

The Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology (ORCIE): *Prophetic Inter-congregational Ministry*

ORCIE+BCRÉI

Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology
Bureau des congrégations religieuses pour l'écologie intégrale

“Behold, I am about to do something new; now it springs forth—do you not perceive it?”

Isaiah 43:19



What is ORCIE?

Established in June 2021, the **Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology** (ORCIE) has enhanced the capacity of over two dozen Catholic religious congregations to collaboratively increase their impact on policy change towards social and ecological justice at the level of the Canadian federal government, at international levels and before large corporate business entities. ORCIE-BCRÉI is comprised of religious orders from across Canada who have, over the last century, developed hospitals, furthered education, built community organizations, and cared for the most vulnerable in society.

- Congrégation des Filles de Jésus, Région Canada
- Congregation Notre Dame, Visitation Province
- Congregation of Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary
- Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception
- Jesuits of Canada
- Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
- Presentation Sisters
- Soeurs franciscaines missionnaires de l'Immaculée-Conception
- Sisters Faithful Companion of Jesus
- Sisters of Charity, Halifax
- Sisters of Holy Cross
- Sisters of Mercy
- Sisters of St. Joseph, Canada
- Sisters of St. Joseph, Toronto
- Sisters of St. Joseph, Sault Ste. Marie
- Sisters of St. Martha, Antigonish
- Sisters of St. Martha, Charlottetown
- Society of the Sacred Heart
- School Sisters of Notre Dame



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ORCIE's Vision:

ORCIE-BCRÉI convenes its members to help shape policy making priorities. Weaving together energies inspired by the charisms of our religious congregations, we will advocate in Canada for a more just and inclusive social order and ecologically sustainable world.

ORCIE's Mission:

ORCIE-BCRÉI skillfully engages with policymakers creating maximum impact for change. We enhance the capacity of Catholic religious congregations to collaboratively increase their impact on policy change towards social and ecological justice at the level of the Canadian federal government, at international levels, and when possible, before large corporate business entities.



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Pope Francis devotes an entire chapter of his 2015 encyclical, Laudato Si, to what he calls "integral ecology."

"Today, however, we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor." (Laudato Si, 49)

'Everything is closely interrelated, and today's problems call for a vision capable of taking into account every aspect of the global crisis.'
(Laudato Si, 15)

ORCIE focuses on climate change, not only because it is a defining issue of our time, but because it interacts with multiple other critical issues such as Indigenous rights, biodiversity loss, food insecurity, migration, and health...among others.

Integral Ecology and Interconnection



Reflection

Interconnection of trees and humanity:

We breathe in oxygen and we breathe out carbon dioxide.

Trees breathe in carbon dioxide and breathe out oxygen.

We breathe in what the trees breathe out.

The trees breathe in what we breathe out.

An interconnected earth community



Discussion

What other issues/concerns are connected with forest fires?

