



British Columbia
Assembly of First Nations

Centering First Nations Concepts of Wellbeing

Toward a GDP-Alternative Index in British Columbia



An aerial photograph of a river winding through a dense, lush green forest. The river is the central focus, with its surface reflecting the surrounding trees. The banks are rocky and covered in vegetation. The overall scene is serene and natural.

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“The Indigenous worldview has been marginalized for generations because it was seen as antiquated and unscientific and its ethics of respect for Mother Earth were in conflict with the Industrial worldview, bent on treatment of the Earth as if what native people call gifts were nothing more than resources destined for consumption by humans.

But now, in this time of climate change and massive loss of biodiversity we understand that the Indigenous worldview is neither unscientific nor antiquated, but is, in fact, a source of wisdom that we urgently need.”

**ROBIN WALL KIMMERER
(POTAWATOMI NATION)**

ADDRESS TO THE UN 5TH INTERACTIVE
DIALOGUE ON HARMONY WITH NATURE
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Executive Summary

This discussion paper explores the ways in which our official BC measures of economic value are inadequate and fail to reflect the values of First Nations governments and individuals to the overall wellbeing of the province.

BC, like Canada and most countries around the world, currently measures economic growth using gross domestic product (GDP). GDP is a crude proxy for gauging economic wellbeing in that it essentially measures only national income. However, countries around the world are increasingly adopting new indices of wellbeing that measure economic income, plus a full suite of indicators such as the environment, culture, safety, leisure time, health, and education. These wellbeing indices measures are remarkably similar to those held by BC Indigenous peoples.

Indigenous peoples in BC already have a sophisticated concept of what constitutes a “good life”, a conception and way of living that has been refined over millennia and that varies within each culture, place, and language. An Indigenous good life is one that is “richer” with, for example, clean air, regenerative wild fisheries and forests, socially healthy families, the passing-down of cultural values and language, excellent education, respect for traditions that value Elders and living Indigenous knowledge, a responsive health care system, and a natural environment that sustains our collective wellbeing and species.

Given the global trend in GDP-alternative measures, and considering the need for a productive and efficient COVID-19 recovery, there is an opportunity for BC to develop its own made-in-BC wellbeing index that considers Indigenous knowledge of environmental, health, education, community and cultural outcomes in order to improve the livelihoods of all British Columbians.

This paper takes the following rationale to supporting an Indigenous-centric, made-in-BC wellbeing index:

- There is a growing global movement in GDP-alternatives now becoming substitute indices for measuring human wellbeing.
- Within this global movement, there is a lack of Indigenous values in current GDP-based valuation of the BC economy.
- Indigenous values – which are showing up in other countries in their re-examination of their economies – can be incorporated into a re-imagined BC Wellbeing Index.
- Indigenous values and knowledge have the potential to strengthen GDP alternative indices worldwide and here in BC.
- BC now has an opportunity to take the lead in defining a made-in-BC wellbeing index.

This logic is organized and discussed in the four-part report that follows.

PART ONE

Part One provides a brief history of GDP as a 1930s Great Depression economic planning tool that contrasts with an Indigenous worldview of what is important to a living a good life. The paper describes alternatives to GDP starting with Bhutan’s Gross National Happiness Index (GNH), followed by notable successors such as the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Better Life Index, the United Nations World Happiness Report, and the acceleration of wellbeing indices that appeared between 1990 and the present.

PART TWO

Part Two discusses current wellbeing indices by first highlighting the most notable present-day GDP-alternative indicator: New Zealand's 2019 Wellbeing Budget, its associated Living Standards Framework, and the relevant Indigenous Māori wellbeing outcomes. It then discusses other indicators either already in place, or currently being developed, in Iceland, Scotland, Finland, Wales, Belgium, and India. Also highlighted are the wellbeing indicators in Canada, Australia, and Ireland that have not yet been adopted by their governments.

“GDP tells you nothing about sustainability.”

JOSEPH STIGLITZ
NOBEL PRIZE-WINNING ECONOMIST

PART THREE

Part Three hones in on the wellbeing and economic indicators that involve Indigenous peoples, including:

1. New Zealand's Wellbeing Budget and Living Standards Framework
2. Manitoba's Indigenous Contributions to the Manitoba Economy
3. Atlantic Canada's Indigenous Economic Performance
4. Ecuador's Constitutional Enshrinement of Sumak Kawsay or Buen Vivir
5. Bolivia's adoption of the Biocultura Programme a.k.a. Vivir Bien
6. USA's Swinomish Indigenous Health Indicators (Washington State)

PART FOUR

Part Four outlines the rationale for BC to create and adopt a wellbeing index that is more comprehensive and Indigenous-centric than GDP, particularly as the province works to overcome the economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Included in this section are details on BC's "Progress Board", an early, limited, wellbeing template abandoned by the BC Liberal Christy Clark government.

The paper concludes with recommendations which are to:

1. Adopt a collective commitment, in lockstep with Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders, to a new wellbeing framework for BC.
2. Meaningfully include First Nations as central to the development and implementation of the BC wellbeing framework.
3. Mandate a shared Centre of Excellence to develop the BC wellbeing framework.
4. Examine and learn from the best practices and specific examples of Indigenous wellbeing indices in other jurisdictions.
5. Prioritize the development of data needed to support the framework.
6. Accelerate the implementation of UNDRIP principles by incorporating the BC wellbeing framework and resulting made-in-BC wellbeing index into government policy, laws and decision-making.

Introduction

Are we meaningfully measuring our collective and individual wellbeing in British Columbia using GDP? Are Indigenous values reflected in BC's official economic numbers?

The answer to both of these questions is, no.

These are more than just interesting hypothetical questions: how we measure the wellbeing of people and economies is a profoundly important and relevant public policy question.

In BC, as with Canada and in the majority of countries around the world, GDP is used to calculate income, and measure the growth of economies. However, any strategy aimed at sustainably realizing BC's full potential must consider what actually constitutes wellbeing and progress for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people alike.

First Nations in BC provide a depth of understanding of what constitutes wellbeing in this place, including:

- Millennia of history and connection to the land and water;
- Unceded Indigenous traditional territories;
- Cultures and placed knowledge of ages;
- Values, language, and ways of living rooted in place, land and water; and
- Respect for and responsibility of the land, water and resources upon which all of BC's current prosperity has been grounded since contact.

Using a very different set of values, the BC government calculates, quarterly and yearly, the economic value in terms of GDP for the provincial economy. In September, the government calculated the size of the BC economy in 2019 to be \$306

billion.¹ This works out to \$60,397 for every person in BC. Yet, this crude measure and averaged income does little to reflect the actual wellbeing of every person in BC.

GDP was designed in the 1930s at the end of the Great Depression to measure national income and economic growth above all other factors. But it reflects only those values that were considered important at the time for a "good life" by those who adopted it, namely money and the production of goods.²

GDP does *not* include what we as Indigenous people consider essential for a "good life". It ignores factors like a healthy environment, respect for Elders, traditional practices, health and access to food out on the land, quality of education, the safety of children and communities, cultures, vibrant and diverse languages, and the interconnected nature of all things. According to the GDP measurement, a good life is one focused solely on the production of material goods and the growth of national income.

We as Indigenous people know that this very narrow view of a good life is false and is missing much of what makes life worthwhile, productive, joyful, and fulfilling.

And we are not alone in this perspective.

People and countries around the world are actively questioning whether GDP's sole focus on only national income truly reflects what is important to our overall lives. There is a growing global trend to move beyond GDP, already being carried out by several countries

1 2020 British Columbia Financial and Economic Review. 80th ed., Ministry of Finance, 2020.

2 "Human Development Reports." About Human Development | Human Development Reports, United Nations Development Program, hdr.undp.org/en/humandev.

around the world, to define and measure wellbeing in a broader, more comprehensive way. These countries have established new goal posts which, instead of focusing solely on national income, establish the aspirational measure that *everyone* in a society can potentially enjoy a good life.

Worldwide, this more complete way of measuring wellbeing is known as the wellbeing economy movement. New Zealand, Scotland, Iceland, Finland, India, Bhutan, Bolivia, and Ecuador are at the forefront of re-defining their economic measurement standards to include more than just money, goods and services. These eight countries, and now many more following their lead, have taken action to implement GDP-alternative measures focused on cultivating a good life.

Notably, the GDP-alternative measures that these countries are adopting in order to gauge wellbeing in many cases happen to reflect values held by Indigenous peoples. Some countries, such as Ecuador, Bolivia, and New Zealand, have deliberately incorporated Indigenous values in their GDP-alternatives measures. In other countries such as Scotland and Iceland, they are measuring wellbeing in a way that aligns with what Indigenous peoples already practice.

As Indigenous citizens, we already know that the definition of a good life goes beyond a mere GDP formula. Our communities are made “richer” by clean air, regenerative wild fisheries and forests, socially healthy families, the passing-down of cultural values and language, excellent education, respect for traditions that value Elders and living Indigenous knowledge, a responsive health care system, and a natural environment that sustains our collective wellbeing and species.

“The shortcomings of GDP as a measure of welfare have become even more striking in today’s much more complex world of rapidly evolving technologies, demographic shifts, rising income inequalities and the urgent need to reduce pressure on the physical environment.

Something is clearly missing and we need to move beyond GDP to get there.”

JENNIFER BLANKE
CHIEF ECONOMIST
WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

In this time of COVID-19, when people around the world have come to realize more than before that community connections, well-functioning government systems, and accessible natural spaces improve our wellbeing, it is time for BC to re-evaluate the narrow, antiquated 1930s GDP definition and measure of a “good life.”

As other peoples and nations around the world start to appreciate what we have always known as Indigenous values in their revised GDP-alternative economic measurements, we as First Nations think it is time that BC begins to measure wellbeing using our timeless knowledge, a knowledge that includes the understanding that a good life cannot be reduced to merely consumption, investment, government spending, and net exports.

THE NEED FOR A DISCUSSION OF WELLBEING IN BC

What is a true and comprehensive measure of wellbeing?

The intent of this paper is to start a discussion about a made-in-BC wellbeing index.

There are three important reasons why this discussion is necessary:

- The need to meaningfully measure First Nations wellbeing in BC, as a critical starting point to improving the wellbeing of all British Columbians – Indigenous and non-Indigenous alike.
- The need for productive and efficient COVID-19 recovery, to protect and improve the lives and livelihoods of British Columbians impacted by the pandemic.
- The need to achieve economic, social, and environmental sustainability for the future, at a time when climate change and unsustainable environmental practices are impacting our health, communities, and livelihoods.

With COVID-19, much of what BC considers to be a good life has shifted. A singular focus on GDP indicators is clearly no longer enough to provide security and wellbeing to all British Columbians.

A made-in-BC wellbeing index would include a broad selection of social, economic, environmental, and cultural values as seen in other countries leading this trend, and in so doing would reflect how Indigenous knowledge and the contributions that have long been understood by Indigenous individuals and communities.

This paper will examine a number of issues:

- The lack of Indigenous values in the current valuation of the BC economy.
- Whether Indigenous values – which are showing up in other nations in their re-examination of their economies – can be incorporated into a BC Wellbeing Index.
- The growing movement worldwide to move beyond the limits of GDP as a substitute for measuring human wellbeing.
- BC's opportunity to take the lead in defining a wellbeing standard.
- How BC Indigenous values and knowledge have the potential to strengthen a GDP-alternative index here in BC.
- What contributions and leadership BC First Nations can offer in visioning for a BC Wellbeing Index.
- Discussion of the importance of GDP alternatives in BC and in particular at this time.

It is important to note that while BC has lagged other jurisdictions in the development of comprehensive measures of wellbeing, there is a strong desire on the part of those jurisdictions to actively collaborate with BC and other like-minded partners on this important priority. Indeed, in the preparation this paper, the authors engaged with thought-leaders in governments around the world, including New Zealand, Ecuador, Iceland and Finland, all of whom are eager to support, and collaborate with our province in the development of a made-in-BC wellbeing index.

This coalition of like-minded global peers represents a tremendous opportunity for our province.

PART ONE

A Brief History of GDP

Many have heard of the United Nations' "World Happiness Index," and may be familiar with the notion that GDP alone is an inadequate, inaccurate, and in some ways damaging measure of economic wellbeing.

Nevertheless, it is important to begin this discussion by understanding the core components of how we currently define economic "value" in BC, and the deficiencies of using GDP as a benchmark.

Considerable academic research and discussion have been dedicated to the topic of how we measure economic value, and the ways in which those measures are inadequate. The following section provides a brief summary of this discussion, as a foundation to understanding in greater detail the latest case studies of innovative wellbeing indices adopted by other jurisdictions.

INDIGENOUS WELLBEING VALUES

For Indigenous people, our understanding of our place within the natural world and our social environments is defined by the collective knowledge of traditions passed on to us from one generation to next. We use our knowledge to understand, sustain and adapt ourselves to our natural and social environments. It is passed down through generations through storytelling, ceremonies, traditional rituals, arts, food gathering and preparation, parenting, spending time out on the land, family and community gatherings, and other means.³

For Eurocentric societies, particularly when it comes to economic planning, the defining core values have, since the 1930s, been centred on *Gross Domestic Product*, or production. According to the GDP framework, if it can't be produced as a product (as a good or monetized service), it has, by definition, no value. As an example, were an oil spill to occur in the waters off our coast, this would be considered a net positive in the calculation of our provincial GDP, as a result of the money spent on mitigation of the spill. Yet, an oil spill should clearly be considered a net negative, in terms of the destructive impacts to the environment, fish, wildlife habitats, and the economic activity they sustain.

"Anyone who thinks that you can have infinite growth in a finite environment is either a madman or an economist."

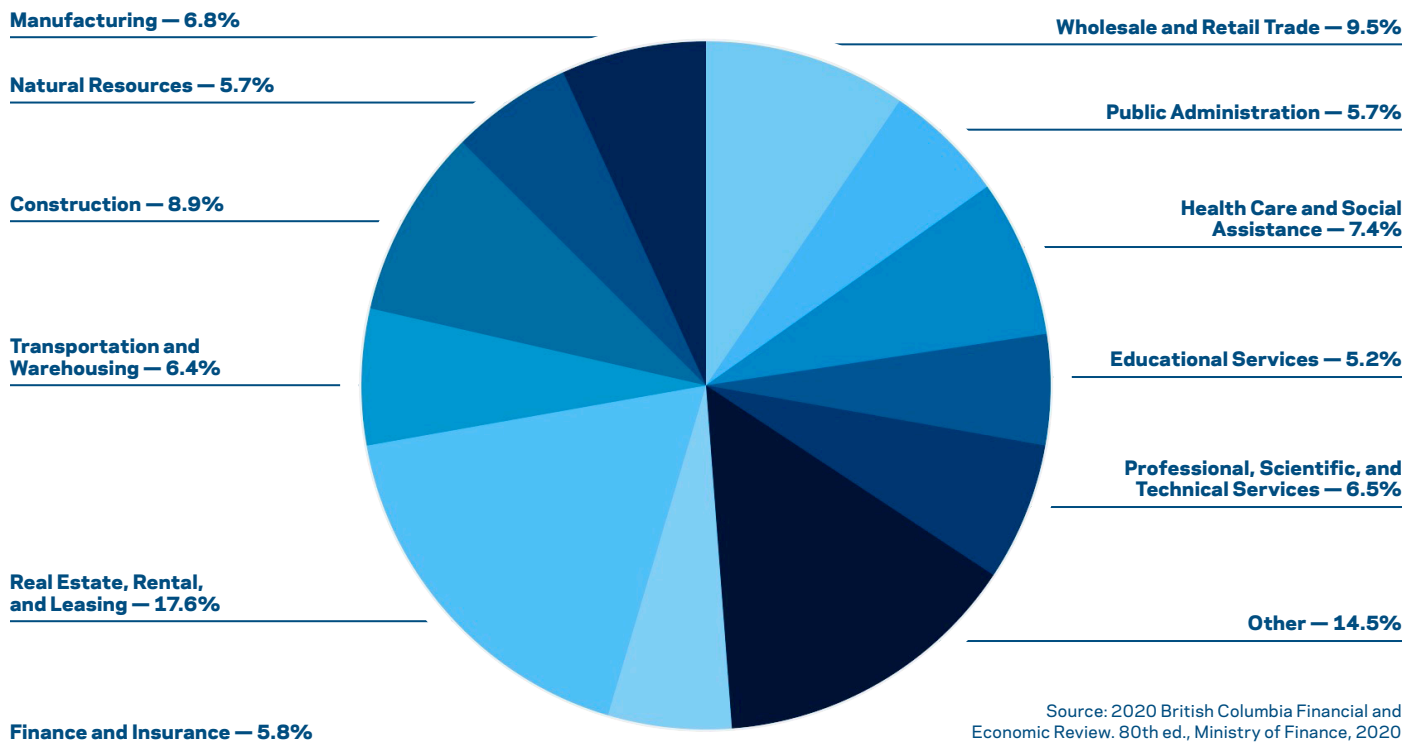
DAVID ATTENBOROUGH
BROADCASTER AND NATURAL HISTORIAN

Given this false measurement of wellbeing, we clearly need to have more than just a measure of the rise and fall of our product-producing economy to be happy, safe, and secure in all areas of our lives. And if we acknowledge that our lives are made better by the supposed "no value" aspects of our environment, health, education, communities and culture, should we not start to measure more than just BC's ability to produce "stuff"?

3 Assembly of First Nations. AFN Environmental Stewardship: Traditional Knowledge.

* <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/oct/16/attenborough-poorer-countries-concerned-environment>.

FIGURE 1. BC GDP BY INDUSTRY, 2019



BC ECONOMY - AS MEASURED NOW

As noted, in 2019, the BC economy was valued at \$306,272,000,000 or \$60,397 per person⁴. If BC was a separate country, it would have the 50th largest economy in the world, ahead of both Greece and New Zealand⁵.

Measured in Eurocentric terms, BC has, over the last several decades, been a resource-dominated economy centered on the forest industry, with a fluctuating importance of mining, farming and natural gas. However, today, BC’s economy is more diverse with service industries accounting for 75% of the province’s GDP. Over recent decades, employment in resource industries has fallen steadily as a percentage of employment, and new job growth has occurred mostly in construction, real estate, leasing and rental, and the retail and service sectors.⁶

4 2020 British Columbia Financial and Economic Review. 80th ed., Ministry of Finance, 2020.

5 World Economic League Table 2020: A World Economic League Table with Forecasts for 193 Countries to 2034. 11th ed., Centre for Economics and Business Research Ltd, 2019.

6 “Economy of British Columbia.” Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 24 Oct. 2020, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_British_Columbia.

But these industrial segments of BC’s economy miss many aspects of what is good about BC and even the economy that BC citizens consider important to daily life. Our environment, communities, and culture are all missing from this interpretation of what comprises the provincial economy. Similarly, these segments of BC’s economy omit any recognition of Indigenous values, activities, and indicators of wellbeing.

These omissions are a result of the way the BC economy is calculated: BC, like other provinces, Canada, and most countries around the world, calculates its economy by only counting the income derived by the fixed formula, GDP.

GDP EXPLAINED

GDP is the total market value of all final goods and services produced during a given time period within a nation or province. It is an economic snapshot of a country or province. GDP was originally devised in the USA in 1932 by Simon Kuznets, a immigrant to the USA, to give American federal policy makers a way to measure America’s economic output.

At the time, the United States was in the midst of the Great Depression. GDP was meant to give policy makers an indication of the size of the US national economy so that they could make economic planning decisions – arguably fitting for the time. Adopted by the US Government in 1934 and by most of the world after 1944, GDP has become the global standard for measuring national income. Conventional thinking at the time was that the more GDP grows, the better a country, state, or province is doing and thus by extension, are its citizens.

GDP does not measure quality of life, economic ability, or the sustainability of the natural environment. Indeed,

even Kuznets, the inventor of GDP recognized that *“the welfare of a nation can scarcely be inferred from a measurement of national income.”*⁷

WHAT GDP MEASURES

C	+	Consumption
I	+	Investment
G	+	Government Spending
X-M	+	Net Exports (Exports-Imports = Net)
GDP	=	Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

Consumption represents all of the purchases of goods and services made by households, which accounts for the largest share of GDP. Examples of consumption include things that consumers buy every day - things like cars, computers, rent, food, utilities, clothes and other consumer products.

Investment includes the costs of building infrastructure, business construction, regular business expenses, the construction of new homes and increases or decreases in business inventories.

Government Spending includes federal, provincial and local spending on things like health, education, transport, employment insurance payments, and the operational expenses of all levels of government.

Net Exports are the difference between the value of a country’s (or province’s) exports versus its imports.

⁷ Contributors to Wikimedia. “Economist.” Wikiquote, Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., 11 Feb. 2020, en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Simon_Kuznets.

