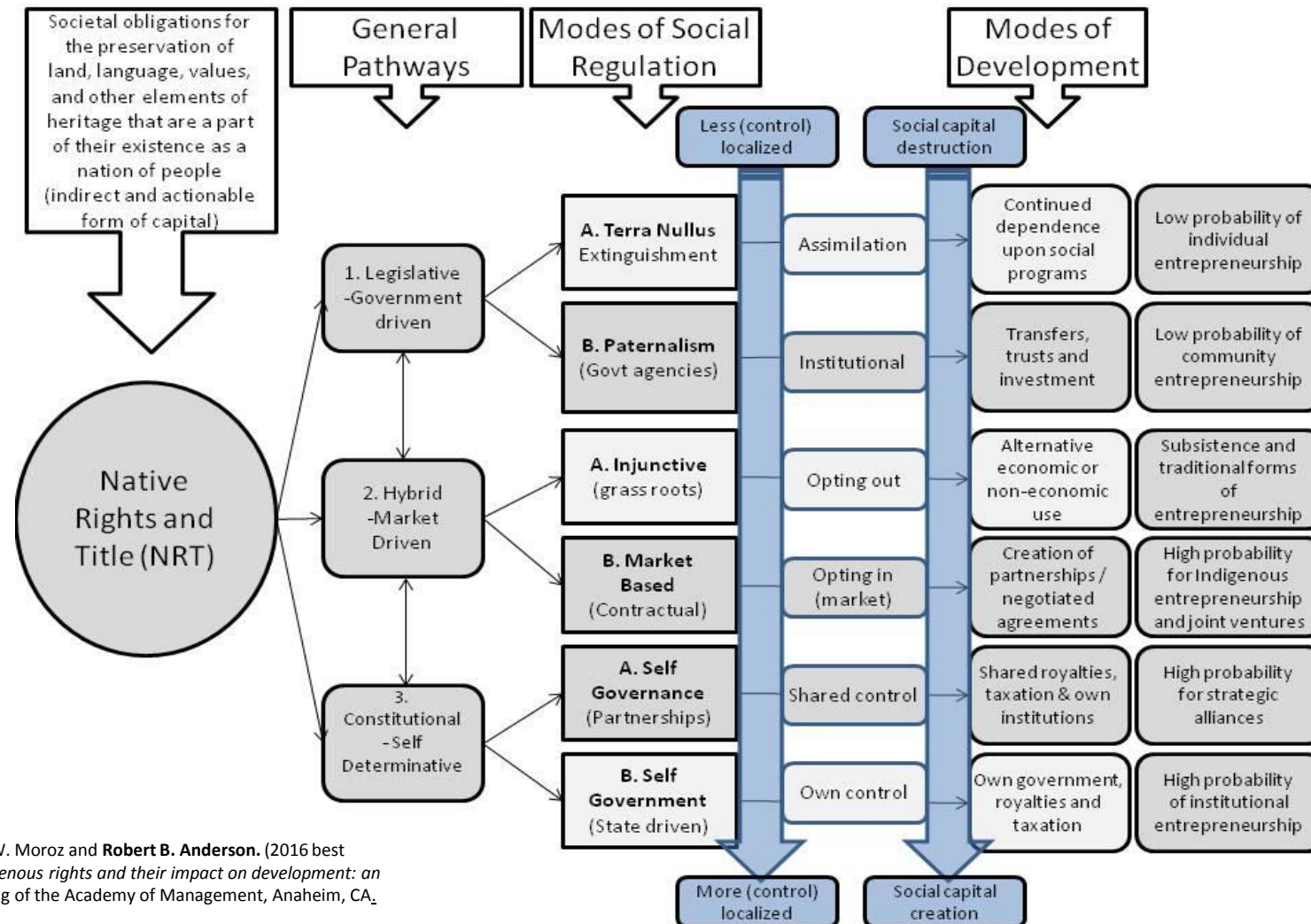
Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future pp 304-5

Indigenous Rights in Canada

- the exercise and conversion of Indigenous rights are part of the complex of things that results in particular modes of social regulation. We limit the present study to the consideration of the three presented above paths:
 - (i) legislative;
 - (ii) hybrid; and
 - (iii) constitutional (see Figure 1).

