

Strategic Foresight Training Intensive Course Syllabus

Course Facilitators: CoLab Team

Duration: 5.5 days over 3 weeks (8:15 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

Location: Alberta CoLab | 11th Floor, 108 Street Building | 9942 – 108 Street | Edmonton

Offered: 2 times per year

To Register: See [MyAgent](#) to register, view fees, and waitlist.

Participation

- Open to all Government of Alberta staff.
- Full attendance is required. Participants are required to attend all days. Students may be asked to leave the course due to non-attendance at CoLab's discretion.
- While start and end times for each day are set, timing during the day (breaks, lunch, etc.) is flexible. We advise not to schedule plans or appointments over the typical lunch period while you are taking the course.

Course Summary

Are you passionate about exploring what the future might hold? Do you want to ensure that your decisions withstand the test of time? Do you have a knack for innovation? If you answered yes, then the strategic foresight course is what you've been waiting for.

Even if you answered no, you should still take this course. Increasing complexity and swift disruptions now demand a stronger focus on understanding different future possibilities that we may face. Organizations that do not prepare for future uncertainty risk missing out on hidden opportunities at best, and being swept aside by rapidly changing conditions at worst.

This course will introduce you to strategic foresight as an approach to explore, address, and leverage future uncertainty in strategy and policy development. You will learn why, when, and how to use strategic foresight through a combination of dedicated discussion time and skill-building exercises on a case study. The focus of the course will be on building foresight and strategy capacity at a practitioner level.

Aims

To build capacity on strategic foresight across government ministries by providing participants with:

- a working knowledge of foresight and strategy;
- a practical set of foresight tools; and
- skill-building exercises.

Learning Objectives

- Explore how traditional strategy development works and assess its shortcomings in increasingly turbulent, uncertain, and complex environments.
- Introduce strategic foresight as an approach to explore, address, and leverage future uncertainty in strategy and policy development.
- Gain a working knowledge of strategic foresight and strategy development.
- Understand different strategy applications of foresight, with a view to improving the odds of surviving and thriving in increasingly volatile, uncertain, complex, ambiguous (VUCA) environments.

Required Pre-Reading

- A few articles are required pre-reading for each day of the course. These will be distributed to students in advance. Students are expected to do pre-readings and come prepared to discuss them.
- Depending on the client, there may also be background readings on the case study required prior to the course start.

Course Agenda (Subject to Change)

Day	Topics	Assignments
1 (full day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Case Study Introduction ▪ What is strategy? ▪ Traditional strategy development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Signals and trends collection
2 (half day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction to Strategic Foresight ▪ Scanning (collection) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Signals and trends collection
3 (full day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scanning (collation and sense-making) ▪ Trend analysis ▪ System Thinking ▪ System Analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trend write-up
4 (half day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trend and System Analysis (cont'd) ▪ Critical Uncertainties ▪ Delphi Survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trend report ▪ Trend radar ▪ System map & analytics ▪ Delphi survey
5 (full day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scenario Development ▪ Strategic Issues ▪ Foresight-to-Strategy ▪ Responses to Uncertainty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scenarios ▪ Key strategic issues
6 (full day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Foresight-to-strategy ▪ Wind-tunneling ▪ Portfolio ▪ Normative Futures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommendations for future-fit strategic options ▪ Strategic posture