Exports include goods and services that are produced within our national or provincial borders but sold in other jurisdictions. In the case of BC, money flows into our economy when we sell products and services to outsiders. The dollar value of these 'provincial exports' adds to BC's overall GDP. Imports are goods and services that are we use within the province but are produced in other provinces or countries. Since money flows out from BC to purchase these goods and services, imports are subtracted from GDP.

“What we choose to measure as a country matters, because it drives political focus. It drives public activity. Against that context, the limitations of GDP as a measure of a country’s success is all too obvious.

GDP measures the output of our work, but it says nothing about the nature of that work and whether it is worthwhile or fulfilling. It puts a value for example on illegal drug consumption, but not on unpaid care. It values activity in the short term that boosts the economy, even if that activity is hugely damaging to the sustainability of our planet in the long-term.”

NICOLA STURGEON
FIRST MINISTER OF SCOTLAND

WHAT GDP DOES NOT MEASURE

While BC's annual GDP is large, the list of things it does not include is long.

The following are not included in the provincial GDP:

- Many services, including unpaid activities like child care, elder care, or volunteering
- Sales of goods or services that are produced outside of BC
- Sales of used goods
- Illegal sales of goods and services
- Transfer payments made by the government
- Business-to-business goods that are used to produce other final products
- Internet knowledge
- Individual income disparity
- Quality of life

Government spending is included in GDP as long as it is spent on a good or service. However, transfer payments to either individuals (welfare or child support payments) or other governments like funding to a First Nation are *not* included in GDP as theoretically nothing is produced when transferring money – despite the fact that such spending is sure to improve wellbeing and income.

GDP also says nothing about changes in individual incomes. According to Statistics Canada, the median-income for Indigenous peoples is nearly one-third less than that of non-Indigenous Canadians.⁸ Depending on how provincial income is shared, a rising GDP number could cause societal unrest if it only benefits a select few.

⁸ Government of Canada, Statistics Canada. "Income." Aboriginal Statistics at a Glance: 2nd Edition, 9 Nov. 2015, www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/89-645-x/2015001/income-revenu-eng.htm.

THE RISE OF GDP ALTERNATIVES

Unpaid activities like volunteering, housework, looking after an ageing relative, or Indigenous sustenance fishing, hunting, or gathering are also of no value in terms of GDP. GDP for the most part only measures monetary transactions. In fact, a family catching fish rather than buying it in a supermarket actually causes GDP to go down as there is no cash involved.

In addition to the major things that it misses, and perhaps most importantly, GDP fails to represent the actual quality of life experienced by people.

An economy exists to serve people, and the health of that economy cannot be fully understood or measured with the blunt and one-dimensional tool that is GDP.

“For 60 years Gross Domestic Product, or GDP for short, has been the yardstick by which the world has measured and understood economic and social progress. However, it has failed to capture some of the factors that make a difference in people’s lives and contribute to their happiness, such as security, leisure, income distribution and a clean environment—including the kinds of factors which growth itself needs to be sustainable.”*

JOSEPH STIGLITZ
NOBEL PRIZE-WINNING ECONOMIST

* Beyond GDP: Measuring the impact of Operational Programmes in relation to economic growth and sustainable development at a local/regional level.

With an increasingly widespread global awareness of the pitfalls of GDP globally, nations, global organizations such as the UN, and some sub-national jurisdictions began in the 1970s exploring how to develop indicators that reflect their overall economic wellbeing, rather than just the income of the country and its economy.

The first alternative to GDP emerged in 1972 when the King Jigme Singye Wangchuck of Bhutan articulated the need for an economic index which measured more than GDP. Bhutan’s resulting Gross National Happiness Index was the starting point for all other alternative indicator frameworks that have been developed since.

Given the prominence and significance of the Gross National Happiness Index, a brief examination of its underlying components is warranted.

THE FIRST ALTERNATIVE: BHUTAN’S GROSS NATIONAL HAPPINESS INDEX

Bhutan is a constitutional monarchy kingdom located in South Asia, long the Eastern ranges of the Himalaya Mountains bordering on India and China.

In 1972, the fourth King of Bhutan, King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, first expressed the concept of “Gross National Happiness” during an interview where he famously said “*Gross National Happiness is more important than Gross National Product*”.⁹

⁹ “Gross National Happiness.” Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 12 Oct. 2020, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gross_National_Happiness. GDP measures the value of goods and services produced within a country’s borders, by citizens and non-citizens alike. Gross National Product measures the value of goods and services produced by only a country’s citizens but both domestically and abroad. GDP is the most commonly used by global economies. The United States abandoned the use of GNP in 1991, adopting GDP as its measure to compare itself with other economies.

FIGURE 2. BHUTAN GNH INDEX PILLARS

The idea expressed by Bhutan’s King—who, remarkably, was 17 years old at the time—was that people should take a holistic approach towards notions of progress and give equal importance to non-economic aspects of life that are part of peoples’ overall wellbeing.

For the young King, increased national income did not necessarily mean that his people were living better or a ‘good life’. Within Bhutanese culture, the majority of whom are Buddhist¹⁰, there are a wide range of other non-economic factors such as cultural traditions, environmental health, and use of time, that are equal to if not more important than just GDP numbers, and thus supported this shift in measuring wellbeing.

The Bhutanese government subsequently created the Gross National Happiness Index or GNH, a measurement used for policymaking and creating policy incentives for the government, non-governmental organizations (NGO), and businesses of Bhutan to increase overall wellbeing of the people, and not just a GDP-driven increase in national income.

The GNH Index measures traditional areas of socio-economic concern such as living standards, health, education, but also includes measurements on culture, ecological diversity, and governance. It is an all-inclusive reflection of the general wellbeing of the Bhutanese people that is much more than the measure of perceived or measured people’s ‘happiness’ alone.

The GNH principles have influenced Bhutan’s economic and social policy, and also captured the imagination of people, communities, and nations around the world.

The GNH is often described through its four fundamental pillars:

1. Sustainable and Equitable Socio-Economic Development
2. Preservation and Promotion of Culture
3. Conservation of Environment
4. Good Governance

PILLARS	DOMAINS
Sustainable and Equitable Socio-Economic Development	1. Living Standards 2. Education 3. Health
Preservation and Promotion of Culture	4. Cultural Diversity & Resilience 5. Community Vitality 6. Time Use 7. Psychological Well-being
Conservation of Environment	8. Ecological Diversity
Good Governance	9. Good Governance

Within these four pillars, there are nine domains with 33 indicators. Taken together, the data that contribute to the GNH Index are designed to pursue the collective happiness of Bhutanese citizens as the goal of governance, by emphasizing harmony with nature and traditional Bhutanese values.

“If the government cannot create happiness for its people, then there is no purpose for government to exist.”

ZHABDRUNG NGAWANG NAMGYAL
FOUNDER OF BHUTAN, 1629

¹⁰ Local religious observances and Buddhist philosophy are deeply embedded in the structure of the GNH Index.

FIGURE 3. GROSS NATIONAL HAPPINESS INDEX MEASURES

SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION OF CULTURE	
LIVING STANDARDS	HEALTH	CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND RESILIENCE	COMMUNITY VITALITY
Household Per Capita Income	Self-Reported Health Status	Speak Native Language	Community Relationship
Housing	Mental Health	Cultural Participation	Donations (time & money)
Assets	Healthy Days	Driglam Namzha (Behaviour & Attire)	Family
	Disability	Artistic Skills	Safety
EDUCATION		PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLBEING	TIME USE
Literacy		Life Satisfaction	Work
Schooling		Positive Emotions	Sleep
Knowledge		Negative Emotions	
Value		Spirituality	
CONSERVATION OF ENVIRONMENT		GOOD GOVERNANCE	
ECOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND RESILIENCE		GOOD GOVERNANCE	
Ecological Issues		Fundamental Rights	
Responsibility to Environment		Political Participation	
Wildlife Damage (Rural)		Government Performance	
Urbanization Issues		Services	

Figure 3 lists the nine domains and 33 indicators measured by a national survey to Bhutanese citizens. The first GNH survey was conducted in Bhutan in 2008, followed by a second in 2010, and a third in 2015. The most recent results can be found at: www.grossnationalhappiness.com¹¹

UN ADOPTS GROSS NATIONAL HAPPINESS

Following Bhutan’s 1972 GNH, the 1990 United Nations Human Development Index (HDI) was the first major multinational effort to adopt a wellbeing framework as a GDP alternative.

While there were many *regional* efforts to emulate the Bhutan GNH – Gross Sustainable Development Product (1984), Fordham Index of Social Health (1987), the Index of Sustainable Economic Welfare (1989) – the HDI was

the first major multinational index to propose using data beyond GDP to measure overall wellbeing.

The HDI was developed to focus on overall human development that improves the lives of people which may or may not follow the rise and fall of national income as indicated by GDP. The index treats Income growth as one of the factors contributing to human development/wellbeing, rather than an end in itself.

The HDI built on earlier aforementioned alternative focus indices from the 1970s and 1980s to go beyond GDP as an indicator of overall wellbeing. Like Bhutan’s measures, it put greater emphasis on employment, redistribution of wealth, and examining whether people have their basic needs met.

11 “Gross National Happiness.” Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 12 Oct. 2020, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gross_National_Happiness.

FIGURE 4. UN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

STANDARD OF LIVING	KNOWLEDGE	LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE
GNI INDEX	EDUCATION INDEX	LIFE EXPECTANCY INDEX
GNI Per Capita Income	Mean Years of Schooling Expected Years of Schooling	Life Expectancy at Birth

The United Nations Development Programme uses HDI data to produce annual reports that explore different themes of wellbeing. Released most years since 1990, the reports have had an extensive influence on the development of alternative wellbeing indicators worldwide. The three component indices are:

1. A Long and Healthy Life
2. Education
3. Standard of Living¹².

A key achievement of the HDI is that it has brought legitimacy and recognition of the fact that monetary measures alone (such as GDP) cannot fully describe individual or community development/wellbeing.

“Indicators arise from values (we measure what we care about) and they create values (we care about what we measure).”

DONELLA MEADOWS
AUTHOR, *THE LIMITS TO GROWTH*

¹² “Human Development Reports.” About Human Development | Human Development Reports, hdr.undp.org/en/humandev. Gross National Income (GNI) is the total amount of money earned by a nation’s people and businesses. GNI is an alternative to GDP as a means of measuring and tracking a nation’s wealth and is considered a more accurate indicator for some nations. <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/g/gross-national-income-gni.asp>.

COMMISSION ON THE MEASUREMENT OF ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE AND SOCIAL PROGRESS (CMEPSP)

In 2008, the French government contracted economist Jean-Paul Fitoussi, and Nobel prize-winning economists Amartya Sen and Joseph Stiglitz to establish the *Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress (CMEPSP)*. Their final report was published in September 2009, and quickly became a foundational piece of literature in the world of wellbeing indicator frameworks.

The CMEPSP, or the Sen-Stiglitz-Fitoussi Commission as it is popularly known, stated that the goal of the Commission was to:

“...identify the limits of GDP as an indicator of economic performance and social progress, including the problems with its measurement; to consider what additional information might be required for the production of more relevant indicators of social progress; to assess the feasibility of alternative measurement tools, and to discuss how to present the statistical information in an appropriate way.”¹³

¹³ Excerpts of the core recommendations of the CMEPSP report are in Appendix A.

This goal was heavily influenced by and a response to the global recession of the late 2000s, as well as part of an increasing and deepening understanding of the looming environmental crisis, in particular, climate change¹⁴. The CMEPSP comprehensively informed the creation of the United Nations Development Program's *Sustainable Human Development Index* in 2011.¹⁵ In the CMEPSP report, the authors distinguish between an "assessment of current wellbeing and an assessment of sustainability, whether this can last over time". The authors elaborate:

"The wellbeing of future generations compared to ours will depend on what resources we pass on to them. Many different forms of resource are involved here. Future wellbeing will depend upon the magnitude of the stocks of exhaustible resources that we leave to the next generations. It will depend also on how well we maintain the quantity and quality of all the other renewable natural resources that are necessary for life. From a more economic point of view, it will also depend upon how much physical capital—machines and buildings—we pass on, and how much we devote to the constitution of the human capital of future generations, essentially through expenditure on education and research. And it also depends upon the quality of the institutions that we transmit to them, which is still another form of "capital" that is crucial for maintaining a properly functioning human society."¹⁶

The CMEPSP is a vital indicator framework serving as a tracking system for the current wellbeing of people/society/economy, and the sustainability components of economic health, and not only one or the other.

OECD BETTER LIFE INDEX (BLI)

As the global wellbeing movement evolved, the Sen-Stiglitz-Fitoussi Commission (CMEPSP) Report directly informed the development of the Better Life Index (BLI), the index created and adopted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The BLI is recognized as the "first attempt to bring together internationally comparable measures of wellbeing in line with the recommendations of the CMEPSP" – a historic milestone in the development of alternative economic indicator frameworks.¹⁷

The BLI covers 11 topics areas – housing, income, jobs, community, education, environment, civic engagement, health, life satisfaction, safety, and work-life balance – topics that have subsequently been adopted by most wellbeing indices worldwide.

The BLI is unique in that it allows citizens to adjust the relative weight of each measure using an online tool, and to view the resulting rankings of countries through the lens of these relative weights. In this way, users are able to view data on variations in priorities across regions and countries, rather than attempting to rank the country in a one-size-fits-all set of values.¹⁸

14 Stiglitz, Joseph E., et al. Report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress. CMEPSP, 2009.

15 Gerhardt, Tina. "Rio+20 Kicks Off." Progressive.org, 20 June 2012, progressive.org/dispatches/rio-20-kicks-gerhardt-120620/.

16 Stiglitz, Joseph E., et al. Report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress. CMEPSP, 2009.

17 "OECD Better Life Index." Wikimedia Foundation, 31 July 2020, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OECD_Better_Life_Index.

18 "How's Life?" OECD Better Life Index, www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/.

FIGURE 5. OECD BETTER LIFE INDEX

CURRENT WELLBEING

KEY DIMENSIONS			HOW WE MEASURE THEM
Income and Wealth	Knowledge and Skills	Work-Life Balance	Averages
Work and Job Quality	Environment Quality	Social Connections	Inequalities Between Groups
Housing	Subjective Well-Being	Civil Engagement	Inequalities Between Top and Bottom Performers
Health	Safety		Deprivations

RESOURCES FOR FUTURE WELLBEING

KEY DIMENSIONS		HOW WE MEASURE THEM	
Natural Capital	Human Capital	Fundamental Rights	Government Performance
Economic Capital	Social Capital	Political Participation	Services

UN WORLD HAPPINESS REPORT

The HDI led to the development of the 2012 World Happiness Report, a UN document that ranked overall happiness and wellbeing of over 150 countries. First issued in 2012, it is now an annual publication of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network¹⁹, and receives considerable media and public discussion. The World Happiness Report considers 14 areas: business and economic, citizen engagement, communications and technology, diversity (social issues), education and families, emotions (wellbeing), environment and energy, food and shelter, government and politics, law and order (safety), health, religion and ethics, transportation, and work.²⁰ In 2019, Scandinavian countries dominated the top 10, with Finland in first place. Canada ranks ninth behind

New Zealand and ahead of Austria.²¹ BC's Vancouver School of Economics at the University of British Columbia is a lead partner and contributor to the HDI.

FIGURE 6. UN WORLD HAPPINESS INDEX²²

PERCEPTION SURVEYS

Social Support	Corruption Perception
Freedom of Life Choices	

GOVERNMENT & COUNTRY STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

GDP Per Capita	Life Expectancy at Birth
----------------	--------------------------

SELF-REPORTED BEHAVIOUR

Generosity

19 The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network also maintains annual Sustainable Development Goal data. <https://www.unsdsn.org/>.

20 "World Happiness Report." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 6 Oct. 2020, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Happiness_Report.

21 John F. Helliwell Vancouver School of Economics at the University of British Columbia, et al. Changing World Happiness, 20 Mar. 2019, <worldhappiness.report/ed/2019/changing-world-happiness/>.

22 World Happiness Report 2020, 20 Mar. 2020, <worldhappiness.report/>.

RAPID GROWTH OF WELLBEING INDICES

The UN HDI and the OECD’s BLI were followed by a proliferation of indices and measurement frameworks from academic institutions, NGOs, and governments that built upon these earlier alternatives.

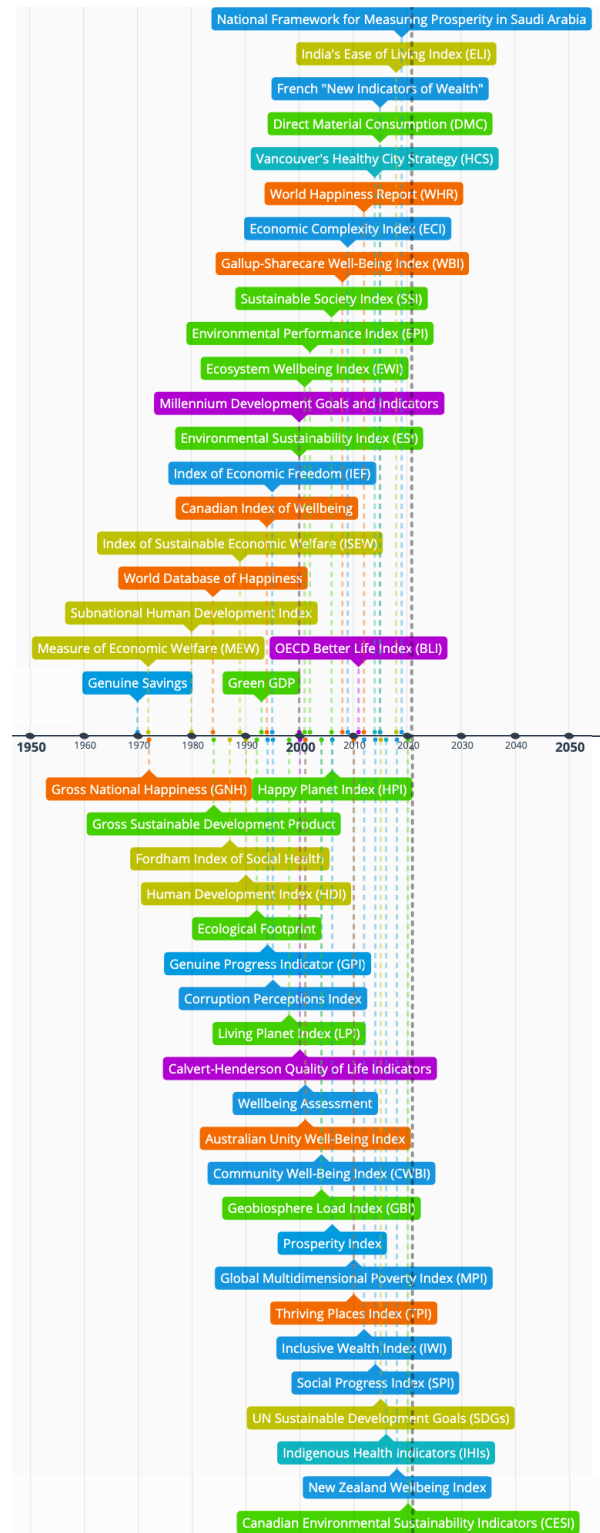
These GDP-alternative indices – each adapted to their nationally and geographically specific situation – cover a wide range of data sets including economics, income distribution, environmental indicators, education delivery, culture, and Indigenous inclusion.

In the research for this paper, the BC Assembly of First Nations (AFN) analyzed over 40 of these GDP-alternative indicator frameworks in order to understand the historical evolution of wellbeing indices, and to identify best practices in the rapidly growing wellbeing field that may be applicable to BC.²³

The proliferation of alternative economic indicator frameworks worldwide clearly shows that Canadians are interested in new methods of measurement that align more closely with our collective needs and desires as a society.²⁴ Canadians are not alone in this interest. Heads of state around the world are demonstrating that it is now time to move beyond GDP as a measure of what is important to our *overall* lives.

The following section details a select group of notable wellbeing indicators from around the world, for the purpose of informing a BC-focused discussion of the values that Indigenous and non-Indigenous citizens alike could consider in a wellbeing framework for our province.

