



SOCIAL RESILIENCE & FUTURES LITERACY

RESILIENCE & FUTURES

FOSTERING COMMUNITY CAPACITY TO NAVIGATE
CHANGE AND UNCERTAINTY

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the spirit of respect, reciprocity and truth, we honour and acknowledge that the Calgary area, where the Bow and Elbow rivers meet, is a place of confluence where the sharing of resources, ideas and opportunities naturally come together.

Indigenous peoples have their own names for this area that have been in use long before Scottish settlers named this place Calgary. In the Blackfoot language, they call this place, Moh-kins-tsis. the Îethka Nakoda Wîcastabi First Nations refer to the Calgary area as Wicispa Oyade and the people of the Tsuut'ina nation call this area Guts-ists-I. The Métis call the Calgary area Otos-kwunee.



We are grateful to live, work, and play on the ancestral and traditional territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy, made up of the Siksika, Piikani, Amskaapipiikani and Kainai First Nations; the Îethka Nakoda Wîcastabi First Nations, comprised of the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney First Nations; and the Tsuut'ina First Nation. Calgary is also homeland to the historic Northwest Métis and to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, Métis Nation Battle River Territory (Nose Hill Métis District 5 and Elbow Métis District 6).

WHAT IS SOCIAL RESILIENCE

The ability of communities, and organizations to respond to and be prepared for ongoing problems, sudden surprises, and changes, today and in the future.

Communities should be able to adjust and improve to keep everyone happy and healthy.



A community is stronger when it has different groups, partners, and sources of knowledge. Having many partners to connect with helps a community deal with surprises and challenges in different ways.

Ex. A city fighting air pollution works together with schools, health experts, city planners, and residents, each helping in different ways, like tracking pollution, teaching about clean air, and planting trees, to make the environment healthier for everyone.

A well-connected community can bounce back quickly from problems. They can also spread problems fast.

Ex. In a neighborhood, social media can help people share information quickly during an emergency, so everyone knows what's going on. It can also spread rumors just as fast.

Decision-making is spread out among many leaders or groups in a community. When different groups work together, they can fix problems quickly because the right people are helping at the right time.

Ex. After a storm causes a power outage, utility workers fix the power lines, emergency responders help those in need, volunteers bring food and water, and city officials make sure everything runs smoothly, so the community can recover quickly.

Watching slow changes, helps a community adjust before the problems get too big.

Ex. Farmers notice that temperatures are getting warmer, so they start planting crops that can handle the heat before it gets too hot and damages their crops.

A community that includes everyone in making decisions builds trust and helps come up with ideas that might be forgotten otherwise.

