

Genuine Wealth

Anielski (2007) reminds us that the word “wealth” is derived from two Old English words: *weal* (well-being) and *th* (condition). “Therefore, the word wealth literally means ‘the conditions of well-being’ or ‘the condition of being happy and prosperous’ (Anielski, 2007, p. 16).

- 1) Make a list of all your genuine wealth. You could include family, friends, education, natural environment, health, your senses, your ability to love and laugh, etc.
- 2) Ask yourself if you take any of these for granted.
- 3) Is there anything on your list that you would like to increase or improve in order to enhance your genuine wealth? If so, what steps do you need to take to accomplish this?
- 4) How are you contributing to the genuine wealth of other people or your community?
- 5) Is there anything more that you would like to do to contribute to genuine wealth of other people or your community?
- 6) Are there any measures that you want to take to preserve your genuine wealth or the genuine wealth of your community, or the planet?

What does it mean to be genuine and have Genuine Wealth?

The word genuine means to be authentic, real, natural, true, or pure. To be genuine means to live in accordance with one’s values, the shared values of a family or household or the shared values of a community of households.

By combining the words genuine and wealth we create Genuine Wealth, the conditions of well-being that are true to our core values of life. To develop Genuine Wealth means to improve the conditions of well-being in accordance with one’s values or the shared values of the community. A genuinely wealthy community is one which has articulated its values and lives life accordingly. Such communities work in a spirit of collective and shared responsibility or stewardship to ensure that the various conditions of well-being that add to quality of life are flourishing, vibrant, life-giving and sustainable for current and future generations.

(excerpt from Anielski, 2007, p. 22)

Anielski, M. (2007). *Economics of happiness: Building genuine wealth*. Gabriola Island: New Society Publishers.