FIGURE 7. GDP-ALTERNATIVE INDICATOR FRAMEWORKS WORLDWIDE



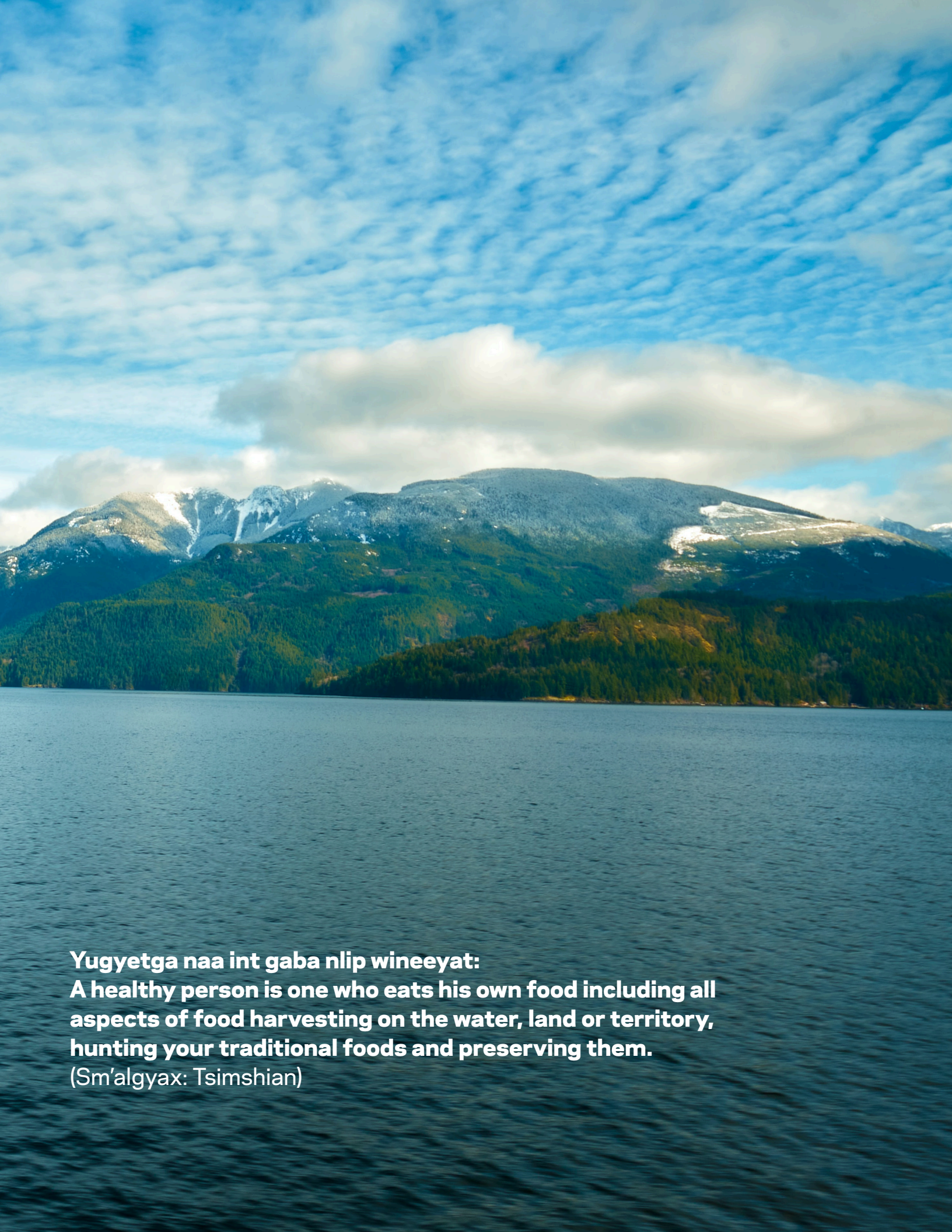
²³ A complete list of these indicator frameworks is included in Appendix B.

²⁴ Tomaselli, Fernanda, and Sandeep Pai. "Are Canadians Ready to Ditch GDP as a Key Prosperity Indicator?" The Conversation, 2 Nov. 2020, theconversation.com/are-canadians-ready-to-ditch-gdp-as-a-key-prosperity-indicator-132178.



Eshelhekwiws:
Our connection to all of creation
(Skwxwú7mesh: Squamish)

Hishuk Ish Tsawalk:
Everything is one
and all is interconnected
(Nuu-chah-nulth)

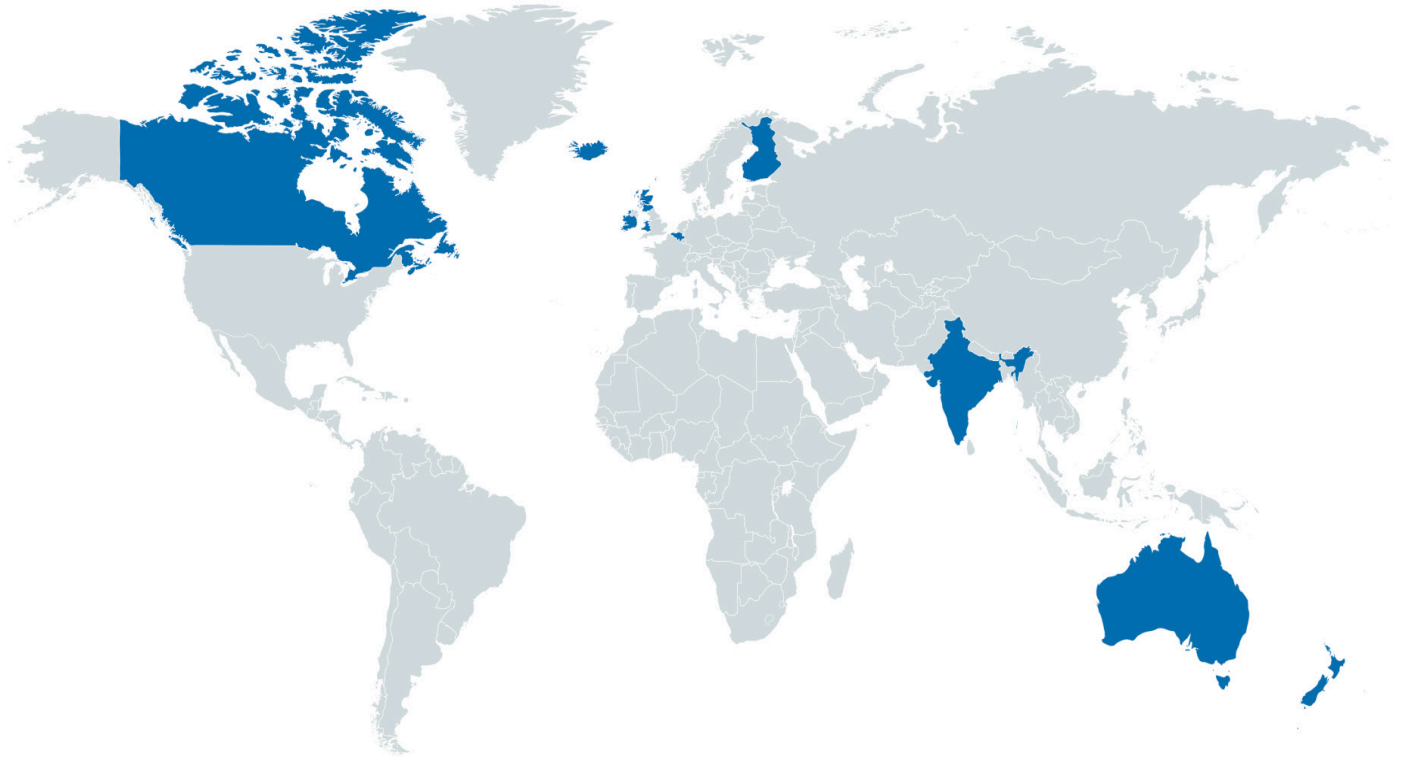


Yugyetga naa int gaba nlip wineeyat:

A healthy person is one who eats his own food including all aspects of food harvesting on the water, land or territory, hunting your traditional foods and preserving them.

(Sm'algyax: Tsimshian)

Notable Wellbeing Indices



This section summarizes different GDP alternatives by the following countries and regions:

- New Zealand
- Iceland
- Scotland
- Finland
- Canada
- Australia
- Ireland
- Wales
- Belgium
- India

The most globally known, and perhaps most advanced wellbeing index work is in New Zealand. In 2019, that government introduced a budget that put wellbeing at the centre of all government decision making. With New Zealand's large Indigenous Māori population, advanced economy, similar common law, and advanced efforts at reconciliation, it is a good reference case for BC.

NEW ZEALAND'S WELLBEING BUDGET

New Zealand started to build the case for switching its indicator away from GDP, and to begin measuring living standards in 2011. In June 2012, Dr. Girol Karacaoglu, then Deputy Secretary of Macroeconomic, International and Economic Research, made the case for adopting alternative measures to GDP. He suggested that:

"...if this framework is accepted as a framework for monitoring broad economic progress, we will be collaborating with other public sector agencies to continue doing 'deep analysis' on improving the measures and underlying distributions for each of these key indicators."²⁵

25 "Improving the Living Standards of New Zealanders: Moving from a Framework to Implementation." The Treasury New Zealand, 13 June 2012, treasury.govt.nz/publications/speech/improving-living-standards-new-zealanders-moving-framework-implementation.

FIGURE 8. NEW ZEALAND WELLBEING BUDGET PRIORITIES

TAKING MENTAL HEALTH SERIOUSLY

A new frontline service for mental health with a \$455m programme providing access for 325,000 people by 2023/24	Suicide prevention services get a \$40m boost	Reaching 5,600 extra secondary students with more nurses in schools	Tackling homelessness with 1,044 new places — Housing First will now reach 2,700 people
--	---	---	---

IMPROVING CHILD WELLBEING

Taking financial pressure off parents by increasing funding to decile 1-7 schools so they don't need to ask for donations	Breaking the cycle for children in State care, including young people into independent living	Specialist services as part of a \$320m package to address family and sexual violence	Lifting incomes by indexing main benefits and removing punitive sanctions
---	---	---	---

SUPPORTING MĀORI AND PASIFIKA ASPIRATIONS

Major boost for Whānau Ora, including a focus on health and reducing reoffending	Ensuring te reo Māori and Pacific languages survive and thrive	A \$12m programme targeting rheumatic fever	An additional 2,200 young people in Pacific Employment Support Service
--	--	---	--

BUILDING A PRODUCTIVE NATION

Nearly \$200m set aside vocational education reforms to boost apprenticeships and trade training	\$106m injection into innovation to help New Zealand transition to a low-carbon future	Bridging the venture capital gap with a \$300m fund so startups can grow and succeed	Opportunities for apprenticeships for nearly 2,000 young people through Mana in Mahi
--	--	--	--

TRANSFORMING THE ECONOMY

Helping farmers with the climate change challenge by investing in research	Encouraging sustainable land use with a \$229m package	Over \$1b boost in funding for KiwiRail	Freshwater focus improving water quality in at-risk catchments
--	--	---	--

INVESTING IN NEW ZEALAND

10-year \$1.2b investment in schools starting with \$287m for new buildings	\$1.7b to fix hospitals over the next two years	Bowel screening program extended to five more district health boards	Investing in better, more healthcare with \$2.9b for district health boards
---	---	--	---

In 2018, newly-elected Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern went further, pledging in an address to the United Nations to measure her country's success by the betterment of its people. In so doing, she was building the case for her government's adoption of a GDP-alternative metric aligned with many of the ideas behind Bhutan's Gross National Happiness and the UN World Happiness Index.

New Zealand's 2019 Wellbeing Budget pivots on improving the prosperity of local communities. New government spending is only approved if it can be shown to advance one of the following six priorities:

1. Taking mental health seriously
2. Improving child wellbeing
3. Supporting Māori and Pasifika²⁶ aspirations
4. Building a productive nation
5. Transforming the economy
6. Investing in New Zealand²⁷

26 Indigenous peoples of the Pacific Islands.

27 The Treasury New Zealand, 23 Oct. 2020, www.treasury.govt.nz/.

“Success is measured not only by the nation’s GDP but by better lives lived by its people.”

JACINDA ARDERN

PRIME MINISTER OF NEW ZEALAND
ADDRESS TO UNITED NATIONS, 2018

An underlying rationale of the Ardern government’s adoption of this approach to measuring New Zealand’s wellbeing is to emphasize the diversity of outcomes meaningful to the lived experiences of New Zealanders, and to implement tools to explore a wide range of policy challenges and opportunities to raise living standards throughout the country. The government’s stated rationale for this change is that drawing on a range of data and evidence to understand the interdependencies and trade-offs across the dimensions of wellbeing represents more robust economic practice.²⁸

The New Zealand Wellbeing Budget commits to do all this in three ways:

- Break down agency silos and work across government to assess, develop, and implement policies that improve wellbeing.
- Focus on outcomes that meet the needs of present generations while thinking about the long-term impacts for future generations.
- Track progress with broader measures, such as the health of national finances, natural resources, people, and communities.²⁹

28 “Our Living Standards Framework.” The Treasury New Zealand, 12 Dec. 2019, treasury.govt.nz/information-and-services/nz-economy/higher-living-standards/our-living-standards-framework.

29 “Budget 2020 - 14 May 2020.” NZ 2019 Budget, budget.govt.nz/.

NEW ZEALAND LIVING STANDARDS FRAMEWORK

New Zealand uses a measurement tool called the Living Standards Framework (LSF) to represent New Zealanders’ wellbeing. The LSF has three components: (1) the 12 domains of the country’s current wellbeing outcomes; (2) the four “capital” stocks (natural, human, social, and financial and physical) that support wellbeing; and (3) “risk and resilience.” New Zealand’s LSF takes into account the distribution of all three of these dimensions across people, places and generations.³⁰ The specific parameters and values upon which the LSF was built include the following:³¹

Internationally comparable To inform on New Zealand’s levels of wellbeing relative to the countries we wish to compare ourselves with. This helps identify opportunities for improvement.

Inter-temporally comparable Knowing how New Zealand is performing over time by meaningfully comparing the current period with previous time periods, and into the future.

Data available A framework is of little use if it cannot access data for it on a timely basis. Ideally, there will be a long official time series of each measure in a framework in its original units available from New Zealand sources and able to be divided up in several different ways,

30 “Our Living Standards Framework.” The Treasury New Zealand, 12 Dec. 2019, treasury.govt.nz/information-and-services/nz-economy/higher-living-standards/our-living-standards-framework.

31 “The Treasury Approach to the Living Standards Framework.” The Treasury New Zealand, 22 Feb. 2018, treasury.govt.nz/publications/tp/treasury-approach-living-standards-framework.html.

such as by ethnicity, region or income level.

Suitability for developed countries New Zealand is a developed country and the indicators used aim to reflect this. In particular, indicators that focus on the needs of developing countries, such as obtaining merely sufficient nutrition or primary school education, are a low bar and leave little or no room for policy improvement.

Measure what is uniquely important to New Zealanders Like every country, there are things that make New Zealand unique (for example, its Treaty of Waitangi obligations). These form part of the wellbeing of New Zealanders and so should be reflected in any measurement frameworks that used.

Credible The chosen measure must have both technical and political credibility. Political credibility is likely to be enhanced if the measure is designed by internationally well-respected apolitical bodies, particularly intergovernmental agencies such as the OECD or the United Nations. Technical credibility includes the criteria above, and the use of high-quality data sources, having appropriate coverage and sound techniques for indexing and averaging.

To ensure even greater transparency and accountability, the New Zealand Treasury Department publishes the Living Standards Framework on a site called the LSF Dashboard.³² The Dashboard provides data in three main categories:³³

Our Country This category provides data for each of the 12 LSF Wellbeing domains. This includes distributional data and international comparisons:

- Civic engagement and governance
- Cultural identity
- Environment
- Health
- Housing
- Incomes and consumption
- Jobs and earnings
- Knowledge and skills
- Safety
- Social connections
- Subjective wellbeing
- Time use

Our Future This category provides data about each of the four “capital” stocks in the LSF, including international comparisons:

- Natural capital
- Social capital
- Human capital
- Financial and physical capital

Our People This category provides supplementary analysis of how wellbeing varies across population groups and the relationships between the domains:

- Multidimensional wellbeing
- Relationships between LSF domains

³² “Living Standards Framework.” Dashboard, lsfdashboard.treasury.govt.nz/wellbeing/.

³³ For further understanding, please explore the NZ LSF Dashboard tool: <https://lsfdashboard.treasury.govt.nz/wellbeing/>

MĀORI WELLBEING OUTCOMES AND INDIGENEITY

In research for this paper, we contacted key people to understand how Indigenous peoples were engaged on identifying priorities. The concept of Indigeneity in the New Zealand context is important, and was central to what was ultimately articulated in New Zealand's 2019 Wellbeing Budget.

In his 2005 work at Massey University in New Zealand, Professor Sir Mason Durie addressed Māori wellbeing in both the sense of health and mental/physical wellbeing, as well as to the broader sense of wellbeing as it relates to being Māori and Indigenous.

Durie defines Indigeneity as having the primary characteristic *"a close relationship with territories, land, the natural world."* Additional characteristics of Indigeneity that Durie describes include:

- The dimension of time (centuries);
- A culture that celebrates the human-environmental union;
- An Indigenous knowledge system;
- Balanced development: sustainability for future generations; and
- A unique language.

These characteristics are similar to, if simpler than, Jeff Corntassel's (2003)³⁴ proposed definition of Indigenous which includes the interlocking concepts of sacred history, ceremonial cycles, language and ancestral homelands, while elaborating somewhat on their complex interrelationships:

"(1) Peoples who believe they are ancestrally related and identify the original inhabitants of their ancestral homelands; (2) Peoples who may, but not necessarily, have their own informal and/or formal political, economic and social institutions, which tend to be community-based and reflect their distinct ceremonial cycles, kinship networks, and continuously evolving cultural traditions; (3) Peoples who speak (or once spoke) an Indigenous language, often different from the dominant society's language even where the Indigenous language is not 'spoken', distinct dialects and/or uniquely Indigenous expressions may persist as a form of Indigenous identity; (4) Peoples who distinguish themselves from the dominant society and/or other cultural groups while maintaining a close relationship with their ancestral homelands/sacred sites, which may be threatened by ongoing military, economic or political encroachment or may be places where Indigenous peoples have been previously expelled, while seeking to enhance their cultural, political and economic autonomy."

In the Māori context, and given his definition of Indigeneity, Professor Sir Mason Durie's 2005 work argues that the resulting wellbeing of the Māori nation:

- Should reflect ecological orientation of Māori world views;
- Should integrate social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects of wellbeing;
- Should measure cultural and physical resources alongside human resources; and
- Requires a range of indicators to quantify and monitor the circumstances of (1) individuals and groups and (2) intellectual and physical assets within te ao Māori (the Māori world view).

34 Corntassel, Jeff. "Who Is Indigenous? 'Peoplehood' and Ethnonationalist Approaches to Rearticulating Indigenous Identity." *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*, vol. 9, no. 1, 2003, pp. 75-100., doi:10.1080/13537110412331301365.

Durie emphasized that planning to measure Māori wellbeing (in both individual and collective senses), should measure outcomes, as opposed to measuring inputs or process. Outcome domains should include:

Human Capacity measures the outcomes of Māori participation in society and in Te Ao Māori (the Māori world view).

- **Te Manawa** (secure cultural identity) for individuals
 - » *Example Goal* Participation in society as Māori
 - » *Example Target* 75% Māori employees have contracts that recognize 'being Māori'

- **Te Kahui** (collective Māori synergies) for groups/collective
 - » *Example Goal* Vibrant Māori communities
 - » *Example Target* 90% Māori organizations have websites that link to each other

Resource Capacity measures the state of Māori cultural, intellectual and physical resources.

- **Te Kete Puawai** (Māori cultural and intellectual resources)
 - » *Example Goal* Te Reo Māori (the Māori language) in multiple domains
 - » *Example Target* Prime time TV has 25% Māori language programs

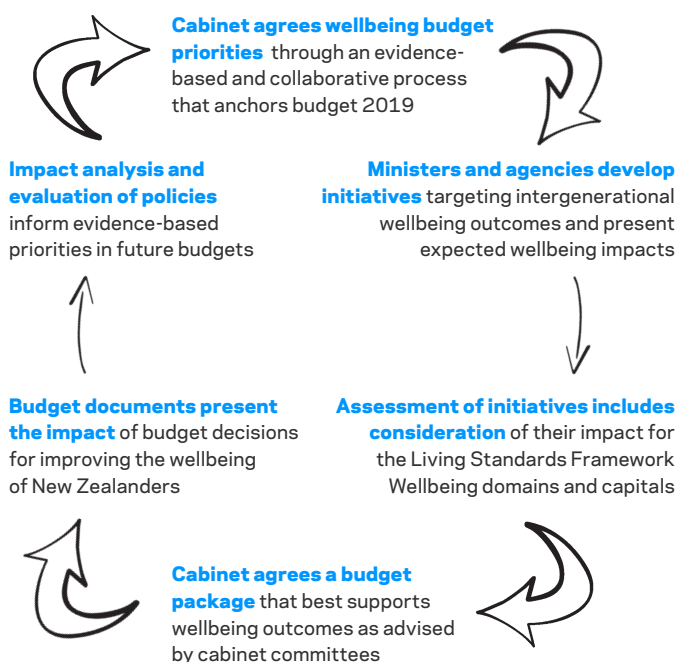
- **Te Ao Turoa** (the Māori estate), referring to physical/environmental assets
 - » *Example Goal* Access to clean and healthy environments
 - » *Example Target* Resource consents consistent with Māori environmental ethic

While Professor Sir Mason Durie's example goals and targets may have changed in the view of Māori communities and leadership today, his research offers:

1. a working definition of Indigeneity in the Māori context;
2. an overview of what Māori wellbeing looks like in relation to this definition of Indigeneity; and
3. ways in which wellbeing outcomes could be measured.

