

## ***THE TORONTO MANIFESTO***

Within the past century two major ventures built the prevailing theory of the evolution of living systems. The first was what became the neoDarwinian paradigm during the early part of the century. The second was the sociobiological paradigm late in the century. Both made important contributions to science, but at the same time both shared the same monumental blind side. Claiming the Darwinian heritage exclusively for themselves, they rigorously excluded everything that both in Darwin earlier and throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century in the whole of science—particularly among creative evolution theorists across the full spectrum of science; that is, in many fields linked together by a meeting ground in systems science—sought to expand evolution theory to capture the heights as well as the depths of our species' potential and human evolution.

We are meeting here in Toronto to give new focus to what is by now a huge body of work routinely excluded from what is taught worldwide in our schools, in books reaching a general as well as scientific readership, and reinforced by television and other media as the one and only mainstream theory of evolution. We meet for what we hope may become a decisive new step toward what, if our species is to attain its potential, must become the successful *third venture* in this sequence to advance the scientific theory of evolution.

We are meeting to move beyond a science overwhelmingly focused on the *foundation* for evolution and the past to a renewal of emphasis on and a new vision of the human *superstructure* and the future. This is a matter of increasing urgency because it bears on what is to happen to our species at what is by now obviously the most crucial juncture in our evolution. We are meeting at a time of crisis in evolution and crisis in the development of evolution theory. We are meeting to move beyond the cosmic world and the microbiological world into the human world of a radical expansion of brain, mind, consciousness, and, level by level upward, the escalating questions that now press upon us of personal, cultural, social, political, economic, educational, and technological evolution. Above all, as Darwin in actuality insisted, to this list must be added moral evolution, as

well as—for it is high time for science to recognize this continuing concern for billions of our species on this planet—of spiritual evolution.

We are further meeting to move beyond a science committed solely to the passive role of the so-called wholly objective observer to the active role of science as partisan on the behalf of and advocate of *humanity*.

In short, we are meeting to look at what a full spectrum, action-oriented theory of evolution should look like, and how to actually build it. We are meeting to move beyond talking about it not to discard what we already have. We meet to expand and update our theory and our story of evolution to live up to the 100,000 year investment by the life force in our species, and to fulfill the rising vision over all that time of what we both can become and should become.

***— a statement of purpose for the panels and meeting of the General Evolution Research Group, Monday, July 17, and Wednesday, July 19, 2000, during the World Congress of the Systems Sciences in Toronto.***