

## Reflections on... the Millennium

Fresh starts, new adventures, pioneering again! These images dominate my reflections as we turn the Millennium. "What truly-new human adventure awaits us?"

In my judgement, one challenge will underlie and inform all others in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. I refer to the still largely unseen adventure of six billion human persons learning to co-create/discover and live according to a commonly shared 4<sup>th</sup> *Story of the Human Adventure*.

Until now, every human being has lived within one of only three cosmic stories.

First, and longest lasting, are the cosmic stories of Tribal peoples. Up until roughly 8,000 years ago East, West, North, South, all persons were tribal.

Second, are the stories of Tradition-oriented Civilizations which ruled all but the remotest places on this planet from roughly 4,000 BC to 1700 AD.

The third, and most recent, Story is the one that Canadians know so well--the story of Industrial Societies. It is the unseen backdrop to all Canadian history, policy and aspiration. So deeply are we immersed, that every official body from corporations to churches to universities to political parties still unquestioningly assumes that our future can and must be found within the Industrial Story. All still lust after newer and better expressions of industrial thought and consciousness.

The trouble is simple – the conditions of history that allowed each of these three Stories to emerge and flourish in turn have recently turned against all three of them. In the third Millennium, we must, and eventually will, face up to the fact that none of the now-known Stories of the Human Adventure is fit for our future; none is scalable to six billion. Put bluntly, any sustainable human future will be cast within a Story which is post-Tribal, Post-Traditional and Post-Industrial. Exploring and living into the 4<sup>th</sup> Story will become the grail of the third Millennium.

Today, this sounds strange, and to some blasphemous, In time, however, we will welcome this insight as both grounded and life giving. About this I have no doubt. The question is when, not whether we shall seek and find new foundations for a truly global future.

Will Canada become the world's first country to officially embark on the 4<sup>th</sup> Story of the Human Adventure? Will Alberta be the first province to do so? Will Calgary be the first city to do so? These are the questions I chew on as we enter the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

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