Strategic Alliances in the Flexible Economy

Figure 1. Framework: Indigenous rights, social capital formation and joint venture creation



Emerging Work

1. Systematic review of Indigenous development literature
2. Indigenous Social Entrepreneurship
3. The International Indigenous Collaboration for Enterprise (“ICE”) Project

Systematic review of Indigenous economic development and entrepreneurship literature

Systematic reviews differ from traditional narrative reviews by adopting a replicable, scientific and transparent process, which aims to minimize bias through exhaustive literature searches of published and unpublished studies and by providing an audit trail of the reviewers' decisions, procedures and conclusions (Higgins and Green, 2009). Systematic reviews map and assess the existing intellectual territory (Tranfield et al., 2003). The key characteristics of a systematic review include:

1. A clearly stated set of objectives with pre-defined eligibility criteria for studies;
2. An explicit, reproducible methodology;
3. A systematic search that attempts to identify all studies that would meet the eligibility criteria;
4. An assessment of the validity of the included studies, for example through the assessment of risk of bias;
5. A systematic presentation, and synthesis, of the characteristics and findings of the included studies.

Systematic review of Indigenous economic development and entrepreneurship literature

The questions we wish to ask/answer are:

1. What is the Indigenous context; i.e., what makes entrepreneurship and business development Indigenous?
2. What are Entrepreneurship? Venture creation?
3. What is the relationship between entrepreneurship, venture creation and the development?
4. How is entrepreneurship/venture creation being done successfully?
5. What are the contextual factors that influence the outcome of the entrepreneurial/venture creation/development process: financial, physical (land base/rights, resources, location, etc.) and human (culture, values, education and training, etc.)?

Our purpose is to describe the current state of knowledge about Indigenous business, economic development and entrepreneurship in order to identify the most promising policies and practices.

Indigenous Social Entrepreneurship

This research seeks to build an aspirational Indigenous social entrepreneurship framework.