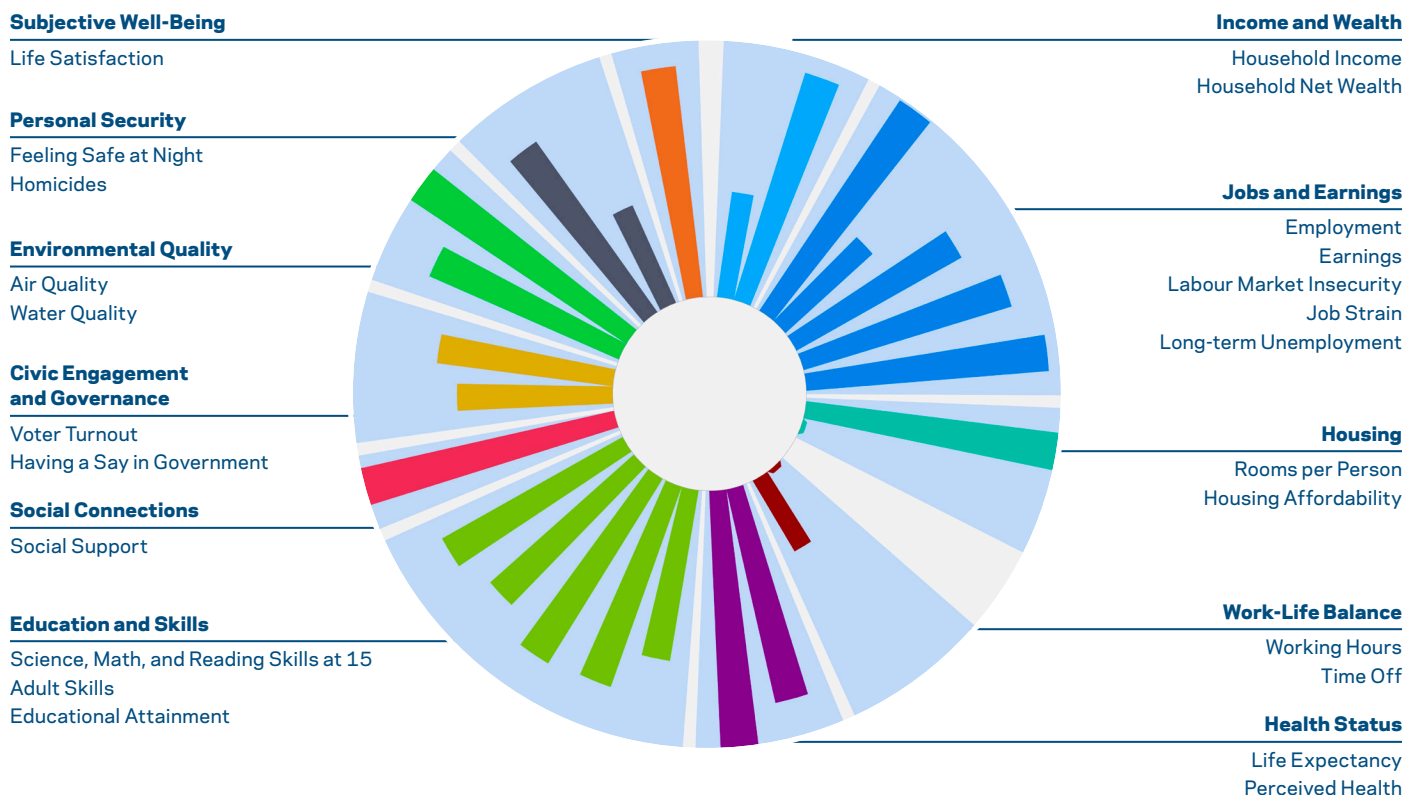
In many respects, New Zealand's 2019 Wellbeing Budget aligns with Durie's articulated values. The following diagram from the Wellbeing Budget highlights how their Living Standards Framework, rather than GDP, now informs the government's focus, initiative, spending, and identified outcomes:³⁵

FIGURE 9. NEW ZEALAND'S WELLBEING BUDGET PROCESS



35 Graham-McLay, Charlotte. New Zealand's Next Liberal Milestone: A Budget Guided by 'Well-Being'. The New York Times, 22 May 2019, www.nytimes.com/2019/05/22/world/asia/new-zealand-wellbeing-budget.html.

FIGURE 10. CURRENT WELLBEING IN NEW ZEALAND



Source: "The OECD Better Life Index Finds That New Zealanders Are the Seventh Most Satisfied with Their Lives, out of the 38 Member Countries" Interest.co.nz, 31 May 2016, www.interest.co.nz/news/81889/oecd-better-life-index-finds-new-zealanders-are-seventh-most-satisfied-their-lives-out-38.

ICELAND'S WELLBEING INDICATORS

Iceland's Prime Minister Katrin Jakobsdottir has urged other governments to adopt policies that prioritize the environment and families and has called for "an alternative future based on wellbeing and inclusive growth".³⁶ In this initiative, Jakobsdottir has notably teamed up with New Zealand's PM Jacinda Ardern and Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon to promote wellbeing

agendas in their respective countries. Iceland has joined the Wellbeing Economy Alliance – a network of countries and organizations who have or are in the process of developing frameworks to measure social, economic, and environmental factors in ways that allow them to move beyond GDP as their only measure for economic success.³⁷ Iceland has developed 39 wellbeing indicators that

36 "Iceland Puts Well-Being Ahead of GDP in Budget." BBC News, BBC, 3 Dec. 2019, www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-50650155.

37 "Governments Should Put Wellbeing of Citizens Ahead of GDP in Budget Priorities, Iceland PM Urges." The Independent, Independent Digital News and Media, 4 Dec. 2019, www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/iceland-gdp-wellbeing-budget-climate-change-new-zealand-arden-sturgeon-a9232626.html.

FIGURE 11. WELLBEING INDICATORS FOR ICELAND

SOCIETY		ECONOMY	
HEALTH	EDUCATION	HOUSING	INCOMES
Life expectancy	Level of education	Housing cost overburden	At risk of poverty
Healthy life years	Dropout from secondary school	Quality of housing	Persistent poverty
Unmet need for health care	Lifelong learning		Material and social deprivation
Mental health			Equality (Gini-index)
SOCIAL CAPITAL	WORK-LIFE BALANCE	ECONOMIC CONDITIONS	EMPLOYMENT
Voter turnout	Long working hours	GDP and economic growth	Employment rate
Social support	Working during unsocial hours	Inflation	Unemployment
Formal volunteer activities	Multiple jobs	Purchasing power	Not in education, employment or training (NEET)
Trust in others		Household debt	Job satisfaction
Trust in political system		Public sector, private sector and household debt	
SECURITY			
Feeling safe after dark	Crime victimization		
ENVIRONMENT			
AIR QUALITY & CLIMATE	LAND USE	ENERGY	WASTE & RECYCLING
Particulate matter	Progress in land reclamation	Ratio of renewable energy in total energy consumption	Quantity of municipal solid waste
Greenhouse gas emissions	Protected areas		Recycling rate of municipal solid waste

include economic, environmental, and social factors. While GDP and other economic indicators remain among the indicators, they have been re-contextualized with social and environmental indicators, and aligned with the country’s UN Sustainable Development Goal commitments. While Iceland’s specific wellbeing indicators are new as of 2020, the country is leveraging previous expertise from gender budgeting³⁸ which

Iceland adopted in 2010, prior to this wellbeing indicator initiative. Iceland has identified a number of priorities and each category highlights these and offers measurable indicators, including the reduction of carbon emissions.³⁹ Figure 11 (above), shows the wellbeing indicators⁴⁰ for Iceland as of September 2019.

38 Gender budgeting is a way for governments to promote equality through fiscal policy. It involves analyzing a budget’s differing impacts on men and women and allocating money accordingly, as well as setting targets and directing funds to meet them. W., E. “What Is Gender Budgeting?” The Economist, The Economist Newspaper, 3 May 2017, www.economist.com/the-economist-explains/2017/03/03/what-is-gender-budgeting.

39 Jakobsdóttir, Katrín. “In Iceland, Well-Being Is the Measure of Our Success.” Evening Standard, 3 Jan. 2020, www.standard.co.uk/comment/comment/iceland-wellbeing-measure-success-katr-n-jakobsd-ttir-a4324791.html.

40 Indicators for Measuring Well-Being. Government of Iceland, Prime Ministers Office, Jan. 2019. https://www.government.is/lisalib/getfile.aspx?itemid=fc981010-da09-11e9-944d-005056bc4d74.

FIGURE 12. ICELAND'S WELLBEING INDICATORS (IN ICELANDIC)





Yfirlit yfir stöðu mælikvarða og tenging við heimsmarkmið SP

Merking tákna fyrir mælikvarða:



Félagslegir þættir

Heilsa

- Lífslíkur 
- Lífslíkur við góða heilsu 
- Neitaði sér um lækniþjónustu 
- Eigið mat á andlegri heilsu 



Heimsmarkmið SP

Undirmerkið

HM3: Heilsa og vellíðan

HM3.4

HM3: Heilsa og vellíðan

HM3.4

HM3: Heilsa og vellíðan

HM3.8

HM3: Heilsa og vellíðan

HM3.4

The country's first national wellbeing measurement has been published in Icelandic. In this snapshot above of their first publication of Iceland's wellbeing index, the green up arrow indicates an improvement, red indicates this factor has gotten worse, grey means the indicator remains unchanged, and the blue circle means there is only a single measurement so far, and therefore no point of comparison yet.⁴¹

In terms of data collection, Statistics Iceland oversees the execution and development of their wellbeing indicators.⁴² Different institutions hold the information that make up the data (i.e., multiple sources have to be used to collect information about various aspects of the 39 indicators and in some cases they are carrying out citizen surveys to gain what information is not already collected by Statistics Iceland.)

41 Mælikvarðar um hagsæld og lífsgæði Sept. 2019 https://www.stjornarradid.is/library/01--Frettatengt---myndir-og-skrar/FOR/Fylgiskjol-i-frett/Hagsaeld_og_lifsgaedi.pdf

42 Čirić, Elena. Iceland to Measure Social and Environmental Prosperity, Iceland Review, 27 Apr. 2020, www.icelandreview.com/politics/iceland-to-measure-social-and-environmental-prosperity/.

SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

In coordination with New Zealand and Iceland, Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has championed the idea of a "wellbeing economy" in Scotland. Scotland's National Performance Framework was established in 2007, and the national government has stated an intention to consider the Framework's effect on wellbeing in spending reviews.⁴³

The stated purpose of Scotland's National Performance Framework is to:⁴⁴

- Create a more successful country;
- Give opportunities to all people living in Scotland;
- Increase the wellbeing of people living in Scotland;
- Create sustainable and inclusive growth;
- Reduce inequalities and give equal importance to economic, environmental and social progress.

Scotland's National Performance Framework is another example of the EU's role as a frontrunner of the GDP-alternative measures of national wellbeing.

The National Outcomes included in Scotland's National Performance Framework include the following:⁴⁵

Children and Young People We grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realize our full potential.

Culture We are creative and our vibrant and diverse cultures are expressed and enjoyed widely.

Education We are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society.

Fair Work and Business We have thriving and innovative businesses, with quality jobs and fair work for everyone.

Human Rights We respect, protect and fulfill human rights and live free from discrimination.

Poverty We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally.

Communities We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe.

Economy We have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy.

Environment We value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment.

Health We are healthy and active.

International We are open, connected and make a positive contribution internationally.

"In the economists' world, almost every challenge is a nail, and economic growth is the hammer."

**CHARLES CLARK AND
CATHERINE KAVANAGH
MEASURING PROGRESS:
THE SUSTAINABLE
PROGRESS INDEX 2019**

43 Gregory, Andy. "Governments Should Put Wellbeing of Citizens Ahead of GDP in Budget Priorities, Iceland PM Urges." The Independent, Independent Digital News and Media, 4 Dec. 2019, www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/iceland-gdp-wellbeing-budget-climate-change-new-zealand-arden-sturgeon-a9232626.html.

44 "What It Is." National Performance Framework, Scottish Government, nationalperformance.gov.scot/index.php/what-it.

45 "National Outcomes." National Performance Framework, Scottish Government, nationalperformance.gov.scot/national-outcomes.

FINLAND/EU ECONOMY OF WELLBEING⁴⁶

Finland has also taken a great deal of interest in the economy of wellbeing. During our exchange the research for this paper with Noora Saarinen, Senior Specialist of EU Affairs at the International Affairs' Unit of the Finnish national government,⁴⁷ we learned that Finland's national government is in the process of adopting an Economy of Wellbeing, and has officially encouraged other EU member states to do the same.⁴⁸

Ms. Saarinen indicated that the Economy of Wellbeing approach was one of the main priorities of the Finnish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2019. The rationale behind the current Finnish government's focus on national wellbeing at home and throughout the EU is that:

"Actions to increase sustainable growth must also increase the wellbeing of all people and the environment. Growth is never an end in itself and well-being is not just an item of expenditure for public finances. With the Economy of Wellbeing approach we are looking for alternative indicators to supplement GDP; in order to measure wellbeing, other indicators are needed to be used equally alongside GDP."

Finland is in the early developing phases of this wellbeing economy approach. The Council conclusions on the Economy of Wellbeing,⁴⁹

adopted by the Council of the EU, already include concrete suggestions for actions at the EU level.

In response to questions about involvement of Sámi Indigenous peoples in Finland in the Wellbeing Economy initiative, Ms. Saarinen stated that:

"[w]hen it comes to minorities, the Council Conclusions invite the European Commission to 'renew the commitment on [Sámi] inclusion by developing new policy initiatives, including the adoption of a post-2020 European Framework Strategy'. Indigenous people are not explicitly viewed in the Council Conclusions as such, however, we [are] working out a new Arctic Strategy in Finland, and there [sic] Indigenous people play a vital role, also in the context of Economy of Wellbeing."

It will be worth following up with Finland's initiative, the degree to which they engage with Indigenous peoples on it, and the degree to which other EU states adopt this initiative.

Finland has "continued to promote the concept of Economy of Wellbeing also in the context of COVID-19, and for us it appears that such a horizontal approach, connecting economic, social and environmental sustainability, is more topical and relevant than ever."

NOORA SAARINEN
SENIOR SPECIALIST OF EU AFFAIRS
AT FINNISH NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

46 "The Economy of Wellbeing: Going beyond GDP" Consilium, 3 June 2020, www.consilium.europa.eu/en/infographics/economy-wellbeing/.

47 Saarinen, Noora, Senior Specialist of EU Affairs at the International Affairs' Unit of the Finnish National Government, personal communication, 28 August 2020.

48 "Economy of Wellbeing in the EU: People's Wellbeing Fosters Economic Growth" EU2019FI, eu2019.fi/backgrounders/economy-of-wellbeing.

49 "Economy of Wellbeing: the Council Adopts Conclusions" Consilium, 24 Oct. 2019, www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/10/24/economy-of-wellbeing-the-council-adopts-conclusions/.

CANADIAN INDEX OF WELLBEING

Neither the Canadian federal government nor our provincial and territorial governments have adopted GDP-alternative wellbeing indices. However, government representatives in other countries contacted during research indicated that Canada has begun work on this at the federal level.

Despite the lack of adoption by Canadian governments, since 2001 there has been a Canadian Index of Wellbeing (CIW) now based out of the University of Waterloo, Ontario. The Index uses a wide range of data sources, primarily from Statistics Canada, and tracks eight domains focused on key aspects of life with major impact on health and wellbeing:⁵⁰

Education is measured as the systematic instruction, schooling, or training given to the young in preparation for the work of life, and by extension, similar instruction or training obtained by adults.

Community Vitality is measured as communities having strong, active and inclusive relationships among residents, the private and public sectors, and civil society organizations – relationships that promote individual and collective wellbeing.

Democratic Engagement is measured by a high degree of democratic engagement where citizens participate in political activities, express political views, and share political knowledge; where governments build relationships, trust, shared responsibility, and encourage citizen participation; and where democratic values are sustained by citizens, government, and civil society.

Environment is measured by trends in the availability and use of natural resources in Canada's environment and assesses some impacts of human activity on the environment.

Healthy Populations as measured by the health of the population and considers whether different aspects of our health are improving or deteriorating. It examines life expectancy, lifestyle and behaviours, and the circumstances that influence health as well as health care quality, access, and public health services.

Leisure and Culture as measured by Canadians' participation and engagement with the arts, culture, and recreation.

Living Standards as measured by the level and distribution of income and wealth by monitoring poverty rates and income volatility, including the security of jobs, food, housing, and security provided by the social safety net.

Time Use is measured by how people experience and spend their time, what factors control time use, and how time use affects wellbeing.

Figure 13 (over) shows indicators for each domain.

While the Canada Index of Wellbeing remains essentially an academic exercise rather than one actively engaged with by Canadian federal or provincial/territorial governments, the Index certainly lays the groundwork for relatively easy implementation if said governments were to adopt it, or something similar.

The eight domains established by the Canadian Index of Wellbeing use the government's own statistics (i.e., Statistics Canada) and therefore further pave the way for easy adoption by Canada.

50 "The Eight Domains." The Eight Domains | Community Health & Wellbeing, www.communityhealthandwellbeing.org/8_domains.

FIGURE 13. CANADIAN INDEX OF WELLBEING

EDUCATION

Available childcare spaces	Public school student-to-teacher ratio	Working Canadians completing high school
Public school cost per student	Population with university degree	Time spent in talk-based activities with children
Undergraduate tuition fees		Participation in education-related activities

COMMUNITY VITALITY

Five or more close friends	Feel safe walking alone after dark	Strong sense of belonging to community
Level of police-reported crime	Belief that most people can be trusted	Experience discrimination based on ethno-cultural characteristics
Provide unpaid help to others	Reporting unpaid, formal volunteering	

DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT

Voter turnout at federal elections	Volunteer for a law, advocacy or political group	Member of Parliament's office budget devoted to sending communications to constituents
Ratio of registered to eligible voters	Gap between older and younger voter turnout	Satisfied with way democracy works in Canada
Women in federal parliament	Level of confidence in federal parliament	

ENVIRONMENT

Ground level ozone	Primary energy production	Ecological footprint
Greenhouse gas emissions	Fresh water supply	Metal reserves in Canadian mines
Residential energy use	Total farmland	

HEALTHY POPULATIONS

Self-rated overall health	Daily/occasional teen smokers	Self-rated mental health
Self-reported diabetes	No health conditions that limit activity	Access to family doctor
Life expectancy at birth	Influenza immunization rate	

LEISURE AND CULTURE

Time spent in social leisure activities	National Historic Sites and Parks visitation	Volunteering for culture/recreation organizations
Time spent in arts and culture activities	Nights away on vacation	Participation in physical activities lasting over 15 min
Performing arts attendance	Household expenditures on culture/recreation	

LIVING STANDARDS

Median family income	Long-term unemployment rate	Gap between lowest and highest income groups
Persons in low income	Employed labour force	Trends in job quality
Food insecurity		Housing affordability

TIME USE

People working more than 50 hours per week	Commute time to/from work	Daily time spent with friends
People working part time, not by choice	Workers with flexible work hours	Good quality sleep
High levels of time pressure	Workers with regular, daytime work hours	

AUSTRALIAN UNITY WELLBEING INDEX

Like Canada, Australia has a university-based wellbeing indicator that has not been adopted by their federal government or Australia's state and territorial governments. The Australian Centre on Quality of Life, based at Deakin University, developed the Australian Unity Wellbeing Index in 2001. Using a national survey, the Index uses several indicators to measure the subjective quality of life of Australians.⁵¹

The Index includes a Personal Wellbeing Index which measures seven domains: standard of living, health, achieving in life, personal relationships, safety, community connectedness, and future security.⁵² Like the Canadian Index of Wellbeing, the Australian Unity Wellbeing Index paves the way for adoption by the Australian government and/or its state/territorial governments. The research for this paper revealed no information about such adoption or initiatives at the Australian national, state, or territorial levels.

