



## What does your community's future look like within each of these scenarios??

“We are wealthy but self interest dominates and trust is lacking”

“We have few resources yet we are doing great things in creative ways—but we are getting tired!”

“We have a strong sense of wellbeing as we are a connected and caring community”

“We are fragmented and dysfunctional with few volunteers—we need more support!”

No one can predict the future, but we can imagine different possibilities!

Scenarios are tools that can help us imagine different futures for our communities and the nonprofit and voluntary organizations within them.

Scenarios can be used to develop organizational strategies to align with and nurture the future we desire.

Scenarios allow us to develop plans to influence and create our preferred future as well as helping us to adapt to factors outside our control.



Four scenarios for the nonprofit/voluntary sector in Alberta, along with a discussion guide have been developed and may be downloaded from the following site:

[http://municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/mc\\_Alberta\\_Non-profit\\_Voluntary\\_Sector\\_Scenarios.cfm](http://municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/mc_Alberta_Non-profit_Voluntary_Sector_Scenarios.cfm)



## OPPORTUNITY LOST

- Destructive competition is a result of self interest
- Unengaged donors, disconnected from causes, are part of a fragmented civil society
- Financial resources do not guarantee success; human resources are critical
- Lack of collaboration, cooperation and trust is devastating



Can we choose our future?  
What would we choose?

## CRASH LANDING

- Inadequate funding triggers downward spiral of destructive competition that destroys the sector and creates crisis for society
- Sector and voluntary organizations become victims controlled by events around them
- Chronic underfunding, lack of leadership, confidence and trust impact the sector



## TAKING FLIGHT

- There is a common community agenda, a focus on wellness, adequate resources, leadership, collaboration
- Collaboration to address complex issues is critical
- A partnership agreement with government supported by business is needed. The sector is vital and must perform
- Convergence of purpose, commitment and respect are crucial in reframing the sector's relationship with government, business and society



## ROWING UPSTREAM

- Lack of funding stimulates creativity and change
- Collaboration, cooperation and sharing of resources are critical for the sector to accomplish its ends
- Human resources—staff and volunteers—are critical; burnout is a major challenge
- Good intentions, collaboration and hard work are not enough; financial resources are needed