Using an Integral Ecology Approach to Climate Justice in Canada

Homeless/Disabled/Elderly
persons more at risk during storms

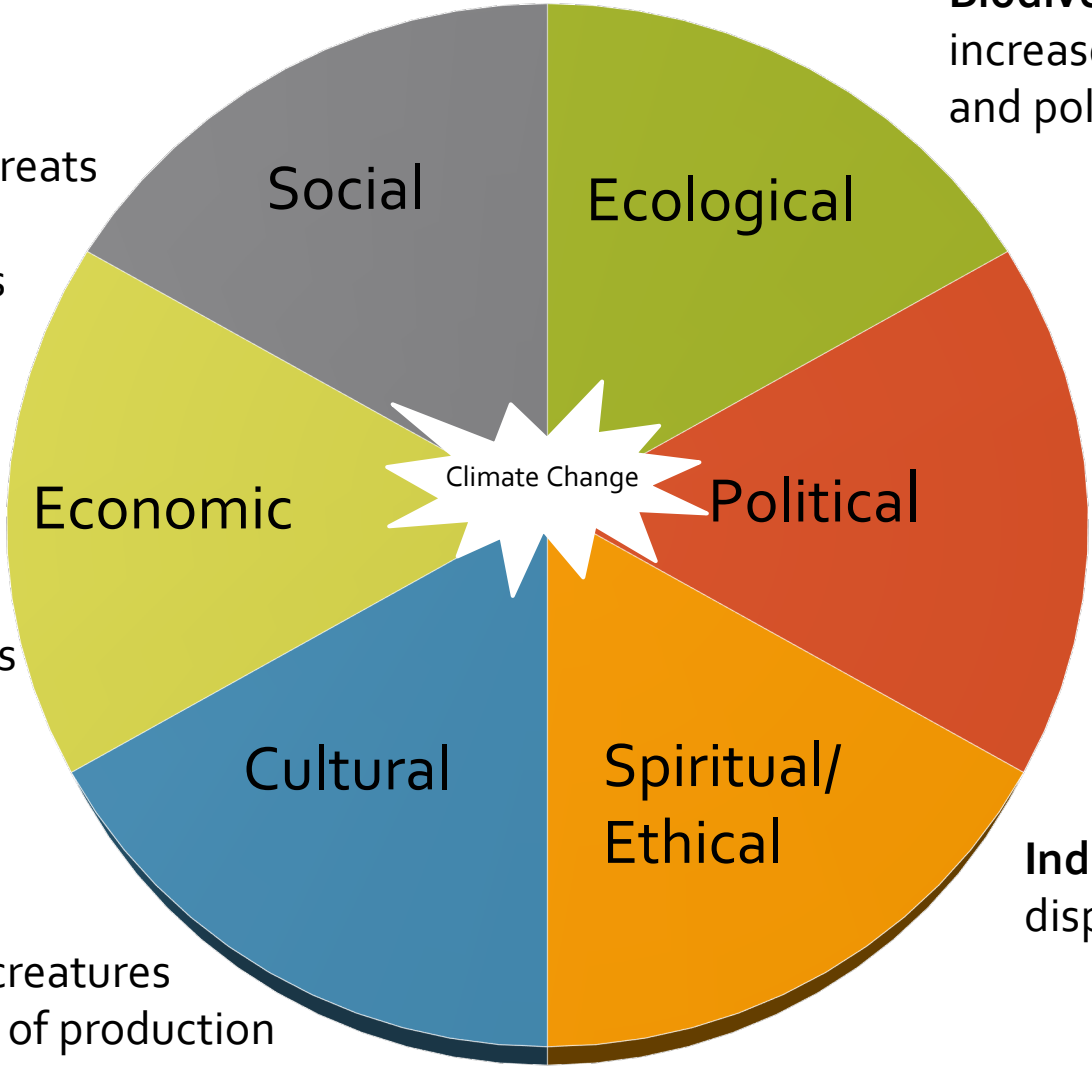
Health Impacts
caused by extreme heat, threats to water systems, rising frequency of wildfires affecting air quality)

Food Insecurity as food costs rise due to climate damage

Job Losses/
Regional economies can be devastated by climate damage

Fossil Fuels
Moving from Extractive Economy to Solidarity Economy

Worldview: Reduction of earth creatures (human and non-human)to units of production



