

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

Overall, Monctonians observed changes to the city's infrastructure and population. They mentioned urban sprawl, widespread construction, infrastructure renewal, and an increase in population size as the top changes occurring in the city. While Monctonians generally felt that that city's economy had improved over the last five to 10 years, this sentiment was not echoed at the neighbourhood level, and some expressed concerns over affordability. Residents of Moncton are generally neutral in their perceptions of change to the natural environment of their city and neighbourhoods. When they did observe changes to the natural environment, they tended to be divided over whether or not the changes were for the better or for the worse.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Monctonians commonly identified changes to city infrastructure and population as the biggest changes in the city in the last five to 10 years.
- Sixty-seven percent of participants believed the city's overall economic conditions had improved; fewer reported the same in their neighbourhoods.
- About 43%, indicated that their neighbourhoods had become less affordable.
- The majority of participants believed the city had become more diverse and has more senior citizens. Although these changes were also echoed at the neighbourhood level, more participants felt there was no change.
- On average, Monctonians believed that 55% of their neighbours share similar values and beliefs, and, in general, they reported high levels of "fitting in" to their neighbourhoods.
- Ninety-seven percent of participants noted the construction of new buildings and homes in their city and 69% observed it in their neighbourhoods.
- The majority of participants reported no change in the condition of buildings and houses or in the prevalence of rental housing in their neighbourhoods.
- Perceptions of changes in the natural environment, both in the city and in participants' neighbourhoods, were overall neutral. The majority observed no changes to the city's air quality and green spaces, but perceived changes in water quality. In their neighbourhoods, residents tended to observe either no change to the natural environment or positive changes.