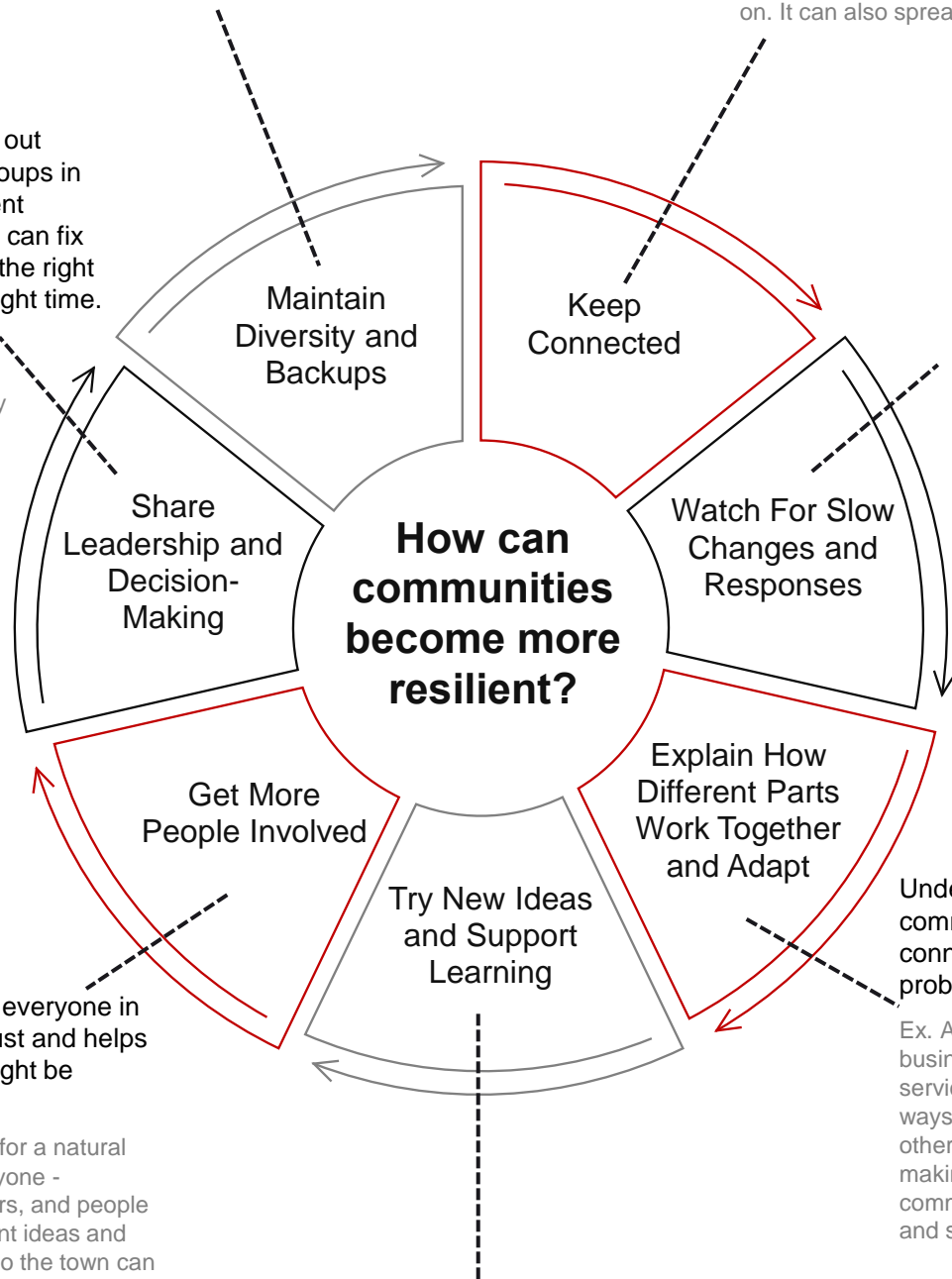
Ex. When a community plans for a natural disaster, leaders include everyone - residents, businesses, teachers, and people with disabilities - to get different ideas and make sure everyone is safe, so the town can create a plan that everyone trusts during tough times.

Understanding that a community is made up of connections helps them solve problems better.

Ex. After a big storm, neighbors, businesses, and emergency services all help in different ways, like checking on each other, giving out food, and making repairs, so the community can recover quickly and support one another.

