

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 Halifax residents during May through July of 2019. The purpose of the survey was to assess what changes Haligonians observed over the last five to 10 years in their neighbourhoods and the city as a whole. It also aimed to better understand how people feel about those changes. This is the third survey conducted on Halifax as a part of the Perceptions of Change research project.

Overall, Haligonians observed changes to the built environment and population of the city. They observed widespread construction, infrastructure renewal, and an increase in both population size as well as social and cultural diversity. While Halifax residents generally felt that the city's economy had improved over the last five to 10 years, the sentiment was not echoed to the same degree at the neighbourhood level where most people reported no change. Residents surveyed also expressed concerns over affordability. Haligonians were divided in their perceptions of changes to the natural environment of the city compared to its change in their neighbourhoods. When they did observe changes to the natural environment, they typically perceived them as worsening in the city but improving in their neighbourhoods.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Haligonians commonly identified changes to the built environment and population as the biggest changes in the city over the last five to 10 years.
- Sixty-four percent of participants believed the city's overall economic conditions had improved. Fewer reported economic improvements in their neighbourhoods.
- The majority, 63%, disagreed that their neighbourhoods had become more 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, Haligonians believed that 56% of their neighbours share similar values and beliefs, and they reported high levels of "fitting in" to their neighbourhoods.
- Ninety-nine percent of participants noted new construction in their city and 72% observed it in their neighbourhoods.
- The majority of participants reported no change in the condition of buildings and houses in their neighbourhoods as well as the prevalence of rental housing.
- Perceptions of changes in 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.