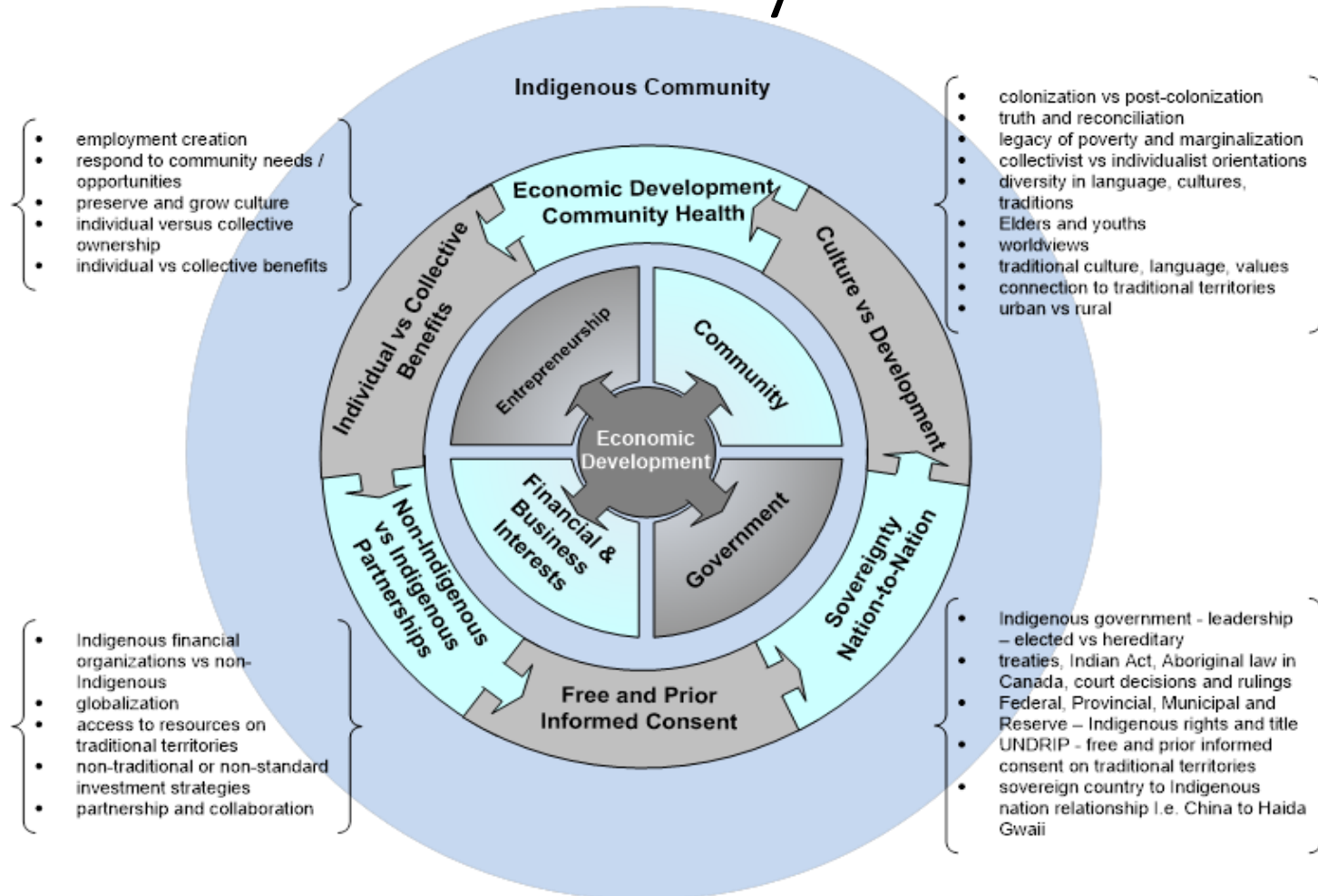
- based on the co-generation and co-creation of knowledge whereby the Indigenous world view of cooperation, community, sustainability, sense of place and a generational perspective and the entrepreneurial Western perspective are synthesized so as to derive a more complete and inclusive understanding of entrepreneurial processes.
- requires all stakeholders to the entrepreneurial activity including Indigenous communities, Indigenous social entrepreneurs, the financial and business sector, governments and non-governmental agencies to share experiences and co-generate/co-create an entrepreneurship framework.

Indigenous Social Entrepreneurship

The tensions we seek to understand in order to develop our framework are:

- 1) The tension between private and collective property rights;
- 2) The tension between the needs of the individual and those of the community; and
- 3) The tension between economic valuation and Indigenous valuation.

Indigenous Social Entrepreneurship 'Ecosystem'



The International Indigenous Collaboration for Enterprise (“ICE”) Project

Working collaboratively with partners, our specific objectives are:

1. discover what has happened to date from the lived experience of communities and enterprises (i.e., owners, the managers and employees, especially the Indigenous employees, communities and other stakeholders)
2. search for and identify patterns and pathways that have allowed enterprise to contribute to self-determination and self-determination to enterprise
3. identify and conduct activities to co-create new knowledge through community-based action research.
4. pursue a broad dissemination strategy making useful information available to communities, educators, practitioners, policy makers and others in order to further the effectiveness of the appropriate use of enterprise in the pursuit of self-determination, and
5. in the process of doing the above, foster the growth an international network of communities, practitioners, policy makers and others beyond the initial partnership

The International Indigenous Collaboration for Enterprise (“ICE”) Project

To accomplish our objectives, we propose:

1. conducting a comprehensive review and meta-analysis of the literature focusing on Indigenous enterprise and self-determination.
2. using participatory action research with Indigenous community partners to conduct case studies that contribute to refining and expanding findings from the meta-analysis.
3. Learn from the lived experiences of the owners, managers and members of Indigenous community in which the Indigenous enterprise is embedded by drawing on a creative and qualitative story-telling methodology that is appropriate in the specific cultural context.
4. providing a clearinghouse or platform for Indigenous voices affected by self-determination and enterprise activity.