Biodiversity loss caused by increased warming, wildfires, and pollution

AI Data Centres

Water and Pollution, Industrial Overuse

Global Debt Crisis And Climate Justice

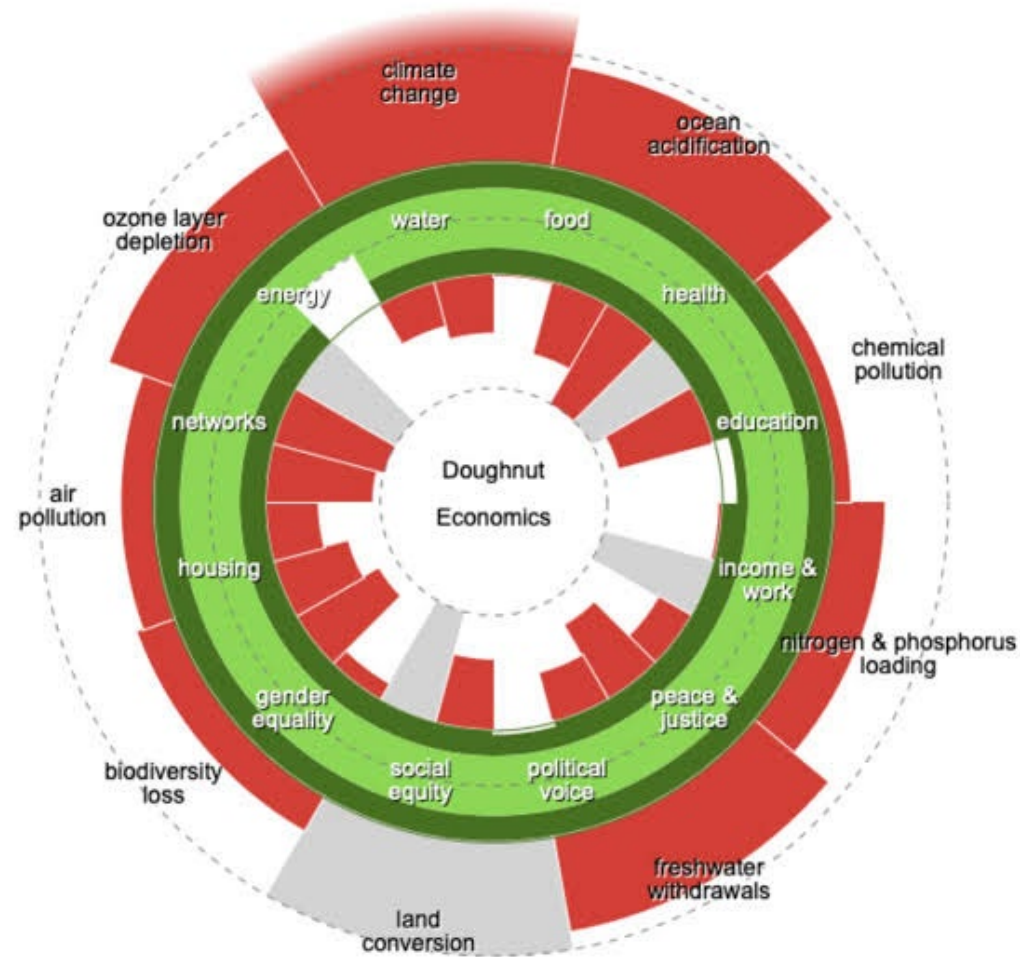
Migration within Canada

Indigenous Communities disproportionately impacted

Polycrisis: Is there an underlying unity? How might this perspective be helpful?

