Residential Satisfaction in Saint-Henri: Measuring Neighborhood Change
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Research Aims: This research project will try to answer the following question: Are the two megaprojects, the Turcot Interchange and the McGill University Health Center, impacting the residential satisfaction of its residents and if so, how?

The research objectives are:
1. to assess whether megaprojects are changing residents expectations about their neighborhoods
2. to identify whether changes in residents’ perceptions of their neighbourhoods and residential satisfaction levels are related to types of tenure (coop, non-profit and homeowners)

Method: The main research tool will be a questionnaire to 150 households (coop, non-profit and homeowners). The questionnaire is designed to capture the complexity of residential satisfaction. Therefore, it includes sections addressing the affective, cognitive and behavioral dimensions of the concept, for example: How satisfied are you with living here? How long do you want to live in this community? If you move again, would you like to live in a place like this? Would you recommend this place to one of your friends?

Finally, the results obtained in the survey will be completed with in-depth interviews done with selected residents; residents’ expectations about their living environment are a dynamic construct, and a more in-depth methodological approach is necessary for properly analyzing this dynamic and assessing the elements impacting it and in what direction.

Rationale: Improving residential satisfaction is the ultimate goal of housing policy and a key component in people’s quality of life. Evaluating residential satisfaction is a complex process in which individuals evaluate different aspects of their social and physical environments. While residential satisfaction is partly determined by the home, recent investigations have stressed the importance of neighborhoods in people’s satisfaction with their living environments.

Research focusing on residential satisfaction asserts that an individual’s degree of satisfaction is established by comparing one’s ideal situation with one’s actual situation. Along these lines, residential satisfaction is a game of expectations playing out in the inner lives of residents. This is particularly important because it helps us realize that residential satisfaction is a rather dynamic evaluation where the perception of on-going change plays a key role. But what elements or factors determine people’s perception of change in the neighborhood? And how do they affect residential satisfaction? This research is an attempt to answer some of these complex questions.