IRELAND'S SUSTAINABLE PROGRESS INDEX

Like Australia and Canada, Ireland has an index that is nationally relevant but has been neither adopted nor implemented by the Irish government. Ireland's Sustainable Progress Index was created by the organization Social Justice Ireland, but is also partly supported by the Irish Department of Rural and Community Development via the Scheme

to Support National Organizations and Pobal (a non-profit government supported agency that supports communities and local agencies toward achieving social inclusion and development).

This indicator is essentially a re-packaging of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, done in a way that is relevant and catered to the Irish context. Ireland's Sustainable Progress Index uses data from the OECD, World Health Organization (WHO), UN, but does not collect its own data.⁵³ This indicator is notable in that existing data can be funneled into a national indicator, minimizing the need to mobilize new resources.

WALES' MEMBERSHIP OF THE WELLBEING ECONOMY GOVERNMENTS

In May 2020⁵⁴, the Welsh government announced its official membership of the Wellbeing Economy Governments partnership. The Wellbeing Economy Governments partnership (WEGo) is a collaboration of national and regional governments promoting sharing of expertise and transferrable policy practices. The aims of the partnership are to:

"... deepen their understanding and advance their shared ambition of building wellbeing economies. WEGo, which currently comprises Scotland, New Zealand, Iceland, and Wales, is founded on the recognition that 'development' in the 21st century entails delivering human and ecological wellbeing."⁵⁵

51 "What Is Quality of Life?" Australian Centre on Quality of Life, www.acqol.com.au/about.

52 "Australian Unity Wellbeing Index – Results." Australian Centre on Quality of Life, www.acqol.com.au/publications.

53 SDG Toolkit - to Engage European NGOs at National and European Level on the Sustainable Development Goals, sdgtoolkit.org/.

54 While research for this paper was in progress.

55 WEAll, et al. "WEGo." Wellbeing Economy Alliance, 11 Aug. 2020, wellbeingeconomy.org/wego.

“We cannot go back to business as normal, and need to plan for a Wales, shaped by the virus, that is more prosperous, more equal and greener, rooted in our commitment to social-economic and environmental justice.”

JANE HUTT
DEPUTY MINISTER AND CHIEF WHIP
WELSH GOVERNMENT⁵⁶

Like Finland, Wales is participating in WEGo policy forums alongside the founding members Scotland, Iceland and New Zealand. *Wales' Wellbeing of Future Generations Act*, enacted by the Senedd (Welsh Parliament) in 2015, lays out seven wellbeing goals and provides a long term vision of Wales and aims to address persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.

BELGIUM'S COMPLEMENTARY INDICATORS TO GDP

Belgium's government has implemented an indicator called Belgium's Complementary Indicators to GDP (also known as Beyond GDP). The indicators are, as suggested by their title, complementary to GDP and provide information on social, environmental and economic issues, and are intended describe the evolution of people's wellbeing and the development of the Belgian society.

There are 67 indicators prepared by the Federal Planning Bureau within the framework of the National Accounts Institute. The goals essentially reproduce all 17 of the UN Sustainable Development goals outfitted to the Belgian context.⁵⁷

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well-being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water and Sanitation
7. Affordable and Clean Energy
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
10. Reduced Inequality
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
12. Responsible Consumption and Production
13. Climate Action
14. Life Below Water
15. Life on Land
16. Peace and Justice Strong Institutions
17. Partnerships to Achieve the Goals

⁵⁶ Wales Joins Wellbeing Economy Governments Partnership. Wellbeing Economy Alliance, 13 May 2020, wellbeingeconomy.org/wales-joins-wellbeing-economy-governments-partnership.

⁵⁷ Complementary Indicators to the Gross Domestic Product, Belgium.be, www.indicators.be/en/g/BGDP/.

INDIA'S EASE OF LIVING INDEX

India is notable for its development of its Ease of Living Index, which measures quality of life, economic ability and sustainability.⁵⁸ The Index assesses individual cities in India, not the country as a whole. Like several other countries noted in this research, this Index reflects the UN Sustainable Development Goals. India's Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched a set of 'Ease of Living' standards that combine various facets of urban living. In its current format, the standards serve as a common framework for cities to evaluate themselves and the standard of urban living in Indian cities.

The Ease of Living Index seeks to:⁵⁹

- Drive an evidence-based approach for future interventions and investments to deliver Ease of Living outcomes;
- Catalyze actions to improve the quality of life in Indian cities;
- Track broader development outcomes including the Sustainable Development Goals; and
- Serve as a basis for dialogue with citizens and urban decision-makers on key strengths and areas demanding improvement.

India's Ease of Living Index is expected to evolve in future iterations to represent the needs and aspirations of the people of India. The Ease of Living Index captures the breadth of the quality

of life in cities across 4 pillars and 15 categories using 78 indicators, of which 56 are core indicators and 22 are supporting indicators. The core indicators measure the aspects of ease of living which are considered as 'essential' urban services. The supporting indicators are used to measure adoption of innovative practices which are considered desirable for enhancing ease of living.

FIGURE 14. PILLARS AND CATEGORIES IN INDIA'S EASE OF LIVING INDEX

PHYSICAL

Transportation and Mobility	Public Open Spaces
Power Supply	Housing & Inclusiveness
Assured Water Supply	Reduced Pollution
Solid Waste Management	Waste Water Management
	Mixed Land Use & Compactness

SOCIAL

Health	Identity and Culture
Education	Safety and Security

ECONOMIC

Economy and Employment

INSTITUTIONAL

Governance

Of significance for the Canadian Indigenous context, it is worth noting the category "Assured Water Supply" included in India's Ease of Living Index. The fact that water supply is not assured in many Indigenous communities across Canada makes this a relevant indicator for consideration in any made-in-BC wellbeing index.

58 Debroy, Amit Kapoor and Bibek. "GDP Is Not a Measure of Human Well-Being." Harvard Business Review, 4 Oct. 2019. hbr.org/2019/10/gdp-is-not-a-measure-of-human-well-being.

59 "India: Ease of Living Index 2018." Ipsos, 24 Aug. 2018. www.ipsos.com/en/india-ease-living-index-2018.

S7ekwitels: Family time

**Chawchawstway:
Caring for one another**

Lyim ta7awen: Mental health
(Skwxwú7mesh: Squamish)

Gan didilis Aks: Life is water
(Gitxsan)

**Welwélt-kucw ne7élye xwexwéytes:
We are all fine**
(Secwepemctsin)





Niwh. Dzi kazu iwhlaly:
Have a good heart
(Wet'suwet'en)

Najeh: It is healing
(Nak'azdli)

PART THREE

Wellbeing and Economic Indicators Involving Indigenous Peoples

In addition to the above discussion of GDP alternatives developed within or adopted by nation states in Europe, New Zealand, India, and elsewhere, there are also a handful of wellbeing and economic indicators that directly involve Indigenous peoples. These are:

1. New Zealand's Wellbeing Budget and Living Standards Framework (as detailed in Part Two);
2. Manitoba's Indigenous Contributions to the Manitoba Economy;
3. Atlantic Canada's Indigenous Economic Performance;
4. Ecuador's Constitutional Enshrinement of Sumak Kawsay or Buen Vivir;
5. Bolivia's adoption of the Programa Nacional Biocultura or Vivir Bien; and
6. USA's Swinomish Indigenous Health Indicators (Washington State).

In Canada, a number of First Nations and First Nation-led organizations have attempted to quantify their impact on provincial and Canadian economies by using GDP indicators. The most prominent examples of this are reports produced by First Nations in Manitoba and the Atlantic region, discussed below, detailing their citizens' impact on provincial GDP.⁶⁰

It should be noted that in both examples in Canada, the authors noted having been challenged by the difficulty in sourcing accurate Indigenous-specific data as a result of neither the provinces' nor Canada's tracking of GDP data for First Nations. As Manitoba's

Indigenous Contributions to the Manitoba Economy report stated, "This report has research limitations caused by information that was unavailable."⁶¹

This lack of necessary data in Canada, particularly that which reflects the contributions and role of Indigenous peoples, is an urgent challenge in the development of any meaningful provincial wellbeing index.

MANITOBA'S INDIGENOUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MANITOBA ECONOMY

In 2016, Manitoba First Nations estimated the value of Manitoba First Nations to that province's annual GDP.

The Southern Chiefs' Organization Inc. and Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc. with the Rural Development Institute at Brandon University, with partial financial support from the Manitoba and Canadian governments, researched and documented Indigenous economic contributions to the broader Manitoba economy.

They reported that Indigenous people, businesses, and Indigenous governments' spending contributed \$9.3 billion to Manitoba's overall economy. Using GDP indicators, this meant First Nations were responsible for \$2.3 billion or 4% of Manitoba's 2016 economy.⁶²

60 The National Indigenous Economic Development Board produced the Indigenous Economic Progress Report - 2019 that details important Indigenous contributions to the Canadian economy but does not specifically reference GDP indicators.

61 Indigenous Contributions to the Manitoba Economy, by Bill Ashton et al., Rural Development Institute, 2018, p. 9.

62 Malone, Kelly Geraldine. "We're Making a Big Contribution": Leaders Laud Report on Indigenous Economic Impact | CBC News." CBCnews, CBC/Radio Canada, 11 Jan. 2019, www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/indigenous-economic-contribution-manitoba-1.4974196.

“Stats NZ is committed to further developing the set of indicators to incorporate concepts of wellbeing from a te ao Māori perspective. It is proposed that iwi and Māori partner with Stats NZ to develop a suite of indicators that support iwi and Māori strategic directions within a Treaty of Waitangi partnership context, and reflect a te ao Māori wellbeing vision for Aotearoa New Zealand.”

STATS NZ WEBSITE: WELLBEING DATA FOR NEW ZEALANDERS

The bulk of this contribution was due to approximately 700 Indigenous-owned businesses who provided \$1.3 billion in wages and salaries to workers, and some \$231 million in taxes to the federal and provincial governments.⁶³

It is important to note that the attempt by the authors of this Manitoba report to enumerate and characterize the Indigenous contributions to the province’s GDP was a one-time report, and was not an attempt to measure wellbeing *per se*.

The authors noted that it was very difficult to obtain quality and accurate data for their economic analysis. They note in their report that there is a lack of Indigenous economic data. The authors state that report draws on data from:

“Statistics Canada’s 2016 census data, First Nations community profiles from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), ISC’s National First Nations Investment Plan, Statistics Canada’s Business Register, and the Province of Manitoba’s Indigenous and Northern Relations department. Additional data was sourced from the annual financial statements of First Nations governments, the Manitoba Métis Federation, and the Manitoba Urban Inuit Association.”

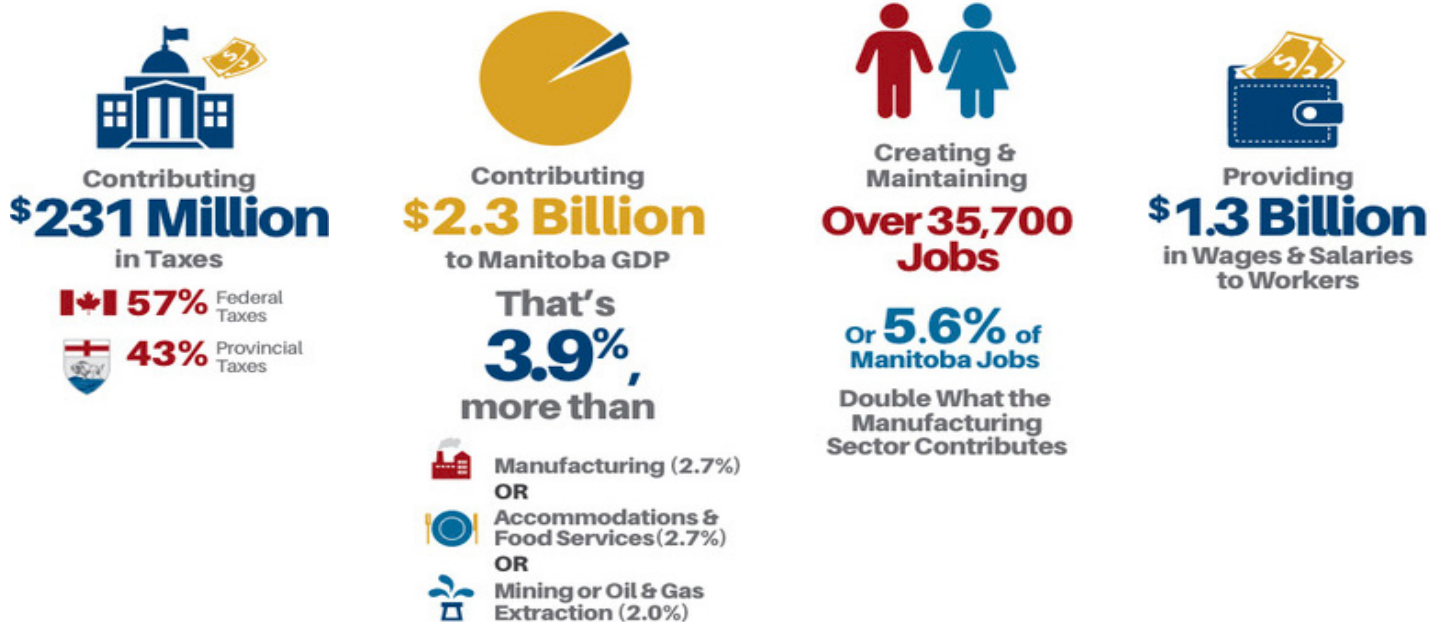
The authors also reported that data on Indigenous businesses, particularly small or unregistered businesses, were very limited due to the fact that: “There is no one list or inventory of Indigenous businesses for the province, nor is there a source of information on all business spending.”⁶⁴

63 Indigenous Contributions to the Manitoba Economy, by Bill Ashton et al., Rural Development Institute, 2018.

64 Indigenous Contributions to the Manitoba Economy, by Bill Ashton et al., Rural Development Institute, 2018.

FIGURE 15. IMPACTS FROM INDIGENOUS SPENDING ON THE MANITOBA ECONOMY (\$M)⁶⁵

SPENDING SOURCE (\$M)	GDP	EMPLOYMENT	LABOUR INCOME	COMPARISON TO PROVINCIAL INDICATORS (\$M)	
Indigenous Government	\$953.2	19,821	\$643.3	Indigenous spending (\$M)	\$9,257.2
Infrastructure	\$136.8	1,533	\$86.1	Indigenous spending impacts on MB GDP (\$M)	\$2,310.8
Business	\$1,121.7	13,688	\$566.4	Manitoba GDP (\$M, estimated as of 2014)	\$59,766.0
Household	\$99.1	691	\$38.7	Indigenous impact on MB GDP as % of Manitoba GDP	3.87%
Total	\$2,310.8	35,734	\$1,344.5	Indigenous spending impacts on employment (positions)	35,743
				Manitoba employment (positions)	633,567
				Indigenous impact on employment as % of Manitoba employment	5.64%



65 Indigenous Contributions to the Manitoba Economy, by Bill Ashton et al., Rural Development Institute, 2018.

ATLANTIC CANADA'S INDIGENOUS ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

In 2016, the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs (APCFNC) commissioned a report to investigate the GDP contribution of Atlantic First Nations to the regional economy. The report, titled *Promoting Atlantic Indigenous Economic Performance and Business Partnerships*, found that Atlantic region Indigenous people, governments, and businesses contributed \$1.14 billion to the region's GDP.⁶⁶

FIGURE 16. GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT IMPACTS

IMPACTS (\$M, 2015)	NL	PE	NS	NB	QE	REST OF CANADA	TOTAL CANADA
TOTAL	\$120.4	\$36.3	\$356.6	\$374.5	\$166.1	\$272.4	\$1,326.3
Share of Total	9%	3%	27%	28%	13%	21%	100%
Share of Atlantic	11%	3%	34%	36%	16%		100%

The key objectives of the report were two-fold: (1) to demonstrate the real economic contributions of Indigenous communities and business economic development activities to the Atlantic regional economy, and, (2) to provide economic benchmarks and baseline data that could be used to regularly measure the performance of the region's Indigenous economy.

APCFNC's report noted that, like in the Manitoba report, the lack of baseline economic data on Indigenous economic contributions was a major obstacle to their work. The authors of the report stated that "... *there is a paucity of data with respect to the outputs and outcomes of the Indigenous economy...*"

As a result of this lack of data, the authors gathered and analyzed key data points relating to the economic performance of select communities and extrapolated their findings to all Atlantic Nations to provide a region-wide assessment of economic performance.

The report was a one-time exercise and not repeated in subsequent years. As with the report on First Nations Contributions to the Manitoba Economy, this one-time assessment of Atlantic Canada's Indigenous economic performance did little to work outside of Eurocentric value-based measures of wellbeing, and was not used as a benchmark for future years.

⁶⁶ \$1.14 Billion Strong: Indigenous Economic Performance in Atlantic Canada, Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs, March 31, 2015, pg. 67.

ECUADOR'S CONSTITUTIONAL ENSHRINEMENT OF SUMAK KAWSAY OR BUEN VIVIR

In Ecuador, the concept of Sumak Kawsay/Buen Vivir, based on Quechua languages/ideas and roughly translating into English as “good living”⁶⁷, has been applied by Indigenous peoples in an attempt to build an alternative paradigm to mainstream approaches to economic development.⁶⁸ In Ecuador in the years leading up to 2008, there was a significant push by Indigenous peoples to get Sumak Kawsay/Buen Vivir into the Ecuador constitution, with notable success: On April 10, 2008, with 91 votes out of 130, the Constitutional Assembly of Ecuador approved Article 10 for inclusion in the new constitution to enshrine the concept of Sumak Kawsay:

“Persons, communities, peoples, nations and communities are bearers of rights and shall enjoy the rights guaranteed to them in the Constitution and in international instruments. Nature shall be the subject of those rights that the Constitution recognizes for it.”⁶⁹

On June 7, 2008, the language of Articles 71 through 74, compiling the Rights of Nature, were approved for inclusion in the Constitution. On September 28, 2008, a mandatory referendum was held in the country for Ecuadorian citizens to vote on the proposed new constitution, where the adoption of the constitution was approved by 65% of voters.⁷⁰

Indigenous peoples were at the centre of resulting constitutional changes at the time, and it was the culmination of a multi-year/multi-decade movement to build a new constitution for Ecuador that reflects the values of Indigenous peoples. Sumak Kawsay/Buen Vivir can be characterized “as a political platform on the basis of which different social movements articulate social and ecological demands based on Indigenous principles, in order to challenge the economic and political fundamentals of the state.”⁷¹ The idea behind this constitutionalizing of Sumak Kawsay/Buen Vivir was to incorporate Indigenous concepts and visions into law and to balance economic development with nature, human necessities, and the environment.⁷²

This adoption at the constitutional level suggests potential for profound changes in the country, within government, and for public policy. Instead, the meaningful implementation of Sumak Kawsay/Buen Vivir in Ecuador has been extremely weak.⁷³ There are deep contradictions between the spirit of Sumak Kawsay/Buen Vivir and recently formulated policies that reveal a “pragmatic” status quo approach by the national government. These contradictions suggest that, far from being a strategic basis for effective policy making, Sumak Kawsay/Buen Vivir serves Ecuadorian politicians and the government of the day to support their own reform plan based on mainstream understandings of development.⁷⁴

67 Tituana, Diego, Ecuadorian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Personal Communication, 29 July 2020.

68 Merino, Roger, (2016) An alternative to ‘alternative development’?: Buen vivir and human development in Andean countries, *Oxford Development Studies*, 44(3), 271-286, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13600818.2016.1144733>

69 Republic of Ecuador, Constitution of 2008, <https://pdba.georgetown.edu/Constitutions/Ecuador/english08.html>.

70 Domínguez, Rafael, and Sara Caria. “Ecuador’s Buen Vivir: A New Ideology for Development - Sara Caria, Rafael Domínguez, 2016.” *SAGE Journals*, 31 Dec. 2015, journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0094582X15611126?journalCode=lapa.

71 Merino, Roger, (2016) An alternative to ‘alternative development’?: Buen vivir and human development in Andean countries, *Oxford Development Studies*, 44(3), 271-286, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13600818.2016.1144733>.

72 Tituana, Diego, Ecuadorian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, personal communication, 29 July 2020.

73 Vercoutère, Tamia. Ecuadorian scholar, Personal communication. 2 August 2020.

74 <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0094582X15611126?journalCode=lapa>.

This example is a cautionary lesson for BC and other jurisdictions developing their own wellbeing measures, as it underscores the critical importance of Indigenous peoples being central to the implementation of the framework, not just consulted in its creation.