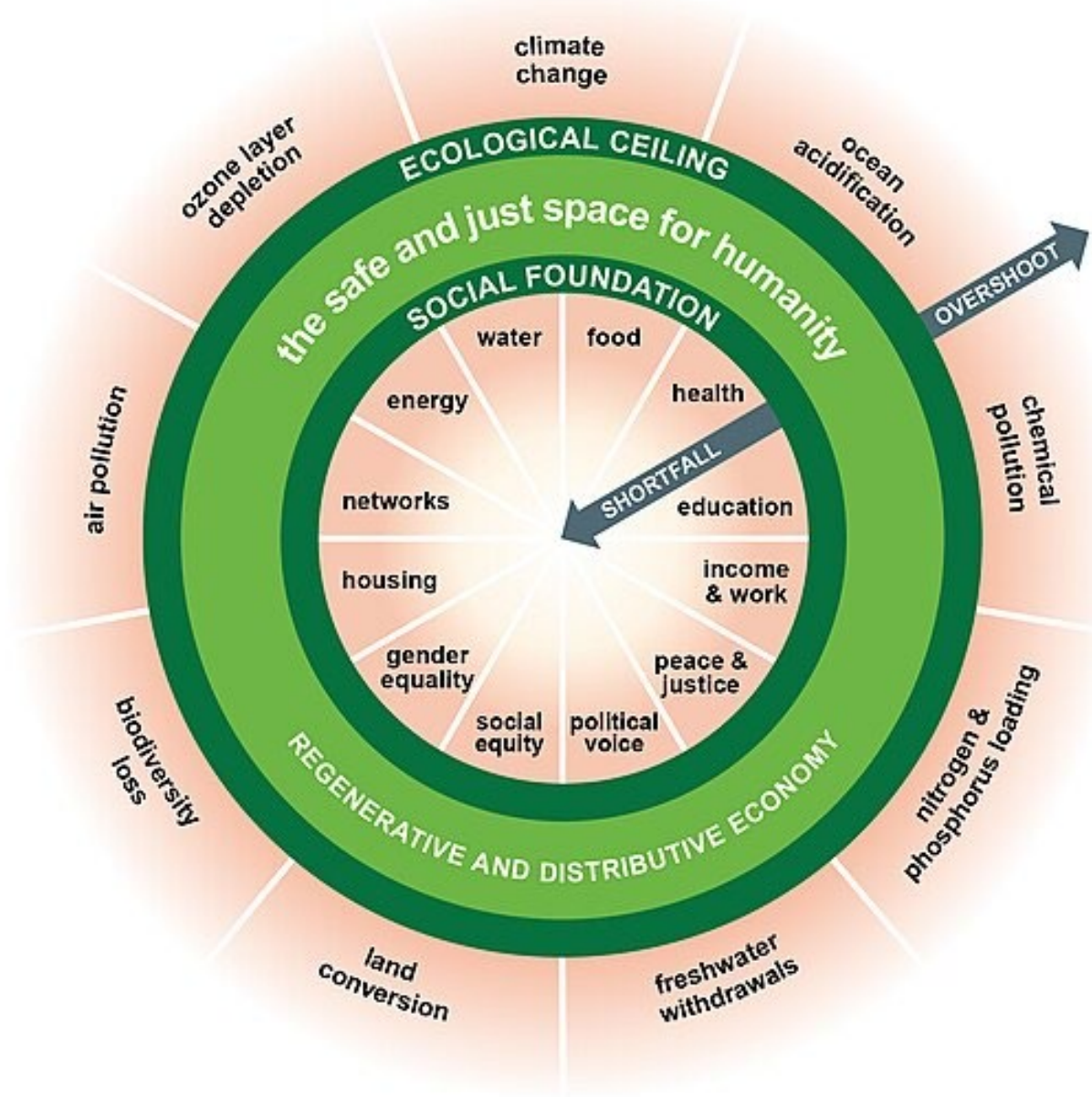


Seeing the Whole



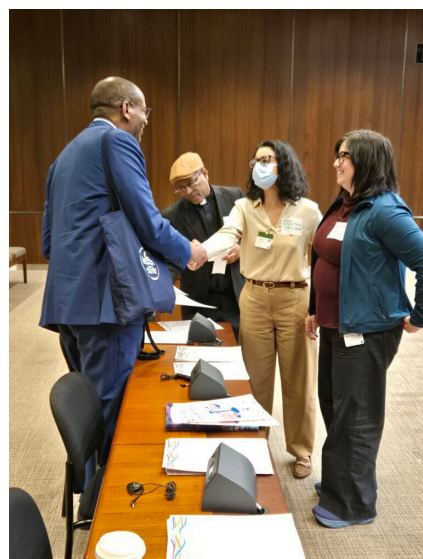
Model created by
Kate Raworth
"Doughnut
Economy"
Cambridge Doughnut

Seeing the Whole



Model created by
Kate Raworth
"Doughnut
Economy"

Meeting MPs and Policy Leaders during Annual Learning and Lobbying Days in Ottawa – while movement-building across Canada...



Meeting Canadian MPs and Policy Leaders at COP30 in Brazil...



With Hon. Julie Dabrusin, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, and a presentation on a panel with Development and Peace, a Canadian bishop and international colleagues at COP30 in Brazil, 2025

Encouraging international solidarity with partners...



Organizing in-person presentations and webinars for learning and promotion of integral ecology

ORCIE's Voice for Integral Ecology at COP30

2:30 pm
Tuesday December 9, 2025
Presentation Manor Theatre
61 Fairfax Crescent
Scarborough, ON

Presentation by Genevieve Gallant
from the Office of Religious
Congregations for Integral Ecology



COP30
AMAZONIA
UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

For more info contact Genevieve at ggallant@orcie.org 613-400-1631



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BOOK LAUNCH & DISCUSSION

Renowned water activist

● *Mande Barlow*

introduce us to 'financializing nature': the new commercialization of the commons. In 'Earth for Sale,' she meticulously documents this corporate plunder, showing how nature protection must not be handed to private interests driven by profit.

Thursday, June 25th | 2:00pm (EDT) on Zoom

Register here:
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/7hKxfOc2Q2CcDEO5LPgP9g>



MAUDE BARLOW
Bestselling Author of Brave Power and Blue Power

EARTH FOR SALE
THE FIGHT TO STOP THE LAST PLUNDER OF THE PLANET

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What are ORCIE's future plans...

In terms of mission and operations:

- *Fully developing efforts towards reconciliation initiatives with Indigenous peoples and partners, especially on environmental issues requiring our solidarity**

In terms of financial stability and accountability:

- *Recognizing that congregation members are at various stages of diminishment or completion, ORCIE must move beyond our annual membership fee structure;**
- *ORCIE is applying for status as a charitable organization under Canada Revenue Agency rules and regulations**
- *ORCIE has begun accepting promises of financial commitment**



**ORCIE MEMBERS BELIEVE IT IS POSSIBLE TO BUILD A
SOCIETY THAT IS MORE JUST, MORE SUSTAINABLE,
AND MORE INCLUSIVE.**

Merci!
Thank you!
www.orcie.org

