

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

Overall, residents of St. John's observed changes to the city's economy and population. They observed a downturn in the economy, a population boom, infrastructure renewal, and widespread construction. Residents generally felt that the St. John's economy had declined over the last five to 10 years and this sentiment was echoed to a lesser extent at the neighbourhood level where concerns over affordability and employment were observed. St. John's residents were divided in their perceptions of change to the natural environment of the city compared to 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

- Residents of St. John's frequently mentioned changes to the city's economy and businesses, as well as its population, as the biggest changes in the last five to 10 years.
- Fifty-five percent of participants believed the city's overall economic conditions had worsened. Fewer observed economic decline in their neighbourhood, except in the case of employment and affordability.
- Almost half, 46%, 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, St. John's residents believed that 58% of their neighbours share similar values and beliefs, and 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 68% observed this in within 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 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.