BOLIVIA'S ADOPTION OF THE PROGRAMA NACIONAL BIOCULTURA

In Bolivia, a similar alternative vision of development has emerged that relies on the Indigenous concepts of Madre Tierra (Mother Earth) and Vivir Bien (Living Well), building on longstanding Indigenous understandings of balance and harmony between humans and nature⁷⁵.

As in Ecuador, Indigenous support for legal enshrinement of these concepts has led to the enactment of law and the creation of an institution devoted to these principles, specifically, the Agenda 2025⁷⁶ and the Plan for Economic and Social Development 2016-20⁷⁷. These successes dovetailed with the Programa Nacional Biocultura, which was launched in 2006 and focuses on the economic, social and cultural development of Andes' Indigenous peoples and the preservation of local ecosystems.⁷⁸

The Biocultura program was reinforced by the new constitution that Bolivia adopted in 2009.⁷⁹ The adoption of Vivir Bien and the Biocultura program were done as an attempt to move away from the mainstream, non-Indigenous economic model previously in place, a model that made the country highly dependent upon the export of raw materials.⁸⁰

The constitutional legacy of Vivir Bien in Bolivia has some notable inter-jurisdictional cooperation: the development and adoption of the Bolivian Constitution were quite close in time with neighboring Ecuador (Bolivia in 2009, Ecuador in 2008). Given the closeness between then-Presidents Rafael Correa and Evo Morales, there was a sustained exchange among politicians, academics, and Ecuadorian and Bolivian leaders (Indigenous and non-Indigenous), to formulate Sumak Kawsay/ Vivir Bien into a constitutional format.⁸¹ However, as with Ecuador, this constitutional enshrinement of these Indigenous concepts has fallen short of meaningful implementation. Those critical of implementation argue that the Sumak Kawsay/ Vivir Bien concept enshrined in the constitution has in fact been co-opted by the Bolivian State to maintain *status quo* development conventions.⁸²

75 The cornerstone of development projects in Bolivia is a new philosophy, "Vivir bien" similar to Gross National Happiness coined by the King of Bhutan in the '70s. <https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/bolivia/en/home/international-cooperation/projects.html/content/dezaproyectos/SDC/en/2007/7F05448/phase2>.

76 Bolivia (Estado plurinacional de) (2013) 13 pilares de la Bolivia Digna y Soberana. Agenda Patriótica 2025 (La Paz: Ministerio de comunicación), https://www.bcb.gob.bo/webdocs/enlaces/AgendaPatriotica_0.pdf.

77 Bolivia (Estado plurinacional de) (2015) Plan de desarrollo económico y social en el marco del desarrollo integral para vivir bien (La Paz: Ministerio de planificación del desarrollo), <http://www.planificacion.gob.bo/pdes/>.

78 Programa BioCultura: Living in Harmony with Mother Earth. www.eda.admin.ch/countries/bolivia/en/home/international-cooperation/projects.html/content/dezaproyectos/SDC/en/2007/7F05448/phase2.

79 The basic law reflects the alternative approach to development and the indigenist turn taken by the country since Evo Morales was elected president in 2005. Evo Morales, who is of Indigenous descent, created a stir by nationalizing the country's oil and gas industry before putting the right of the Indigenous populations to manage their land resources in the constitution and a governmental national development plan.

80 Weyer, Frédérique. "Implementing 'Vivir Bien': Results and Lessons from the Biocultura Programme, Bolivia." International Development Policy | Revue Internationale De Politique De Développement, Institut De Hautes Études Internationales Et Du Développement, 10 Oct. 2017, journals.openedition.org/poldev/2361.

81 Vercoutère, Tamia. Ecuadorian scholar, Personal communication. 2 August 2020.

82 Merino, Roger, (2016) An alternative to 'alternative development'?: Buen vivir and human development in Andean countries, Oxford Development Studies, 44(3), 271-286, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13600818.2016.1144733>.

USA'S SWINOMISH INDIGENOUS HEALTH INDICATORS (WASHINGTON STATE)

The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community in Washington State is home to a community of Coast Salish peoples that descended from Indigenous nations that originally lived in the Skagit Valley and Samish River Valley, the coastal areas surrounding Skagit, Padilla, and Fidalgo bays, Saratoga Passage, and numerous islands including Fidalgo, Camano, Whidbey, and the San Juan Islands.⁸³

Starting in 2004, and again from 2009-2013, the Swinomish and other Coast Salish Nations sought to “create a climate change health assessment founded on values-driven data”.⁸⁴ Elder Larry Campbell and Dr. Jamie Donatuto worked to incorporate “tools and techniques from Eurocentric disciplines (e.g., decision science, behavioral research) with local Indigenous ways of learning and sharing” in order to create a set of Indigenous Health Indicators (IHIs) which were reflective of their community's values.⁸⁵

The community trained young people from each of the major families in the community to conduct an interview with their family members about health outcomes, and in doing so constructed an ethnographic survey of 1/4 of the entire community.⁸⁶

Some of their initial findings were that wellbeing extended far beyond the basic physiological metrics that are used in Eurocentric medicine, and included health on a familial and community scale. Some questions that were important to the community included:

- How well is the community working together?
- Are traditional foods, like salmon and shellfish, being accessed and shared?
- Does the community maintain their self-determination and sovereignty?
- How is climate change impacting community health?

The Swinomish Indigenous Health Indicators that resulted from the in-community ethnographic work carried out by their young people are a set of six indicators that aim to provide a more complete view of community health, which are:

- Community Connection
- Natural Resources Security
- Cultural Use
- Education
- Self-Determination
- Resilience

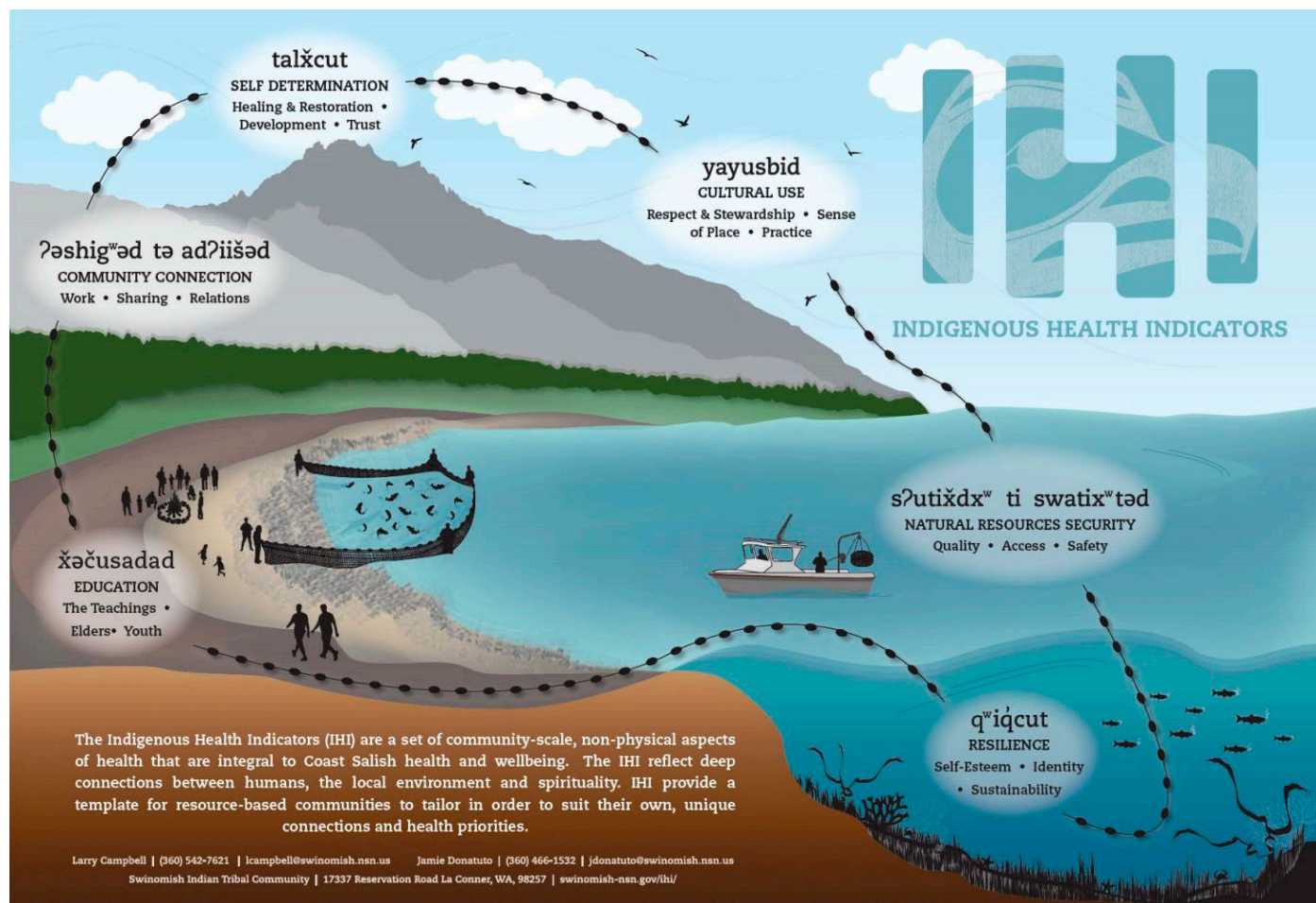
83 “The Swinomish People.” Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, swinomish-nsn.gov/who-we-are/the-swinomish-people.aspx.

84 M. Arquette, M. Cole, et al. “The ‘Value’ of Values-Driven Data in Identifying Indigenous Health and Climate Change Priorities.” *Climatic Change*, Springer Netherlands, 30 Nov 2019, link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10584-019-02596-2.

85 In 2018, the City of Vancouver's Social Policy and Project department published a report that described city-wide urban First Nations Indigenous wellness indicators. “Indigenous Wellness Indicators – Including Urban Indigenous Wellness Indicators in the Healthy City Strategy”: <https://sustain.ubc.ca/about/resources/Indigenous-wellness-indicators-including-urban-Indigenous-wellness-indicators>.

86 “Tribal Health Webinar Series.” North Sound Accountable Community of Health - Working to Improve Health and Wellbeing in the North Sound Region., northsoundach.org/tribal-health-webinars/.

FIGURE 17. SWINOMISH INDIGENOUS HEALTH INDICATORS



Since their creation, these indicators developed by the Swinomish have been applied to Indigenous communities beyond the Swinomish Tribe. While each Indigenous community is unique, there are shared threads through all these communities that including the six Swinomish Indigenous Health Indicators, shown above in Figure 17.

English words are not perfect translations of the Lushootseed names for the six core Swinomish Indigenous Health Indicators (seen in the language in the figure above). However, the indicators serve as bridge words to help communicate these concepts to

groups outside of the community.⁸⁷ The Swinomish Tribal Government is now focused on understanding how climate change will impact the indicators, as well as assisting other Indigenous peoples in creating their own versions of the framework.

87 M. Arquette, M. Cole, et al. "The 'Value' of Values-Driven Data in Identifying Indigenous Health and Climate Change Priorities." *Climatic Change*, Springer Netherlands, 30 Nov 2019, link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10584-019-02596-2.

Ntsuwa'lhkala Tl'akmen:
Our way of being
(St'at'imc)

Snewayelh: Traditional Knowledge
Nexwniw: Schooling
Sxelxel: Literacy
(Skwxwú7mesh: Squamish)



REPORT CARD

Existing Wellbeing Indicators Involving Indigenous Peoples

FIGURE 18. REPORT CARD: WELLBEING AND ECONOMIC INDICATORS INVOLVING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

INDICATOR	GOES BEYOND JUST GDP	INCORPORATES INDIGENOUS PRINCIPLES	INVOLVED INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN FORMATION	ADOPTED AT STATE OR GOVERNMENT LEVEL	USED BY GOVERNMENT FOR DECISION-MAKING	GRADE
New Zealand's Wellbeing Budget and Living Standards Framework	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+
Manitoba's Indigenous Contributions to the Manitoba Economy	X	X	✓	X	X	C-
Atlantic Canada's Indigenous Economic Performance	X	X	✓	X	X	C-
Ecuador's Constitutional Enshrinement of Sumak Kawsay or Buen Vivir	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	B-
Bolivia's Programa Nacional Biocultura, or Vivir Bien	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	B-
USA's Swinomish Indigenous Health Indicators (Washington State)	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	A

This "report card" presents a "grade" for each of the wellbeing and economic indicators involving Indigenous peoples discussed above. The rationale for the grades is included below.

This report card, created for this paper in the context of BC and Indigenous wellbeing, is applied only to those indicators that consider Indigenous values. Other mainstream indices (e.g., OECD, Happy Planet Index, etc.) are excluded. The lack of Indigenous values/principles in these other mainstream wellbeing and economic indicators is notable, especially because there is a global trend dating back to Bhutan's Gross National Happiness Index (see timeline above), to paint a comprehensive picture of wellbeing beyond GDP. These broader and interconnected

sense of ways of living, wellbeing, health, prosperity, and relationality are of course commonplace, if not ubiquitous, among Indigenous peoples worldwide.

Of those indicators that have caught on to, or recognized, this valuable set of Indigenous principles and values, this report card provides a snapshot of what has, and has not, been done well. This snapshot/report card may inform BC's own wellbeing index in aiming for planning to score high on these essential measures.

ELEMENTS OF THE REPORT CARD

Goes beyond just GDP Does the indicator simply measure GDP? Or does it also consider other elements such as mental health, environmental health, inequality, quality of life, etc.?

Incorporates Indigenous principles Does the indicator incorporate Indigenous principles or values? Or does it simply apply Eurocentric values to the measurement of wellbeing or prosperity?

Involved Indigenous People in formation Were Indigenous peoples (meaningfully) involved in the formation of the indicator? Or did the state/government unilaterally create the indicator?

Adopted the Indicator at a state or government level Has the state/government enshrined or adopted the indicator into its ongoing practices, laws, policies or budgets? Or is it simply a one-off snapshot of wellbeing?

Implemented the Indicator in practice for government decision making Has the state/government (meaningfully) implemented the indicator into decision making? Or are the practices adopted or enshrined in name only?

Grade Meant as a general benchmark, rather than a precise measurement. This “grade” gives a sense of how the indicator or index scores as compared to the others presented in this section.

NEW ZEALAND’S WELLBEING BUDGET AND LIVING STANDARDS FRAMEWORK

Goes beyond just GDP ✓ New Zealand’s Living Standards Framework includes 12 domains of wellbeing outcomes, four capital stocks that support wellbeing, risk and resilience, and the distribution of these across people, places and generations.⁹⁶

Incorporates Indigenous principles ✓ Indigenous wellbeing is central to New Zealand’s Wellbeing Budget 2019. The Living Standards Framework measures the percentage of people who can converse about everyday things in Te Reo Māori.⁹⁷

Involved Indigenous People in Indicator Formation ✓ New Zealand’s statistics department has stated a commitment to developing indicators to incorporate concepts of wellbeing from a te ao Māori perspective.⁹⁸

Adopted the Indicator at a state or government level ✓ The New Zealand Wellbeing Budget 2019 incorporates diverse wellbeing indicators in the country’s Living Standards Framework.

Implemented the Indicator in practice for government decision making ✓ New Zealand’s Government Ministers must justify spending to follow priorities outlined in the 2019 Wellbeing Budget.⁹⁹

96 “Our Living Standards Framework.” 12 Dec. 2019, treasury.govt.nz/information-and-services/nz-economy/higher-living-standards/our-living-standards-framework.

97 “Living Standards Framework.” Dashboard, lsfdashboard.treasury.govt.nz/wellbeing.

98 “Te Ao Māori - Partnering with Māori to Reflect Values, Beliefs, and Customs.” Te Ao Māori | Ngā Tūtohu Aotearoa – Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand, wellbeingindicators.stats.govt.nz/en/te-ao-maori/.

99 World Economic Forum. “Jacinda Ardern: Politics And Economics To Focus On Empathy, Kindness and Well-Being” 24 June 2019, youtube.com/watch?v=GqzIFfLOW4.

MANITOBA'S INDIGENOUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MANITOBA ECONOMY REPORT

Goes beyond just GDP ✗ The *Indigenous Contributions to the Manitoba Economy Report* is narrow and based only on GDP.

Incorporates Indigenous principles ✗ No Indigenous values are incorporated in how wellbeing is measured.

Involved Indigenous People in Indicator Formation ✓ The initiative for the *Indigenous Contributions to the Manitoba Economy Report* was led by the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, the Southern Chiefs' Organization, and the Rural Development Institute, Brandon University.

Adopted the Indicator at a state or government level ✗ The *Indigenous Contributions to the Manitoba Economy Report* was a one-off and was not adopted or enshrined into law or policy.

Implemented the Indicator in practice for government decision making ✗ The *Indigenous Contributions to the Manitoba Economy Report* was a one-off and not incorporated into government policy, law, or as a guide of decision making.

ATLANTIC CANADA'S INDIGENOUS ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE REPORT

Goes beyond just GDP ✗ Atlantic Canada's Indigenous Economic Performance Report is narrow and based only on GDP.

Incorporates Indigenous principles ✗ No Indigenous values are incorporated in how wellbeing is measured.

Involved Indigenous People in Indicator Formation ✓ According to the 2016 report *\$1.14 Billion Strong: Indigenous Economic Performance in Atlantic Canada* produced from this GDP indicator/study, the research methodology included "outreach to Indigenous communities throughout Atlantic Canada...[and]... consultation and meetings with a broad range of stakeholders in the Atlantic Indigenous community."

Adopted the Indicator at a state or government level ✗ Atlantic Canada's Indigenous Economic Performance Report was a one-off not incorporated into law or policy.

Implemented the Indicator in practice for government decision making ✗ Again, the Indigenous Economic Performance Report was a one-off and not incorporated into law or policy, or as a guide of decision making.

ECUADOR'S CONSTITUTIONAL ENSHRINEMENT OF SUMAK KAWSAY OR BUEN VIVIR

Goes beyond just GDP ✓ An ancient Quechua word, Sumak Kawsay means “good living” or the “good life”. Throughout South America, Sumak Kawsay, and equivalent Indigenous concepts, are a way of living in harmony within communities, ourselves, and most importantly, nature.⁸⁸

Incorporates Indigenous principles ✓ Sumak Kawsay is an ancient Quechua phrase, and represents a holistic view of wellbeing.

Involved Indigenous People in Indicator Formation

✓ Indigenous peoples (in alliance with other sectors, as the case may be) had an important weight in the Constituent Assembly as they cultivated the political capital accumulated throughout the past decade, in which they starred in a historic uprising that paralyzed the country, expelled politicians from their positions (including several presidents) and raised important proposals that marked the national political field.⁸⁹

Adopted the Indicator at a state or government level

✓ Sumak Kawsay was incorporated into governments as a way of granting rights to nature. Specifically, the concept of Sumak Kawsay was incorporated into Ecuador's 2008 Constitution, which was the first country to legally acknowledge rights of nature.⁹⁰

Implemented the Indicator in practice for government decision making

✗ Although Sumak Kawsay is inscribed in Ecuador's Constitution, “it has been practically erased from the public policy, speeches and communication of the current Government. This is understood, in part, because the Sumak Kawsay was a ‘flag’ of the past Government and, to the extent that the Government of the current President has wanted to mark a break with its predecessor, then all the ‘emblems’ of the past Government have been silenced or disqualified.”⁹¹

BOLIVIA'S ADOPTION OF THE PROGRAMA NACIONAL BIOCULTURA OR VIVIR BIEN

Goes beyond just GDP ✓ An ancient Quechua word, Sumak Kawsay means “good living” or the “good life”. Throughout South America, it is a way of living in harmony within communities, ourselves, and most importantly, nature.⁹²

Incorporates Indigenous principles ✓ Sumak Kawsay is an ancient Quechua/Kichwa phrase, and represents a holistic view of wellbeing.

88 “Sumak Kawsay.” Sumak Kawsay | Ancient Teachings of Indigenous Peoples | Pachamama Alliance, www.pachamama.org/sumak-kawsay.

89 Vercoutère, Tamia, Ecuadorian scholar, personal communication, 2 August 2020.

90 “Sumak Kawsay.” Sumak Kawsay | Ancient Teachings of Indigenous Peoples | Pachamama Alliance, www.pachamama.org/sumak-kawsay.

91 Vercoutère, Tamia, Ecuadorian scholar, personal communication, 2 August 2020.

92 “Sumak Kawsay.” Sumak Kawsay | Ancient Teachings of Indigenous Peoples | Pachamama Alliance, www.pachamama.org/sumak-kawsay.

