

STRATEGIC THINKING



THE FUTURE WHEEL

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FUTURE WHEEL

- Strategy development requires a degree of foresight
- The FW is used to anticipate potential future outcomes
- In order to anticipate future outcomes it is crucial to monitor the consequences of change

FUTURE WHEEL

- The method is a form of structured brainstorming that aims at identifying and packaging secondary and tertiary consequences of trends and events. A trend or event is placed in the middle of a piece of paper and then small spokes are drawn wheel-like from the centre. Primary impacts and consequences are written in circles of the first ring.
- Then secondary consequences of each primary impact are derived forming the second ring. This ripple effect continues until there is a clear picture of implications that the event or trend can have. Futures wheel is a very simple but powerful technique for drawing out people's opinions and ideas. However, it is sensitive to underlying assumptions.

FUTURE WHEEL

- The first step is to identify the event or change, which is being examined.
- Place this event at the centre of your future wheel.
- Then ask...
IF THIS HAPPENS... THEN WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
- Brainstorm as many ideas as possible. These are the first order consequences.

FUTURE WHEEL

- In order to identify the second order consequences the process is repeated using the first order consequences as events.
- The process is repeated until a logical close is achieved.
- Ideas that are repeated as consequences of different orders can be regarded as:
EMERGENT THEMES.
- Requires creative and lateral thinking!

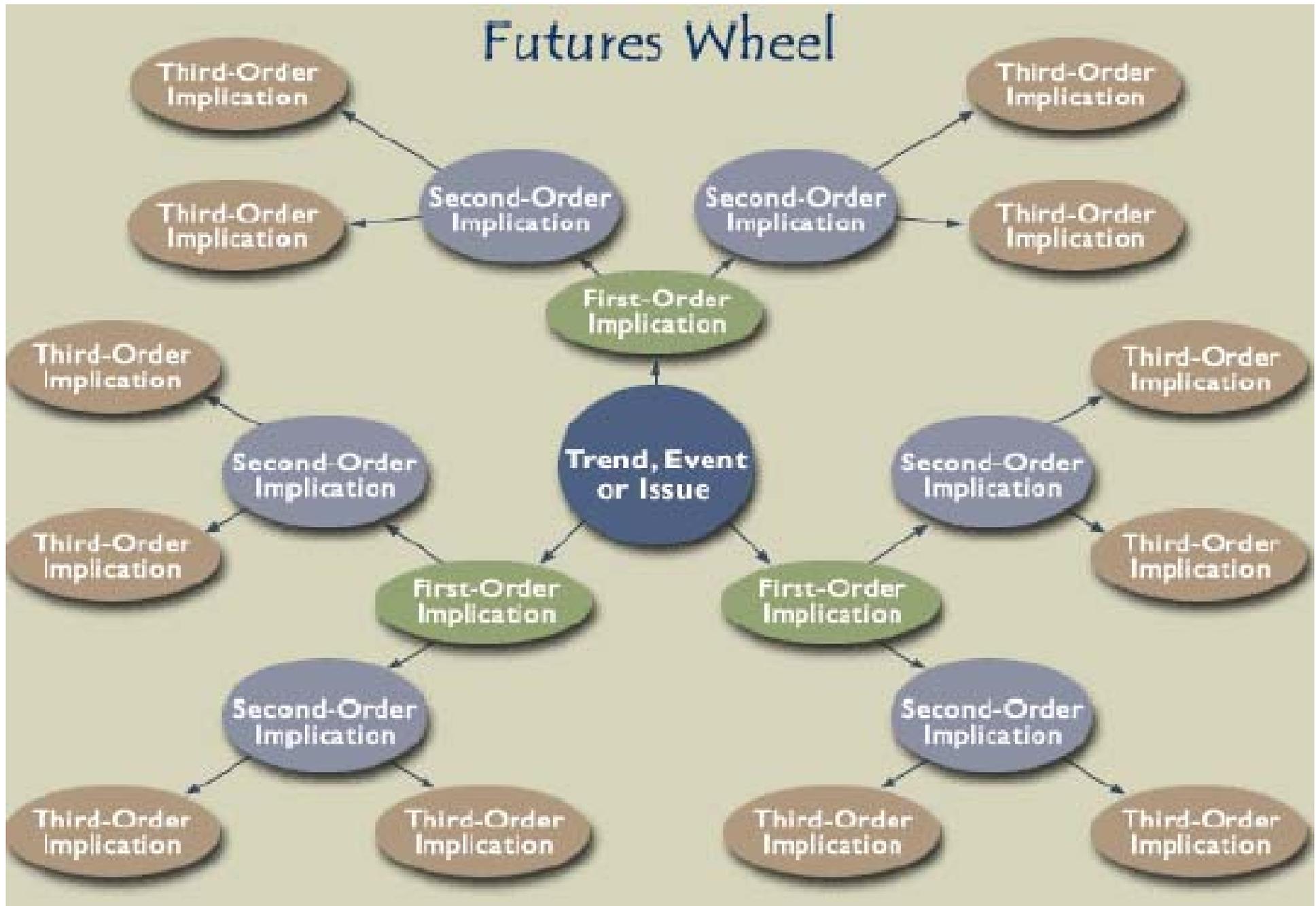
FUTURE WHEEL EXERCISE

- Camp Ramah Darom is concerned about how trends in the North American Jewish identity will impact camp enrolment and camp programs?
- The event is:
‘HIGHLY ELECTRONICALLY CONNECTED TEENAGERS’
- Your task is to advise camp how to improve and invent new programs to better reflect the event.

How to Create a Futures Wheel

- **Step 1:** Write a **trend, event** or **issue** from one of the **STEEP** categories in the center circle. Use the following questions to prompt brainstorming of the **first-order implications**. What is **likely** to happen first if this trend or event continues?
- What will be some of the **immediate consequences** if this trend or event continues? Record the first-order implications, circle them and connect them to the center circle.
- **Step 2:** Select one **first-order implication** for the first round of brainstorming. Brainstorm its' second-order implications. (**What is likely to happen first if this happens?**) Record the responses, circle them and connect each to the first order implication. Select another first-order implications and have students brainstorm its second-order implications. (**What will be some of the immediate consequences of (fill in the blank with the first-order implication)?** Record the responses, circle them and connect each to the first-order implication.
- Continue this process until second-order implications have been brainstormed for each of the first-order implications.
- **Step 3:** Repeat the procedure to get third-order implications.

Futures Wheel



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