

Purpose

Fast Forward Planning™: New Tools for Creating a Sustainable Future

In today's climate of rapid change, increasing complexity and continuing uncertainty, it's hard to develop clarity and confidence about the future. Traditional planning approaches aren't much help, since they are designed to build on what is knowable, and it seems there is less and less that falls into that category. An update of our popular *Scenario Planning* workshop, this expanded offering includes new ideas and tools to explore – and prepare for – the future. You will hear stories of how other organizations have used this process to address major challenges, to transform their services, to re-think their funding strategies, and to support innovation. This workshop will help you move beyond a focus on the problems of the present, and provide greater clarity – and confidence – in the promise of the future. Key outcomes include:

- Understanding the unique strengths of various planning approaches and when to use them
- Exploring new planning models that are transforming the way organizations implement strategy
- Applying a unique Fast Forward Planning™ process to explore – and test – alternative futures
- Learning how to identify the strategic priorities needed to ensure an organization's future success
- Exploring ways to involve key stakeholders in planning, and build ownership and commitment
- Understanding the principles of effective execution, and examining tools to ensure it happens

Breaking Free From Your Funding Traps

Are you trying to meet increasing needs with stagnant or diminishing resources? If you're like most non-profit leaders this is your biggest ongoing challenge. Long-established sources of funding dry up, or funder requirements change, donor priorities shift, and competition grows. New approaches offer new hope – but also carry big risks. At times, you even find yourself wondering if your short-term solutions might actually be undermining your long-term success. Can an organization do more than just survive in such a climate? This workshop will help you answer 'yes' to that question. You'll learn how every organization has unique 'funding traps' and how to escape them. You'll discover proven ways of attracting the resources you need from donors, funders, customers, and partners through:

- Assessing your current sources – what's working, what's not, and what's at risk
- Identifying your unique resource 'traps', and why you must break free
- Discovering potential new strategies using the Total Resource Development™ model
- Understanding how relationship building ensures resource development success
- Assessing your capacity to develop a successful related-business venture
- Learning how to develop a balanced strategy to maximize potential and minimize risk

How Organizations Learn: Systems Thinking in Action

Two decades ago, Peter Senge created quite a buzz in many organizations with his concept of the learning organization. Unlike most 'flavour of the month' ideas, these ideas continue to influence current research and practice in organizations around the world. This intensive workshop provides an opportunity to put systems thinking – and the other 'disciplines' of the learning organization – into action. This workshop will help you get inside some of the most powerful ideas shaping today's thinking about organizations and leadership. Key outcomes will include:

- Understanding the dynamics of organizational learning, and the role of systems thinking in it
- Seeing how systems thinking can be a powerful tool for achieving significant change
- Exploring the importance of communication to effective learning, and how to improve it
- Assessing your organization's current learning capacity and effectiveness
- Understanding how to begin to engage others in new learning initiatives
- Identifying and overcoming the most common obstacles to initiating and sustaining learning