Involved Indigenous People in Indicator Formation ✓ At the time that Bolivia incorporated concepts of Sumak Kawsay into the Bolivian Constitution (in 2009) “there was a closeness between then-Presidents Rafael Correa [Ecuador] and Evo Morales [Bolivia], there was a sustained exchange between politicians, academics and Ecuadorian and Bolivian leaders, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to think [up] Sumak Kawsay.”⁹³

Adopted the Indicator at a state or government level ✓ “Biocultura is a joint program of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Bolivian Ministry of Environment and Water. It is one of the public policies that were initiated in 2007 by the Bolivian government to strengthen the local management of biodiversity. In 2009, the new constitution and the National Development Plan incorporated strategies and policies for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity related to the rights of Indigenous peoples.”⁹⁴

Implemented the Indicator in practice for government decision making ✗ “...recent developments in oil prices are increasing tensions between the vision of development put forward by Bolivia, the constraints of its economic model; and between the different interpretations of Vivir Bien.”⁹⁵

USA'S SWINOMISH INDIGENOUS HEALTH INDICATORS (WASHINGTON STATE)

Goes beyond just GDP ✓ The Swinomish Indigenous Health Indicators are a clear departure from GDP. Instead of income, the index measures community connection, natural resources security, cultural use, education, self-determination, and resilience.

Incorporates Indigenous principles ✓ The Swinomish Indigenous Health Indicators are centred unambiguously on Indigenous Principles, in particular, those of Swinomish people as articulated, researched, organized, and presented by Swinomish people.

Involved Indigenous People in Indicator Formation ✓ Having trained young people from each of the major families in the Swinomish community to conduct interviews with family members needed to inform these Swinomish Indigenous Health Indicators, this example is arguably the best example of involvement of Indigenous peoples in indicator formation.

Adopted the Indicator at a state or government level ✗ While the Swinomish Tribe and other interested Indigenous communities have adopted these Indicators, no other levels of government have adopted these Indigenous indicators.

Implemented the Indicator in practice for government decision making ✓ The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community implemented these indicators into their decision making.¹⁰⁰

93 Vercoutère, Tamia, Ecuadorian scholar, personal communication, 2 August 2020.

94 “Sumak Kawsay.” Sumak Kawsay | Ancient Teachings of Indigenous Peoples | Pachamama Alliance, www.pachamama.org/sumak-kawsay.

95 Weyer, Frédérique. “Implementing ‘Vivir Bien’: Results and Lessons from the Biocultura Programme, Bolivia.” *International Development Policy | Revue Internationale De Politique De Développement*, Institut De Hautes Études Internationales Et Du Développement, 10 Oct. 2017, journals.openedition.org/poldev/2361.

100 M. Arquette, M. Cole, et al. “The ‘Value’ of Values-Driven Data in Identifying Indigenous Health and Climate Change Priorities.” *Climatic Change*, Springer Netherlands, 30 Nov. 2019, link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10584-019-02596-2



**Ha tlatgi ha kustiyi:
Protecting the Taku Tlingit land-based way of life.**
(Tlingit)

**χαλανən k^wʊms qaya. χαλανən k^wʊms gj̃ɛ. hɛʔ tuwas təms
ʔɛʔtɛn. hɛʔ tuwas təms t̃imix^w. ʔuk^w čɛ tutuwas k^w yiqəʃɛt:**

**Our water is precious; our lands are precious. Our foods, medicines
and all that we needed came from the land and waters of our
territory. This is why we continue to be good stewards.**
(ʔayʔaj̃uθəm: Northern Coast Salish)

Rationale for BC to Adopt Wellbeing Indicators

BC PROGRESS BOARD: AN ABANDONED EARLY TEMPLATE

Despite its drawbacks, GDP continues to be used by most national governments around the world. But the growing awareness of these drawbacks is prompting more nations and jurisdictions to seek better indicators. In fact, BC was at one time an early adopter of a broader definition of wellbeing. The inadequacies and ultimate abandonment of this GDP-alternative measurement framework by the previous government provides important lessons for the province today on pitfalls to avoid.

In July 2001, the Provincial Government of Premier Hon. Gordon Campbell launched the “BC Progress Board” with a mandate to develop, track and report on BC’s progress relative to other jurisdictions against a variety of economic, environmental, health, educational and social indicators.¹⁰¹

During its 10-year existence, the 18-member Board was dominated by business executives, and had virtually no representation from environmental organizations, health care, education, social services, other not-for-profit groups (one exception was the then-president of UBC), and it had no Indigenous representatives. The annual performance indicators of the Campbell-era BC Progress Board were heavily-weighted to economic values, and did not include any measures of Indigenous contributions, values, or many other important indicators of community and cultural wellbeing.

The NDP Opposition introduced a Private Member’s Bill in March 2005, Bill M 203 *The Genuine Progress Board Act, 2005*¹⁰², in an attempt to improve the Board’s benchmarking work, by requiring it to consider, among other improvements, “the ecological conditions on which all life depends and the interdependence between people and ecological systems.” The bill was never called for debate by the government and it died on the Order Paper. The Board was disbanded by the government of new Premier Hon. Christy Clark in 2011.

The BC Progress Board did represent an early effort to broaden the measure of economic performance in BC beyond purely GDP. It adopted 26 performance indicators that were tracked, ranked and reported upon annually relative to the performance of the rest of Canada, North America, and other countries (30 OECD member-nations).¹⁰³ While the measures were insufficient by today’s norms around GDP-alternative indicator standards, the reports nevertheless provided a transparent ranking of BC’s performance on some important “non-economic” indicators, such as: air quality; greenhouse gas emissions; cancer and cardiovascular disease mortality; low birth weight; income assistance; and personal and property crime.

“Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts.”

WILLIAM BRUCE CAMERON
SOCIOLOGIST

101 Office of the Premier. “Information Bulletin.” New Chair of B.C. Progress Board Announced, 9 Sept. 2003, archive.news.gov.bc.ca/releases/archive/2001-2005/20030TP0068-000793.htm.

102 “Bill M 203 -- 2005: The Genuine Progress Board Act, 2005.” BCLASS-Legacy, The Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, www.leg.bc.ca/pages/bclass-legacy.aspx.

103 “2009 Benchmarks: Introduction.” BC Progress Board | 2009 Benchmark Report | Introduction, www.westhawk.com/BCPB/2009Report/BCPB2009intro.html.

ARGUMENT FOR A BC WELLBEING INDEX

Given the growing global move towards adoption of GDP-alternative wellbeing frameworks, the interest by other nation states and jurisdictions to collaborate with other nation states, the BC government's stated objective of having an economy that benefits everyone,¹⁰⁴ and Indigenous leadership interest to move in this direction, it is important for BC to meet this opportunity. Further to this point, there are three main reasons why BC may benefit from implementing its own wellbeing index:

1. The need for productive and efficient COVID-19 recovery.
2. The need to achieve economic sustainability for the future.
3. The need to meaningfully measure First Nations wellbeing in BC.

Eurocentric measures of wellbeing such as GDP or measures tied to material goods or income, do not meaningfully represent the wellbeing of Indigenous nations or people. In fact, countries around the world are now identifying the blunt tool measure of wellbeing that GDP is, and are creating and implementing wellbeing indices that transcend GDP. The reasons GDP is increasingly falling short as a measure of wellbeing in these countries are all the more true for Indigenous nations and peoples for whom GDP is an imposed measure of wellbeing. Indigenous ways across BC are varied, but none of these use monetary income as a sole measure of wellbeing.

Presently, and looking forward, Indigenous nations in BC need to be able to measure wellbeing in an Indigenous-centric way. This may involve a selection of value-based measures known to reflect *actual* human wellbeing such as a clean environment, social and cultural connectivity, access to health food, education, etc. A made-in-BC measure of wellbeing also has the potential to build a benchmark that is uniquely Indigenous-centric. This may measure Indigenous influence on wellbeing such as education (e.g., languages, band schools, traditional knowledge), social capital (e.g., communities, social connection), nation-led social services, traditional laws, species at risk (both on reserves and other traditional territories), and localized Indigenous knowledge (e.g., environment, species, climate).

A made-in BC index that transcends GDP has the potential to not only more meaningfully measure wellbeing in an Indigenous-centric way, but to improve our collective wellbeing for Indigenous and non-Indigenous British Columbians alike.

104 "Our Platform: John Horgan's Commitments to BC." BC NDP, bcndp.ca/platform.

THE NEED FOR PRODUCTIVE AND EFFICIENT COVID-19 RECOVERY

As BC makes its recovery from the economic and social setbacks of COVID-19, we need to protect and improve the wellbeing of British Columbians whose lives and livelihoods have been impacted. Canada’s anticipated “prolonged and bumpy”¹⁰⁵ recovery from the economic damage of the COVID-19 pandemic provides both urgency and an opportunity to reconsider our measures of economic growth and wellbeing in BC, in a way that transcends GDP as the sole marker of productivity and efficiency.

The mid- and post-pandemic timing of this research and paper provides a logical and defensible departure from typical and outdated measures (i.e., GDP). Many British Columbians are already thinking differently about quality of life, the economy, and the environment – a perspective that Indigenous peoples and nations have long held. Thus, the time to benchmark the province’s economic growth in a new way may be now as we emerge from COVID-19.

THE NEED TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY FOR THE FUTURE

The crisis we were already in before COVID-19 was climate change. Following the adage of ‘you get what you measure’, GDP has failed as a measure of achieving success in meaningfully reducing greenhouse gas emissions. According to BC-based national think tank Clean Energy Canada:

“[m]ost British Columbians see the province’s post-COVID economic recovery as an opportunity to increase the B.C. government’s climate efforts through investments in clean energy and technology—and believe doing so would likely be to our economic benefit.”

A June 2020 poll demonstrated that over three-quarters of British Columbians (79%) agree that the economic changes brought about by COVID-19 provide an opportunity to do more now to fight climate change.¹⁰⁶ Given the broad support for investments in clean energy and technology, this point in time creates a place to pivot in the measure of wellbeing and for BC to demonstrate its progress in addressing climate change. Wellbeing indices worldwide typically include environmental indicators. This kind of benchmarking, particularly in post-COVID recovery, syncs well with existing CleanBC targets.

105 “Bank of Canada Governor Says Economic Recovery from COVID-19 Will Be ‘Prolonged and Bumpy’ | CBC News.” CBCnews, CBC/Radio Canada, 22 June 2020, www.cbc.ca/news/business/monetary-policy-covid-19-bank-of-canada-1.5621999.

106 Clean Energy Canada. “Poll: British Columbians Want Climate and Clean Energy at the Centre of B.C.’s Recovery Plan.” Clean Energy Canada, 8 July 2020, cleanenergycanada.org/poll-british-columbians-want-climate-and-clean-energy-at-the-centre-of-b-c-s-recovery-plan/.

Recommendations

In light of the discussion and rationale above, the following are recommendations to advance the development of a made-in-BC wellbeing index:

1. Adopt a collective commitment, in lockstep with Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders, to a new wellbeing framework for BC.
2. Meaningfully include First Nations as central to the development and implementation of the BC wellbeing framework.
3. Mandate a shared Centre of Excellence to develop the BC wellbeing framework.
4. Examine and learn from the best practices and specific examples of Indigenous wellbeing indices in other jurisdictions.
5. Prioritize the development of data needed to support the framework.
6. Accelerate the implementation of UNDRIP principles by incorporating the BC wellbeing framework and resulting made-in-BC wellbeing index into government policy, laws and decision-making.

Adopt a collective commitment, in lockstep with Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders, to a new wellbeing framework for BC

As a critical first step, lay out a framework, or set of standards, to establish a baseline upon which a made-in-BC wellbeing index would be built. Similar to New Zealand's Living Standards Framework, which formed the baseline for their subsequent Wellbeing Budget, a BC wellbeing framework or set of standards would inform the content of BC wellbeing indices. In the creation of this framework, the BC AFN encourages the Provincial Government to work with Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders in the development of this BC wellbeing framework. Bringing these leaders together will more accurately reflect the wellbeing values of British Columbians. To be successful, this commitment to a more apt standard of wellbeing in BC should be shared, non-partisan, and transparent.

Meaningfully include First Nations as central to the development and implementation of the BC wellbeing framework

To ensure that the new wellbeing framework, which in turn informs a made-in-BC wellbeing index, accurately reflects the values and contributions of all British Columbians, First Nations must be meaningfully involved in both its development and implementation. As seen in the Ecuador example, even the constitutional enshrinement of a comprehensive standard for "good living" will fail in implementation if Indigenous involvement is limited.

Mandate a shared Centre of Excellence to develop the wellbeing framework

A Centre of Excellence, where Indigenous and government leaders could work towards mutual public policy goals, would be ideally positioned to develop a wellbeing framework for BC. A clear, specific mandate should be developed to guide the Centre's work and role, including the development of data (or identification of existing data) and tools needed to support the wellbeing framework and resulting made-in-BC wellbeing index.

Examine and learn from the best practices and specific examples of Indigenous wellbeing indices in other jurisdictions

The wellbeing indices highlighted in this paper provide a ready starting point for measures to better reflect Indigenous values and contributions, namely the Māori in New Zealand. Likewise, measures from other jurisdictions that are relevant to Indigenous communities and peoples in BC, such as India's Assured Water Supply indicator (one of the indicators of the Ease of Living Index) and the Swinomish Indigenous Health Indicators, should be considered in the development of the framework and resulting made-in-BC wellbeing index.

Prioritize the development of data needed to support the framework

Following the New Zealand approach, a framework is only of value if the necessary and relevant data for it can be accessed on a timely basis. Working together, Indigenous and BC leaders should identify and establish a specific and detailed time series of dates for each measure in the framework. Data should be derived from BC and Canadian sources, and be able to be divided in multiple ways, including by ethnicity, region, income level and other important factors. This data should include missing BC Indigenous economic impact data. As shown by the impact surveys performed by Manitoba and Atlantic Canada First Nations, the lack of official government economic data neglects the importance of Indigenous peoples' inputs to provincial economies.

Accelerate the implementation of the wellbeing framework and resulting made-in-BC wellbeing index in coordination with UNDRIP implementation

Based on our research for this report, wellbeing frameworks and indices are most effective if they are adopted by governments, and incorporated into resulting laws, policies and, perhaps most importantly, decision-making. Indigenous and provincial government leaders, working together within a Center of Excellence, could explore accelerating the adoption of the framework by coordinating this work with ongoing implementation of UNDRIP principles in government laws, policies, and decision-making.

Conclusion

Although the British Columbia government has not kept pace with other global leaders in the development of GDP-alternative frameworks, the province has a number of advantages in quickly moving to close this gap. These include:

- Support from and commitment by the BC AFN and Indigenous leaders to improve Indigenous wellbeing in the province.
- Willing partners in other countries, including global leaders in the wellbeing movement.
- Ready domestic measures already in place such as the Canada Index of Wellbeing.
- A wealth of best practices and data from other jurisdictions.

Simultaneously, the economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with growing environmental and climate challenges, have created a timely opportunity for BC to redefine its measures of wellbeing, and to join the ranks of other global leaders in the wellbeing movement.

The potential benefits to our economy, health, education, environment, communities and culture are enormous.

Further Reading

There are extensive data, research and resources to support the development of wellbeing indices. The following is a selection of some of the more compelling thought-leadership pieces to support this discussion.

David Pilling [5 ways GDP gets it totally wrong as a measure of our success](https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/01/gdp-frog-matchbox-david-pilling-growth-delusion/)

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/01/gdp-frog-matchbox-david-pilling-growth-delusion/>

Peter Victoria [Questioning economic growth](http://web.net/%7Ebthomson/degrowth/peter-victor-na-nature-11.pdf)

<http://web.net/%7Ebthomson/degrowth/peter-victor-na-nature-11.pdf>

Tabita Green [What a Society Designed for Well-Being Looks Like: Economic justice goes a long way toward improving mental health up and down the socioeconomic ladder](https://www.yesmagazine.org/issue/mental-health/2018/09/12/what-a-society-design-for-well-being-looks-like)

<https://www.yesmagazine.org/issue/mental-health/2018/09/12/what-a-society-design-for-well-being-looks-like>

WWF [Towards an EU Wellbeing Economy A fairer, more sustainable Europe after COVID-19](https://wwfeu.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/wwf_eu_wellbeing_economy_report.pdf)

https://wwfeu.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/wwf_eu_wellbeing_economy_report.pdf

Tim Jackson, Peter A. Victor [Unraveling the claims for \(and against\) green growth](https://science.sciencemag.org/content/366/6468/950)

<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/366/6468/950>

Jason Hickel [Degrowth: A response to Branko Milanovic](https://www.jasonhickel.org/blog/2017/11/19/why-branko-milanovic-is-wrong-about-de-growth)

<https://www.jasonhickel.org/blog/2017/11/19/why-branko-milanovic-is-wrong-about-de-growth>

Appendices

A. CORE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SEN-STIGLITZ-FITOUSSI COMMISSION REPORT

When evaluating material well-being, look at income and consumption rather than production.

Emphasize the household perspective. Available national data shows that in many OECD countries real household income has grown quite differently from real GDP per capita, and typically at a lower rate.

Consider income and consumption jointly with wealth. A household that spends its wealth on consumption goods increases its current well-being but at the expense of its future well-being. The consequences of such behavior would be captured in a household's balance sheet, and the same holds for other sectors of the economy, and for the economy as a whole. What is carried over into the future necessarily has to be expressed as stocks of physical, natural, human and social capital. The right valuation of these stocks plays a crucial role and is often problematic.

Give more prominence to the distribution of income, consumption and wealth.

Broaden income measures to non-market activities.

Quality of life depends on people's objective conditions and capabilities. Steps should be taken to improve measures of people's health, education, personal activities and environmental conditions. In particular, substantial effort should be devoted to developing and implementing robust, reliable measures of social connections, political voice, and insecurity that can be shown to predict life satisfaction. The information relevant to valuing quality of life goes beyond people's self-reports and perceptions to include measures of their "functionings" and freedoms. In effect, what really matters are the capabilities of people, that is, the extent of their opportunity set and of their freedom to choose among this set, the life they value.

Quality-of-life indicators in all the dimensions covered should assess inequalities in a comprehensive way. Inequalities in quality of life should be assessed across people, socio-economic groups, gender and generations, with special attention to inequalities that have arisen more recently, such as those linked to immigration.

Surveys should be designed to assess the links between various quality-of-life domains for each person, and this information should be used when designing policies in various fields.

Statistical offices should provide the information needed to aggregate across quality-of-life dimensions, allowing the construction of different indices.

Measures of both objective and subjective well-being provide key information about people's quality of life. Statistical offices should incorporate questions to capture people's life evaluations, hedonic experiences and priorities in their own survey. Research has shown that it is possible to collect meaningful and reliable data on subjective as well as objective well-being. Subjective well-being encompasses different aspects (cognitive evaluations of one's life, happiness, satisfaction, positive emotions such as joy and pride, and negative emotions such as pain and worry): each of them should be measured separately to derive a more comprehensive appreciation of people's lives.

Sustainability assessment requires a well-identified dashboard of indicators. The distinctive feature of the components of this dashboard should be that they are interpretable as variations of some underlying "stocks". A monetary index of sustainability has its place in such a dashboard but, under the current state of the art, it should remain essentially focused on economic aspects of sustainability.

