



The Leading Edge Intervention has been created by Peter & Kim Van Kets to inspire and equip individuals and organisations to adapt and thrive in a chaotic environment.

The past few years have brought about immense and irrevocable change. Nothing will be the same (pre 2019) again. This intervention (not a training program) will provide you with inspirational tools that will allow you to adapt & thrive, create +1 behaviours, access and build endurance/perseverance and finally to build our personal and organisational resilience.

Peter van Kets is one of South Africa's top extreme adventurers who shares the lessons he's learnt as an international keynote speaker. Globally known as a specialist around business' ability to persevere in a turbulent and harsh economy, Peter has worked with major corporations across Africa, Europe, the Middle East and the USA. Taking the lessons learnt from his expeditions, he inspires audiences with stories about survival, courage, perseverance, passion, loneliness, tenacity, grit, amazing teamwork and the will to win. His presentations take people on powerful, life-altering journeys, changing the way they think about themselves and their businesses.

Peter teaches people to seek out the extraordinary in every venture, which demands clear vision, dynamic strategy, precise planning and preparation, absolute honesty and integrity, uprightness of character and self-discipline.

If anyone is equipped to share lessons on what it means to overcome adversity and persevere against the odds, it is Peter. Few people have endured the harsh realities of nature that he has, and triumphed. His inspirational leadership presentations, supported by thrilling images and videos of his expeditions, present real-life stories of grit and survival.

Peter has a way of pushing people out of their comfort zones and demonstrating how vision, passion and self-discipline can drive excellence. One of his core messages is Sir Edmund Hillary's – it is not the mountain we conquer, but ourselves. In the business world, everyone is immersed in a real-life drama, says Peter – and his aim is to change the way people think about themselves and their circumstances. Calling himself a 'normal guy' who happens to do exceptional things, Peter leads employees and teams towards using planning, strategy, conflict management and other skills to get the most out of their lives.

Kim Van Kets is an lawyer, inspirational speaker, author and freelance writer. She was born and raised in the rural areas of the Eastern Cape. After matriculating she studied Law at Stellenbosch University and at the University of Cape Town. She is a popular guest speaker at conferences globally.

Kim’s powerful and engaging presentations encourage people to rediscover the passion that enables them to recharge their batteries and prevent burn out and loss of creativity. They also provides an entertaining, anecdotal and positive perspective of South Africa and draws many comparisons between the challenges faced on her self-powered 6 772km trip around the border of South Africa and those encountered in the business world as well as in one’s personal life. If anyone is equipped to share lessons on what it means to overcome adversity and persevere against the odds, it is Kim.



Session 1 – THRIVE

The opening session to the Leading Edge intervention is titled, Survive -Adapt-Thrive.

This 90 minute inspirational session sets the scene for the rest of the series and introduces you to Peter and Kim van Kets.

Session 2 – LEAD



“Over the years, I’ve realised that in any situation, whether it involves an elevator, a rowing boat or a dog sled team, you will almost certainly be viewed in one of three ways. As a -1: actively harmful, someone who creates problems. Or as a zero: your impact is neutral and doesn’t tip the balance one way or the other. Or you’ll be seen as a +1: someone who actively adds value. Everyone wants to be a +1, of course.” (adapted from a similar quote from Chris Hadfield – An Astronaut’s Guide to Life on Earth”)

Session 2 is all about being a +1 at home and at work (because one can't separate the two.) This is useful terminology and everyone immediately gets it. (I can say to my 16 year old: “Hannah, I need you to be a +1 right now. We have a crisis on our hands”. No further explanation needed.) For this session we focussed on the story of the centenary Race to the South Pole.

Simon Sinek talks about trust in all of his books but especially in the Infinite Game. One of his studies involved interviewing the Navy Seals about how they choose their teams. And their response was interesting because they spoke about competence/performance, but mainly they spoke about trust. Obviously, everyone wants to work with the teammate who demonstrates high trust and high competence. But if they have to choose between high levels of trust and competence/performance, they choose trust every time. Even when their lives depend on it! In fact, especially when their lives depend on it. So how do we make sure we are not untrustworthy people? How do I grow trust in myself/families/teams as a tool to help me tolerate uncertainty so that I can access my resilience and thrive in a world increasingly characterized by uncertainty / disruption? Almost everyone I ever speak with complains that they don’t find themselves living and working in a culture/environment of trust. But as a leader what am I doing to grow trust? What am I doing to become trustworthy? And what do we really even mean by trust? What are we talking about when we use the word trust?



Session 3 - ENDURE

In this session we will be looking at how individuals and organisations demonstrate/do grit? What does it look like and how does it manifest?

How much perseverance is in your genes and how much are you able to develop it?

How do you build your perseverance muscle? From the Inside out and from the outside in?

How do we create a culture in our teams that embraces perseverance and how do we help others grow grit?

“The only thing that I see that is distinctly different about me is: I’m not afraid to die on a treadmill. I will not be outworked, period. You might have more talent than me, you might be smarter than me, you might be sexier than me. You might be all of those things. You got it on me in nine categories. But if we get on the treadmill together, there’s two things: You’re getting off first, or I’m going to die. It’s really that simple.” Will Smith



Session 4 - RISE

By now we have all been affected in some way by the Covid pandemic, some way more than others. We are nearing the end of 2021 and by all accounts next year is going to be one of monumental change, both personally and from an organisational point of view. It is important to understand that building resilience into an organisation improves its chances of surviving disruptions, catastrophes and turbulent times. It could also help an organisation navigate many other 'storms' like the transitional state during a strategy change etc. The key question is how to become resilient and thrive and how to build a sustainable process to build our organisations resilience intelligence.

Remember that resilience is demonstrated in one or both of two ways; the ability to recover (quickly and completely) after a crisis has struck; and or the ability to "be aware" ahead of a crisis & to act/change direction with sufficient agility to avoid or adapt to the crisis Resilience is like a muscle, it needs to be trained and honed to stay strong for handling constant change. The hardest part is the organisational effort required to constantly develop and strengthen resilience. Organisations need to develop processes that allow them to reflect on routine actions and build resilience as an everyday capability.

SO HERE'S HOW!!