



# 10 TIPS FOR STAYING ENGAGED WHEN THE PATH IS UNCHARTED

1. **Be Bold. Be Brave.** The famous line from Star Trek “*to boldly go where no one has gone before*” is a reminder that walking uncharted paths, wading into the unknown, and being willing to go first requires a sense of bravery, and humility. The path chosen may not always work out as you hope, but the lessons learned along the way are invaluable.
2. **Always Look Ahead.** Canadian hockey legend, Wayne Gretzky, is known for saying, “*I skate to where the puck is going to be, not where it has been.*” Within your context, how can you be prepared for what’s coming next? How can you be positioned to capitalize on changes?
3. **Engage in Scenario Planning.** Consider what the future may hold, across multiple possibilities. Then, reflect on what you, or your organization, may need, for each imagined scenario. These “what if” plans can help you pivot smoothly, and quickly, as required.
4. **Build Capacity, Locally.** Although it can be exciting to parachute in as the external expert, equipping others to take over and customize for their unique contexts creates passion and accountability at the local level, helping to ensure projects, initiatives, and resources last well into the future.
5. **Grab a Compass.** Unlike a map that shows only known routes, a compass equips you to head in a general direction while forging new paths through uncharted territories. Learn to read obscure signs and indicators, and to trust your instincts as you navigate new ground.
6. **Use Design Thinking.** “Perfect isn’t possible” and yet we often delay launch of innovative programs and services as we attempt to get them “right.” Design thinking fosters an iterative approach that brings ideas into reality through prototypes and pilot projects, evaluating them, making small changes, and then trying out the revised version.
7. **Build a Team.** Whether strengthening your core team or bringing in new members for specific projects, aim for diverse perspectives and talents. “Cloning” existing star performers may replicate strengths – but also exacerbate blind spots.
8. **Metrics Matter.** Whether it is client completion or job placement stats, improved retention and engagement, or a calculable return on investment figure, the metrics do matter. Data analytics do not reduce services to a dollar figure but, instead, provide the needed evidence to support anecdotal success stories. Plan for ongoing evaluation, both formal and informal, throughout every project.
9. **Gigs Can Be Great.** Juggling several projects, or gigs, allows for multiple sources of income, cross functional teams, and resource sharing. Sometimes interpreted as “precarious,” gigs can often be less risky than depending on a single income source. Even the smallest of gigs can open a world of opportunity to forge new paths, meet new people, and learn new skills.
10. **Know When to Say No.** Even the most amazing opportunities must, at times, be turned down. Recognize when you have reached the limits of your capacity and are in danger of becoming overwhelmed.

imagine • achieve • excel



604.856.2386  
info@lifestrategies.ca  
[www.lifestrategies.ca](http://www.lifestrategies.ca)