B. 40+ WORLDWIDE WELLBEING INDICATORS

DATE	INDEX	CATEGORY	WHO?	WHY?	WEB REFERENCE
1934	Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	Composite Index	Simon Kuznets (USA)	“The statistic to end all statistics:” Kuznets developed GDP at the National Bureau of Economic Research, with the aim of presenting the economic production of all individuals and organizations in a single measure. Despite critiques, GDP remains the prevailing global economic indicator.	https://foreignpolicy.com/2011/01/03/gdp-a-brief-history/
1970	Genuine Savings	Sustainable Economic Welfare	World Bank	Value of the net change in the whole range of assets that are important for development: produced assets, natural resources, environmental quality, and human resources.	https://www.bu.edu/pardee/files/documents/PP-004-GDP.pdf ; http://www.consultmcgregor.com/documents/resources/GDPandGPI.pdf ; https://www.researchgate.net/publication/222867711_The_World_Bank%27s_%27genuine_savings%27_measure_and_sustainability
1972	Gross National Happiness (GNH)	Subjective Wellbeing (Happiness)	Jigme Singye Wangchuck (Dragon King of Bhutan)	The GNH was developed in Bhutan, and was enshrined as the primary goal of the Bhutanese government with the enactment of their constitution in 2008. GNH measures overall happiness of a population using nine domains, drawing on 33 indicators which are broken down into 124 variables. The domains include psychological wellbeing, health, time use, education, cultural diversity & resilience, good governance, community vitality, ecological diversity & resilience, and living standards. The core pillars of the index are sustainable & equitable socio-economic development; environmental conservation; the preservation and promotion of culture; and good governance. In 2005, the International Institute of Management in the USA published the Gross National Wellness Index (GNW), which was inspired by the GNH.	https://ophi.org.uk/policy/national-policy/gross-national-happiness-index/ ; www.grossnationalhappiness.com “GDP a poor measure of progress, say Davos economists.” World Economic Forum, January 23rd 2016. Web. April 29th, 2020. < https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/01/gdp >
1972	Measure of Economic Welfare (MEW)	Composite Index	William Nordhaus James Tobin (Yale)	MEW was developed to test the hypothesis that GDP was not an accurate measure of economic development. It was originally intended to represent pure economic welfare, not social welfare; it is based on personal consumption of goods and services, although it includes non-GDP metrics such as the value of leisure and non-market activities. Sustainable MEW is a supplementary measure that tracks the difference between MEW and the required growth in capital stock to support the labour force and changes in productivity.	http://www.csls.ca/misc/cea9731.pdf

DATE	INDEX	CATEGORY	WHO?	WHY?	WEB REFERENCE
1984	Gross Sustainable Development Product	Environmental	Global Community Assessment Centre and the Society for World Sustainable Development	Measure for the cost of growth and development inside an area in a stated interval of time in order to display the fact that that consumption ratios can be kept at the same level without diminishing quality and quantity of services. It was designed as a way to improve the gross development product in order to count more efficiently the performance of a nation by accounting the same market values for products and services as GDP but also incorporating financial records for environmental and health degradation, life quality for upcoming generations, welfare and quality of life and the downgrading or enlargement of natural assets.	http://www.fin.ase.ro/ABC/fisiere/ABC5_2017/16.pdf
1984	World Database of Happiness	Subjective Wellbeing (Happiness)	Ruut Veenhoven	The World Database of Happiness was developed to illustrate the overall, subjective enjoyment of life. It begins with literature, combining empirical studies, surveys, and various other academic publications from 175 countries worldwide. The summaries of scientific findings are presented in interrelated collections: the Happiness Bibliography, Measures of Happiness, Happiness in Nations, Correlational Findings on Happiness, and Happiness in Public.	https://worlddatabaseofhappiness.eur.nl/
1987	Fordham Index of Social Health	Composite Index	Fordham University Institute for Innovation in Social Policy	Comprehensive picture of a country's social health by considering various social inadequacies affecting individuals at all life stages including, childhood, the youth stage, adulthood, and in old age.	http://pratclif.com/economy/pib%26critic032008_files/indexsocialhealth.pdf
1989	Index of Sustainable Economic Welfare (ISEW)	Composite Index	Herman Daly John B. Cobb	The ISEW stems from MEW and the "threshold hypothesis" (Max-Neef, 1995), which states that, "up from a certain threshold of economic activity, the costs of growth are higher than the additional benefits from it." This led to the concept of sustainable development in the 1970s and 1980s, and ultimately the ISEW. Daly and Cobb aim to provide a holistic economic model by incorporating individuals, communities, and the environment; they recommend redirecting governmental and social structures towards smaller, more self-sufficient entities.	http://wikiprogress.org/articles/economy/index-of-sustainable-economic-welfare-isew/
1990	Human Development Index (HDI)	Composite Index	Mahbub ul Haq	The HDI is a metric used by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for their annual Human Development Report.	

DATE	INDEX	CATEGORY	WHO?	WHY?	WEB REFERENCE
1990	Subnational Human Development Index	Composite Index		This appears to be just the HDI, but applied on a more granular level within countries.	http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/subnational-human-development-index-moving-beyond-country-level-averages
1992	Ecological Footprint	Environmental	Mathis Wackernagel William Rees	The ecological footprint is the impact of a person or community on the environment, expressed as the amount of land required to sustain their use of natural resources.	https://www.footprintnetwork.org/about-us/our-history/
1993	Green GDP	Environmental	UN & World Bank	(Nation level calculation) Green GDP = GDP - Depletion of Natural Resources - Cost of Pollution; United Nations and the World Bank introduced the idea of Green GDP. In essence, 'Green GDP' highlights both the contribution of natural resources to economic development and the costs caused by pollution or resources degradation (unsustainability).	https://www.nature.com/articles/534037b < https://www.pbs.org/kqed/chinainside/nature/greengdp.html > [i] "GDP: Accounting for the Environment in China." PBS, 2007. Web. May 12th 2020.
1994	Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI)	Sustainable Economic Welfare	Center for Redefining Progress (Cobb, Halstead and Rowe)	The GPI was inspired by MEW and ISEW; it can be divided into two primary components: current economic welfare and sustainable economic development. Current welfare includes consumer and government expenditure, non-market production and leisure, and other external factors like unemployment and pollution. Sustainable development includes net investment, net international position (borrowing/lending), and long-term environmental and ecological damage.	http://www.csls.ca/misc/cea9731.pdf
1994	Canadian Index of WellBeing	Composite Index	The Atkinson Foundation	Recognizes the contribution of various domains of life to wellbeing. In Canada, these domains include community vitality, democratic engagement, education, environment, healthy populations, leisure and culture, living standards, and time use.	https://uwaterloo.ca/canadian-index-wellbeing/
1995	Index of Economic Freedom (IEF)	Sustainable Economic Welfare	The Heritage Foundation The Wall Street Journal	The IEF evaluates 186 countries on four fundamental categories of individual economic freedom: Rule of Law (property rights, government integrity, judicial effectiveness), Government Size (government spending, tax burden, fiscal health), Regulatory Efficiency (business freedom, labor freedom, monetary freedom), and Open Markets (trade freedom, investment freedom, financial freedom). Each of these metrics are graded on a scale from 0 to 100, and their scores are averaged with equal weighting to determine a country's overall score. The accompanying report analyzes each country's significant political and economic developments to inform policies and general knowledge.	https://www.heritage.org/index/about?version=96

DATE	INDEX	CATEGORY	WHO?	WHY?	WEB REFERENCE
1995	Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)	Composite Index	Transparency International	The CPI is a composite index of 13 surveys and assessments, used to evaluate a country's public sector corruption. It's the most widely-used indicator of corruption worldwide.	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corruption_Perceptions_Index https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi#
1998	Living Planet Index (LPI)	Environmental	World Wildlife Fund	The LPI provides a measure of global biodiversity based on population trends of vertebrate species. It sources data from population monitoring sites around the world to track the state of 4,773 unique animal species.	https://www.livingplanetindex.org/home/index
2000	Environmental Sustainability Index (ESI)	Environmental	World Economic Forum, Yale University, Columbia University, European Commission Joint Research Centre	The ESI provides a composite profile of national environmental stewardship, based on a compilation of 21 indicators derived from 76 underlying data sets. There were four releases of ESI results: 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2005.	https://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/collection/esi/#:~:text=The%20Environmental%20Sustainability%20Index%20
2000	Calvert-Henderson Quality of Life Indicators	Disaggregated Indicator Suites	Hazel Henderson	The indicators, the result of an extensive six-year study, cover 12 issue areas: education, economy, energy, environment, health, human rights, income, infrastructure, national security, public safety, recreation, and shelter. The indicators were developed as a suite rather than as a composite, leaving overall interpretation to the user.	https://www.environmentandurbanization.org/calvert-henderson-quality-life-indicators-new-tool-assessing-national-trends
2000	Millennium Development Goals and Indicators	Disaggregated Indicator Suites	United Nations	The goals included eradicating extreme hunger and poverty, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empowering women, reducing child mortality, etc. Forty-eight indicators were defined to measure progress towards these goals.	https://www.who.int/topics/millennium_development_goals/about/en/
2001	Australian Unity WellBeing Index	Subjective Wellbeing (Happiness)	Australian Unity	Regularly measures how satisfied Australians are with their own lives and with life in Australia.	www.australianunity.com.au/about-us/Wellbeing/AUWB
2001	Wellbeing Assessment	Sustainable Economic Welfare	Robert Prescott-Allen	Presented in Prescott-Allen's book the Wealth of Nations, the Wellbeing Assessment was developed to present a novel view of achieving and measuring sustainable development. The Wellbeing Assessment is comprised of four indicators: the Human Wellbeing Index to measure societal conditions, the Ecosystem Wellbeing Index to measure environmental health, the Wellbeing Index as a measurement of the two together, and the Wellbeing/Stress Index as a ratio of human wellbeing to ecological stress. The Wealth of Nations presents the author's evaluation of 180 countries on the basis of each of these indicators.	https://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/the-wellbeing-nations-developing-tools-for-measuring-sustainable-development http://pratclif.com/economy/wellbeing.htm#:~:text=This%20unique%20method%20combines%20indicators,the%20state%20of%20our%20world

DATE	INDEX	CATEGORY	WHO?	WHY?	WEB REFERENCE
2001	Ecosystem Wellbeing Index (EWI)	Environmental	Robert Prescott-Allen	The EWI is a broad measure of the state of the environment, with a fuller and more systematic treatment of national environmental conditions than other global indices such as the Ecological Footprint and the Environmental Sustainability Index.	http://sustainabilitynow.com/?p=2352 https://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/the-wellbeing-nations-developing-tools-for-measuring-sustainable-development
2002	Environmental Performance Index (EPI)	Environmental	World Economic Forum Yale University Columbia University	The EPI provides a data-driven summary of the state of sustainability around the world, ranking 180 countries through 32 indicators across 11 categories (see attached page for the EPI Framework). The EPI analyzes country performance by issue category, policy objective, peer group, and country, allowing policymakers to benchmark their progress towards sustainable development goals. This analysis is ongoing, with the latest publication released earlier this year.	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_Performance_Index https://epi.yale.edu/
2006	Happy Planet Index (HPI)	Environmental	New Economics Foundation	The HPI is based on general utilitarian principles – that most people want to live long and fulfilling lives, and the country which is doing the best is the one that allows its citizens to do so, whilst avoiding infringing on the opportunity of future people and people in other countries to do the same. Human well-being is conceptualized as happy life expectancy. Extraction of or imposition upon nature is evaluated by using the ecological footprint per capita, which attempts to estimate the amount of natural resources required to sustain a given country's lifestyle.	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Happy_Planet_Index
2006	Sustainable Society Index (SSI)	Environmental	Sustainable Society Foundation Geurt van de Kerk Arthur Manuel	The SSI ranks 156 countries on the following 21 indicators related to sustainability: sufficient food/drink, education, sanitation, income distribution, population growth, biodiversity, energy use/savings, consumption, greenhouse gases, renewable energy/water resources, employment, GDP, public debt, healthy living, gender equality, good governance, genuine savings, and organic farming. The SSI's national results are published every two years, and the Foundation is working towards publishing regional results.	http://www.ssfindex.com/
2006	Prosperity Index	Sustainable Economic Welfare	The Legatum Institute	The Prosperity Index quantifies prosperity in 167 countries using almost 300 country-level indicators, grouped into 65 policy-focussed categories. Information is collected from a wide variety of publicly-available data sources, and indicators are scored and weighted to evaluate a country's overall performance. The Institute aims to combine "in one Index the full range of disparate personal, business, and policy choices that impact and drive prosperity," in order to inform policy makers and the general public.	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legatum_Prosperty_Index https://www.prosperity.com/feed/executive-summary https://www.prosperity.com/about/summary https://www.prosperity.com/about/methodology

DATE	INDEX	CATEGORY	WHO?	WHY?	WEB REFERENCE
2008	Gallup-Sharecare Well-Being Index (WBI)	Subjective Wellbeing (Happiness)	Gallup Sharecare	Formerly known as the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index, the WBI measures subjective quality of life through five elements: sense of purpose, social relationships, financial security, relationship to community, and physical health. Piloted in the U.S., the WBI was adapted for global use in 2012; data is collected through polls of the general public, with responses categorized as “thriving,” “struggling,” or “suffering” in each of the five elements.	https://www.gallup.com/175196/gallup-healthways-index-methodology.aspx
2009	Economic Complexity Index (ECI)	Sustainable Economic Welfare	Cesar A. Hidalgo	The ECI is a holistic measure of the productive capabilities of large economic systems, usually cities, regions, or countries. In particular, the ECI looks to explain the knowledge accumulated in a population and that is expressed in the economic activities present in a city, country, or region.	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic_Complexity_Index
2010	Thriving Places Index (TPI)	Subjective Wellbeing (Happiness)	Centre for Thriving Places (formerly Happy City)	The TPI “identifies the local conditions for wellbeing and measures whether those conditions are being delivered fairly and sustainably.” It includes a broad set of indicators related to wellbeing, categorized as Local Conditions (place and environment, mental and physical health, education and learning, work and local economy, people and community), Equality (health, income, gender, social, ethnicity), and Sustainability (energy use, waste, green infrastructure). The TPI is currently measured in England and Wales.	https://www.thrivingplacesindex.org/
2010	Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)	Sustainable Economic Welfare	UN Development Programme	The global MPI is an international measure of acute multidimensional poverty covering over 100 developing countries. It complements traditional monetary-based poverty measures by capturing the acute deprivations that each person faces at the same time with respect to education, health and living standards.	https://ophi.org.uk/multidimensional-poverty-index/
2011	OECD Better Life Index	Disaggregated Indicator Suites	Raureif agency for OECD	The BLI is used by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in order to measure essential measures of wellbeing. It includes 11 topics; housing, income, jobs, community, education, environment, civic engagement, health, life satisfaction, safety, and work-life balance. The BLI is unique as it allows citizens to adjust the relative weight of each measure using an online tool, and view the resulting rankings of countries. In this way, they are able to collect data on variations in priorities across regions and countries, rather than attempting to rank the indicators in a one-size-fits-all approach.	http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/#/111111111111

DATE	INDEX	CATEGORY	WHO?	WHY?	WEB REFERENCE
2012	World Happiness Report (WHR)	Subjective Wellbeing (Happiness)	Sustainable Development Solutions Network	The WHR is a survey that ranks 156 countries by the self-reported happiness of their citizens. The 2020 WHR ranks cities as well as countries by their subjective well-being, and discusses how social, urban and natural environments combine to affect happiness. Data is collected from the Gallup World Poll, based on survey questions that ask respondents to rank different aspects of their lives on a scale from 0 to 10.	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Happiness_Report https://worldhappiness.report/
2012	Inclusive Wealth Index (IWI)	Sustainable Economic Welfare	UNU-IHDP, UNEP	The IWI was developed as an alternative to GDP, to incorporate environmental impact and a more long-term focus. It attempts to measure "overall well-being" by assessing the changing health of a country's stock of assets (manufactured, human, and natural capital) over a period of 25 years. The IWI report 2018 shows that 44 out of 140 countries evaluated suffered a decline in inclusive wealth per capita since 1992, despite general increases in GDP; the UNEP categorizes this as unsustainable growth.	https://unu.edu/events/archive/lecture/what-is-the-inclusive-wealth-index.html#overview https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/inclusive-wealth-report-2018#:~:text=The%20Inclusive%20Wealth%20Report%20 http://www.managi-lab.com/iwp/iwp_iw.html#:~:text=The%20inclusive%20wealth%20index%20measures,manufactured%2C%20human%20and%20natural%20capital.
2014	Social Progress Index (SPI)	Sustainable Economic Welfare	Social Progress Imperative	The SPI aims to offer a comprehensive measure of the quality of life of individuals, independent of economic indicators. It evaluates 149 countries on a variety of factors, categorized as Basic Human Needs (nutrition and basic medical care, water and sanitation, shelter, personal safety), Foundations of Wellbeing (access to basic knowledge, access to information and communications, health and wellness, environmental quality), and Opportunity (personal rights, personal freedom and choice, inclusiveness, access to advanced education). Indicators within these categories are given scores out of 100, ranked, and compared to other countries.	https://www.socialprogress.org/
2015	Direct Material Consumption	Environmental	OECD	Sum of all domestic extraction flows (extracted raw material, harvested biomass, etc.) including imported and excluding exported material flows (both raw materials, biomass and semi-manufactured/manufactured products).	https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Glossary:Domestic_material_consumption_(DMC)
2015	French "New Indicators of Wealth"	Sustainable Economic Welfare	Government of France	In April 2015, the French Senate and Parliament passed a law that requires the publication of an annual report that measures the country's progress using alternative indicators to GDP. These 10 indicators include income inequality, poverty levels, greenhouse gas emissions, life expectancy, employment, and R&D expenditure, among others. France uses these indicators to compare itself to other European countries, evaluate infrastructure projects, and track its progress in sustainable development beyond GDP.	https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/new-indicators-of-wealth https://www.gouvernement.fr/sites/default/files/document/document/2019/02/indicateur_de_riches_2018.pdf https://www.iddri.org/en/project/new-indicators-wealth

DATE	INDEX	CATEGORY	WHO?	WHY?	WEB REFERENCE
2015	UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)	Composite Index	United Nations	The 17 SDGs are a call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.	https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300 ; https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24797GSDR_report_2019.pdf ;
2018	Ease of Living Index (India)	Composite Index	Government of India	Seeks to serve as a common minimum framework for cities to evaluate themselves and will evolve in future rounds to better represent the needs and aspirations of the people. 30% of the assessment is based on citizen perceptions of the delivery of municipal services. Three pillars: Quality of Life, Economic Ability, and Sustainability.	https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/ease-of-living-index-launched/articleshow/74015238.cms#:~:text=PUNE%3A%20The%20ministry%20of%20housing,implement%20and%20monitor%20their%20performance.https://www.ipsos.com/en/india-ease-living-index-2018
2018	New Zealand Wellbeing Index	Indigenous Related	New Zealand Government	First ever national government to allocate its entire budget based on wellbeing priorities. The budget focuses on five priority areas: mental health, child wellbeing, Maori and Pasifika aspirations, productivity, and economy transformation.	https://treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2019-06/b19-wellbeing-budget.pdf
2019	National Framework for Measuring Prosperity in Saudi Arabia	Sustainable Economic Welfare	Government of Saudi Arabia	Includes two components (a) Current prosperity: To measure the different dimensions of the quality of life and living standard by identifying 12 domains; (b) Future of prosperity: To define and maintain wealth across generations, focusing on 4 resources.	https://kkf.org.sa/media/vrphmti4/prosperityreport-en.pdf

C. SWINOMISH INDIGENOUS HEALTH INDICATORS AND RESPECTIVE ATTRIBUTES

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

WORK

Community members have a job or role that they and other community members respect and they work together (mutual appreciation, respect, cooperation).

SHARING

Community members engage in active sharing networks, which are integral to a healthy community, ensuring that everyone in the community receives traditional foods and other natural resources such as plant medicines, especially Elders.

RELATIONS

Community members support, trust and depend on each other.

NATURAL RESOURCES SECURITY

QUALITY

The natural resources, including the elements (e.g. water) are abundant and healthy.

ACCESS

All resource use areas (i.e. usual and accustomed areas in WA) are open to harvest/use (not closed or privatized) by community members.

SAFETY

The natural resources themselves are healthy, not affected by pollution, climate change, etc.

CULTURAL USE

RESPECT/STEWARDSHIP

Community members are conferring respect of/to the natural resources and connections between humans, environment and spirit world, ensuring cultural resources are properly maintained.

SENSE OF PLACE

Community members are engaging in traditional resource-based activities, which is a continued reminder/connection to ancestors and homeland.

PRACTICE

Community assemblies able to follow appropriate customs (e.g. can obtain specific natural resources if needed such as cedar, certain foods, etc.) and are able to honor proper rituals, prayers and thoughtful intentions. Community members feel that they are able to satisfy spiritual/cultural needs e.g. consume foods, and medicines in order to satisfy Spirit's hunger.

SELF-DETERMINATION

HEALING/RESTORATION

The availability of and access to healing opportunities (e.g., traditional medicines, language programs) for community members, as well as the community's freedom to define and enact their own, chosen environmental, health and habitat restoration programs.

DEVELOPMENT

The ability of a community to determine and enact their own, chosen community enrichment activities in their homelands without detriment from externally imposed loss of resources.

TRUST

The community trusts and supports its government.

EDUCATION

THE TEACHINGS

The community maintains the knowledge, values and beliefs important to them.

ELDERS

The knowledge keepers are valued and respected, and able to pass on the knowledge.

YOUTH

The community's future is able to receive, respect, and practice the Teachings.

RESILIENCE

SELF-ESTEEM

The beliefs and evaluations community members hold about themselves are positive, providing an internal guiding mechanism to steer and nurture people through challenges, and improving control over outcomes.

IDENTITY

Community members are able to strongly connect with who they are as a community (Tribe or Nation) in positive ways.

SUSTAINABILITY

The community is to adapt (e.g., people hunt with guns and motorboats today but that doesn't discount the significance of harvesting) and move within homelands voluntarily in response to changes (the "7 generations thinking").

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