



PRESS RELEASE
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Downtown Moncton property owners voice their opinions concerning the future of Moncton's core

MONCTON – *Downtown Moncton Centre-ville Inc.* (DMCI) recently surveyed downtown property owners to determine in which direction they want to see our business district move forward. *Outlook 2008: A Downtown Perspective* dealt with some key development projects possibly headed to Moncton's core and some of the services DMCI provides. One hundred people responded to the survey representing groups ranging from non profit organizations to law firms that reside within the downtown Business Improvement Area.

"We value the opinions of the downtown property owners and we will certainly incorporate their ideas in our strategic planning." states DMCI President, Maura McKinnon.

Here are some highlights of the survey:

- **92%** of the people surveyed are satisfied or very satisfied with Moncton's Downtown as a place to operate a business or organization, (compared to **88%** in 2003.)
- **76%** believe that the visibility of police is important and **100%** of people polled agree with having the Oulton's Cadets patrolling the Downtown. *DMCI is encouraged by this last finding, being that security is one of Downtown Moncton's priorities in its strategic plan. The Downtown Moncton Security Round Table, which was created in 2002 to help address security concerns brought forth by the downtown community, has put in place many measures by improving sense of personal security, reducing panhandling, eliminating loitering in large numbers and increasing security visibility*
- **56%** of the respondents stated they would be in favour of the construction of a casino in the Moncton downtown core, compared to **51%** in 2002.
- **98%** of the people surveyed indicated that they believe a convention centre would have an impact on the future growth of the City of Moncton. *DMCI has been a big advocate of the construction of a convention centre downtown for the past 4 years and we feel that these findings reiterate the importance of going forward once and for all with this project.*

The vast majority of respondents feel that the most important downtown issue facing their business is parking. Whether it be not knowing where to park or the desire for more free parking, this is a very prevalent issue. People genuinely believe that the parking situation downtown is problematic. *The Downtown Moncton Parking Advisory Committee*, which is a joint initiative between the City of Moncton Engineering Dept. and DMCI, is taking these results very seriously and has already started implementing some measures to better inform people on the downtown parking situation. More details about this exciting initiative will be unveiled shortly.

The *Downtown Moncton Centre-Ville Inc.* Outlook 2008 survey was conducted between February 15th and February 28th 2008. One hundred downtown property owners or their representatives answered the questionnaire, which represents a response rate of 23%.

-30-

For more information:

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