

In consultation with colleagues at Memorial University, University of New Brunswick, McMaster University, University of British Columbia, University of Toronto, and Western University, a team of researchers at Dalhousie conducted a telephone survey of Charlottetown residents during May through July of 2019. The purpose of this survey was to assess what changes residents of Charlottetown observed over the last five to 10 years in their neighbourhood and city as a whole. It also aimed to better understand how they feel about those changes. This is the second survey conducted in Charlottetown as a part of the Perceptions of Change research project.

Overall, residents of Charlottetown observed changes to the population and built environment of the city. They observed significant immigration, a housing crisis associated with the rise of short-term rentals, and a boom in the local economy largely attributed to the city's rising multiculturalism. While residents generally felt that that city's economy had improved over the last five to 10 years, the sentiment was not echoed at the neighbourhood level when asked about affordability. Residents of Charlottetown also observed a boom in the city's population and an increase in its diversity. In terms of the natural environment, residents were not observing much change overall, but when they did see change, perceptions were divided. When changes to the natural environment were observed, they were typically perceived as worsening in the city but improving in their neighbourhoods.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Residents of Charlottetown mentioned changes to immigration and diversity, as well as housing/apartments/condos as the biggest changes in the city in the last five to 10 years.
- Sixty-nine percent of participants believed the city's overall economic conditions had improved. Fewer reported economic improvements in their neighbourhoods.
- The majority, 75%, felt their neighbourhoods had become less affordable.
- The majority of participants believed the city had become more diverse and has more senior citizens. These changes were also observed at the neighbourhood level.
- On average, Charlottetown residents believed that 58% of their neighbours share similar values and beliefs and they generally reported high levels of "fitting in" to their neighbourhoods.
- Ninety-nine percent of participants noted the construction of new buildings and homes in their city, and 80% within their neighbourhoods.
- The majority of participants reported no change in the condition of buildings and houses or with the prevalence of rental housing in their neighbourhoods.
- Perceptions of changes to the natural environment, both in the city and in participants' neighbourhoods, were mixed. The majority reported no change to air quality, but perceived changes in water quality and in the number of green spaces in the city.