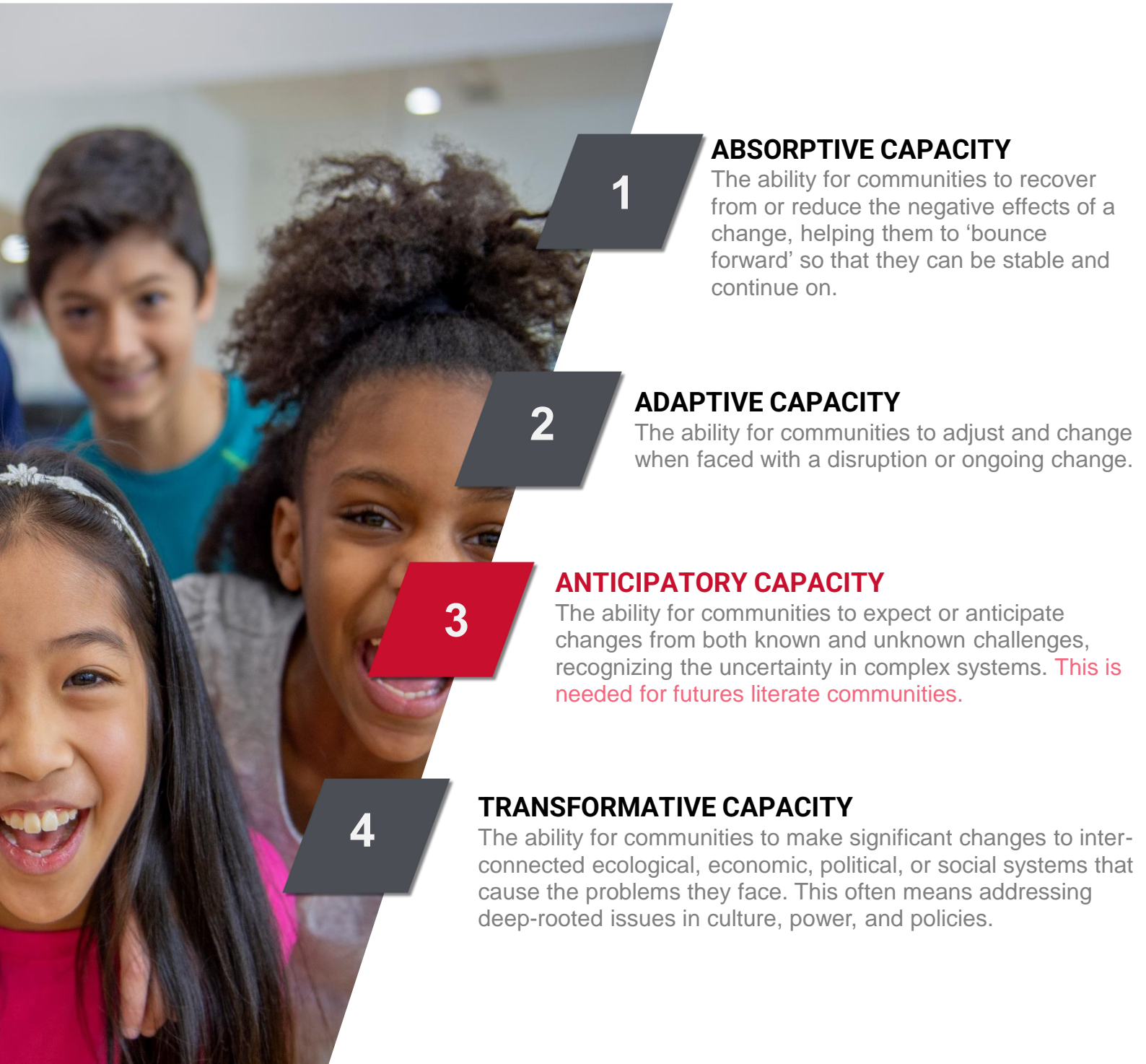
Trying new ideas and appreciating different types of knowledge helps a community become stronger. Trust and good relationships are important.

Ex. A neighborhood that floods a lot might try new ideas like building rain gardens, working with experts, and learning from each other. The community becomes stronger and more confident in solving problems.



CAPACITIES OF SOCIAL RESILIENCE

Communities that want to enhance social resilience have one or more of these capacities or abilities.



