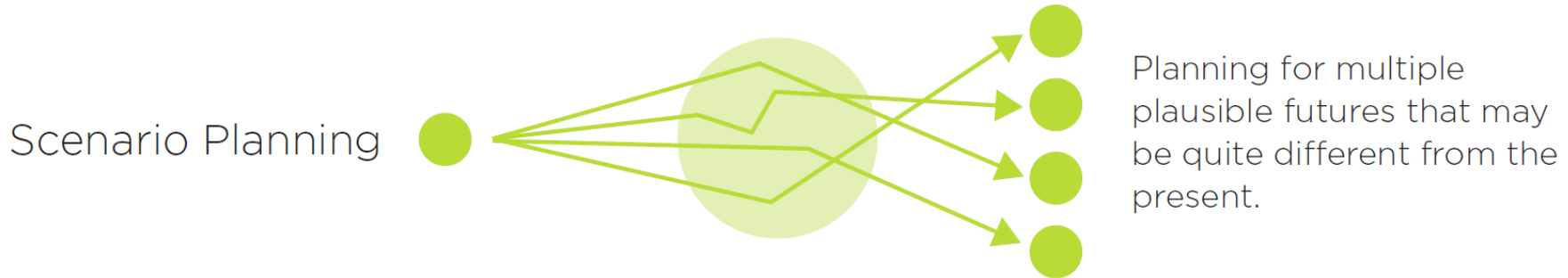# COVID-19 Pandemic Scenario Planning and Impact Assessment

**April 2020**

# Scenario thinking can help us prepare for a future that is hard to predict and clarify our readiness for potential impacts

Scenario Planning

Planning for multiple plausible futures that may be quite different from the present.

# Two key uncertainties will drive the impact of COVID-19 on our community



Epidemiological Factors

e.g, time until virus suppression; type and duration of public health measures



Economic Factors

e.g, depth and duration of economic impact; recovery trajectory

# Three scenarios are plausible based on current trends and key uncertainties

| | Scenario 1 | Scenario 2 | Scenario 3 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **When is the pandemic suppressed?** | Spring 2020 | Spring 2020, with "second wave" in Fall 2020 | Fall 2020 |
| **When are most public health restrictions lifted?** | Spring 2020 | Spring 2020 and re-introduced in Fall 2020 | Fall 2020 |
| **What is the potential magnitude of the economic impact?** | Worse than 2008 recession (-5% to 10% contraction in provincial GDP in 2020) | Comparable or worse than 1982 recession (-10% to 15% contraction in provincial GDP in 2020) | Unprecedented economic contraction (-15% to 20% contraction in provincial GDP in 2020) |
| **How long will recovery take?** | Fast (e.g., end of 2021) | Slow (e.g., end of 2022) | Prolonged (e.g., end of 2023 or later) |

# Applying the scenarios to assess impacts and identify opportunities

Scenarios → Potential impacts and risks in key areas → Opportunities to improve resiliency
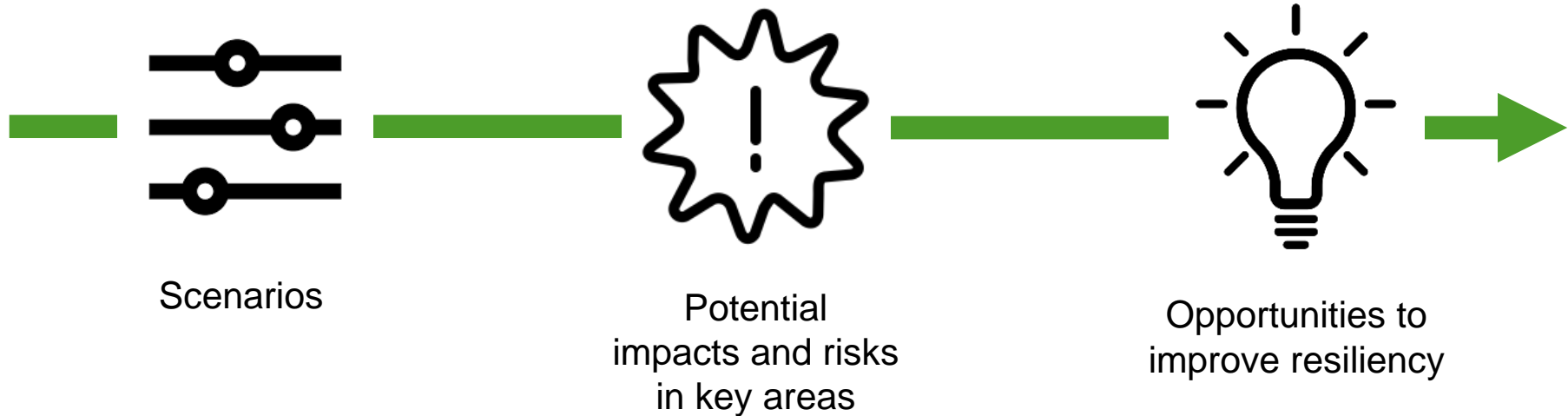
# Impact and resiliency analysis focused on four key dimensions

Social and household impacts

Economy and business impacts

Growth and development impacts

Corporate impacts

# Understanding potential impacts through multiple sources and perspectives

- Research, articles and studies

- Key Informant Interviews

- Financial modelling

# Local dimensions: potential areas for risk

- **Housing**: nearly half of renters spent over 30% of income on shelter

- **Economy**: high proportion of small businesses and over one-third of labour force in consumer service-based industries

- **Community**: high levels of unemployment and food insecurity, relative to regional average

- **Health**: highest level of chronic breathing conditions in region

# Local dimensions: potential areas of strength and resiliency

- **Community**: strong sense of community belonging and connection

- **Access to services**: many services and amenities are close to where we live and accessible by walking, cycling

- **Partnerships:** robust network of partnerships and collaboration in delivery of community-based services

- **Corporate finances**: the City has a robust financial framework that does not heavily rely on external funding contributions

# Potential interventions to increase resiliency

- Project and service prioritization

- Addressing new needs

- Corporate business planning

- New service delivery models

- Information and awareness building

- New partnership models

# Next steps

- **End of April**: Complete impact and resiliency analysis

- **Early May**: Report back to City Leadership

# Thank you.