Fore-CAN:
Foresight for Canadian Animal Health

Presentation to PIPSC

Dr. Shane Renwick

May 13th, 2010
Introduction
Animal Health Risks of the 21st Century

What next?

Human H1N1
Project Description
Fore-CAN: Foresight for Canadian Animal Health

• 4-year project (2008-2011) funded by the CRTI
• 8 partner organizations (multiple jurisdictions and sectors)

Focal Question:
• Looking out to 2020 and beyond, how do we build a more effective, anticipatory and robust Animal Health Emergency Management system in Canada?

Project Objectives:
• Learn about and use Foresight methods to anticipate and gain insight into future threats and opportunities;

• Apply this insight to guide planning and investments in capabilities, capacities and competencies within the Animal Health Emergency Management (AHEM) environment; and

• Share and transfer knowledge.
Project Planning
2009-2010 Iterative Project Activities

1. Project Phases
   - 2009
     - Phase 1: Planning, Learning, Community-Building
     - Phase 2: Applying Foresight to AHEM in Canada
     - Phase 3: Developing Priorities
   - 2010

2. Key Activities
   - 1. Key Issues and Driving Forces
   - 2. Scenario Development
   - 3. Systems Mapping
   - 4. Integration
   - 5. Analysis and Implications
   - 6. Outputs Synthesis
   - 7. Consultations and Research
   - 8. Identifying Priorities and Action Planning

3. Key Deliverables
   - Scenarios
   - System Maps
   - System Requirements and Strategic Options
   - Key Elements of the Vision
   - Emerging Priorities and Action Plans
Shared Vision...So Far
Animal Health Emergency Management in 2020 +

Key Aspects:

• Currently under collaborative and iterative refinement through foresight;
• Focused on all stages of the Animal Health Emergency Management Cycle;
• Actively engendering trust between stakeholders;
• Revealing emerging priorities required to fulfill the vision.
Achieving the Shared Vision...So Far
Animal Health Emergency Management in 2020 +

Emerging Priorities:
1. Clarifying roles and responsibilities;
2. Enhance prevention and recovery & renewal;
3. Develop virtual training institute;
4. Enhance surveillance and intelligence functions

Key Elements of the Vision:
1. Effective and collaborative organization and decision-making;
2. Coordinated information-sharing and communications;
3. Skilled, practiced and surge-capable resources;
4. Sound science and emerging technology;
5. Cohesive regulatory, policy and legal framework.
Early Process Insights
Benefits of a Foresight Approach

• Forces stakeholders to address future challenges collaboratively:
  • Emphasis on solving future problems as opposed to defending present positions; and
  • Builds trust and collective ownership between a wide range of stakeholder groups.

• Encourages multi-disciplinary approaches:
  • Consideration of a wide range of solutions; and
  • Fills information gaps and overcomes siloed approaches.

• Encourages creative thinking and employment of a long-term perspective:
  • Encourages stakeholders to think beyond the traditional strategic planning cycle.
Early Insights
Challenges of a Foresight Approach

• Can be time consuming and logistically difficult:
  • Multi-jurisdictional and multi-disciplinary groups require dialogue to achieve a common vision and common definitions;
  • Generally agreed that foresight is most effective when conducted in person (geographic / time / cost constraints) from a trust-building perspective

• Achieving the required level of detail:
  • Information exchange between disparate groups is often conducted at a high level – difficult to create a common understanding of a complex issue

• Applying performance metrics:
  • Measuring the impact of foresight – Behavioural change? Inputs into planning? Foresight into action?
Steps

• Symposium and Workshop:
  “Foresight…Insight…Action” (May 11th-12th, 2010)
  • Re-engage the wider AHEM community to:
    • Learn from key domestic and international speakers;
    • Review, assess and validate the foresight findings derived thus far;
    • Develop Vision, Priorities within the context of a direction for action.
  • Speakers include:
    • Dr. Sohail Inayatullah, Futurist
    • Dr. David Waltner-Toews, University of Guelph
    • Dr. Norm Willis, Norm Willis Group Inc.
    • Dr. Bill Parrish, Defra UK
Questions?

www.forecan-precan.ca