FUTURES LITERACY

Advancing Community

ANTICIPATORY CAPACITY

To Foster Social Resilience



WHY IS FUTURES LITERACY IMPORTANT

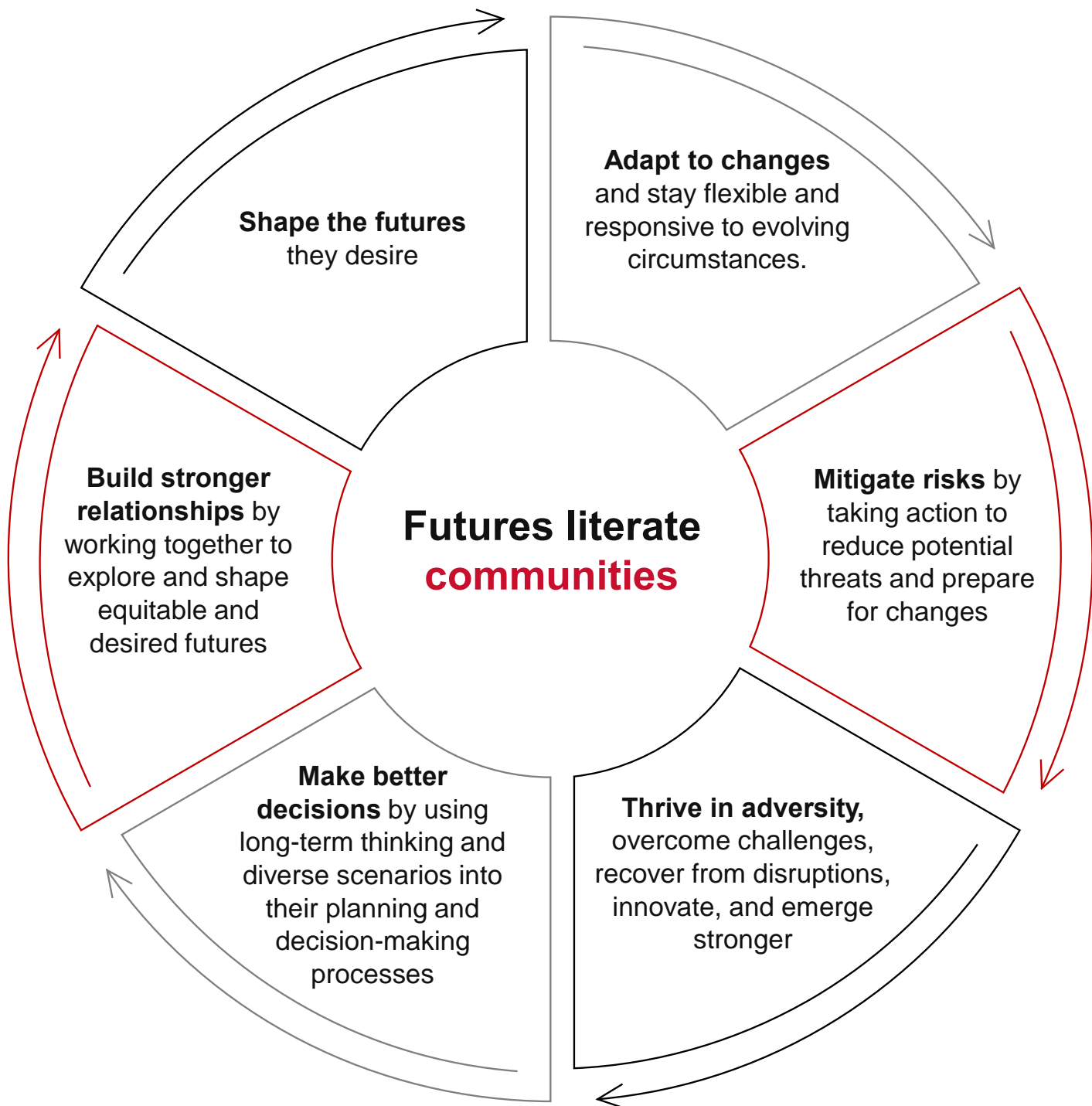
Imagine communities could anticipate and adapt to future challenges, while shaping their desired futures. That is the power of futures literacy.



Futures literacy is the ability to imagine the future in different ways, for different reasons, in different contexts that empowers our imagination and enhances our skills to prepare, recover, and invent as changes occur (Miller, 2018, Cruz, 2022).

UNESCO states that futures literacy is an essential competency for the 21st century. Futures literacy expands what is possible by exploring alternate, desired, and equitable futures in creative and collaborative ways. It helps communities embrace and navigate complexity and uncertainty, to make better-informed decisions today.

This skill is important for **social resilience**, allowing for communities to anticipate different futures to solve tomorrow's problems today and create better and equitable futures.



Our aspiration is that communities are prepared to navigate an uncertain world and have the agency to imagine and shape their desired futures. Some methods to get there are:



Social Simulations

Immerse in futures scenarios where you wake up in worlds in which at least one thing is **dramatically different** from today.



Futures Literacy Labs

Explore expected, preferred and alternative futures to stimulate imagination and creativity while at the same time revealing and questioning the role of your assumptions in your images of the future.



World-Building For Better Futures

Imagine how future cities and systems that prioritizes equitable values and principles might look like, and brainstorm actions to take today to amplify those futures.



Interactive Futures Games.

Play cooperative games to generate different images of the future, and imagine possible, preferred, and weird future scenarios and worlds.



Signals Scanning

Look for emerging innovations and disruptions that provoke your curiosity and imagination and could fundamentally change an issue or system you are studying in unexpected ways.