



# CIRADD

Centre d'initiation à la recherche et  
d'aide au développement durable

# Inter-Community Harmony Project

The Impacts of the Project in the  
Communities of Listuguj and Pointe-à-la-  
Croix

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# Summary

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The Inter-Community Harmony Project was created in 2002 in order to improve the relationship between the community members of Listuguj and Pointe-à-la-Croix.

To analyse the impact of this Project on members of both communities, a research was carried out in 2011. For this purpose, a questionnaire was drafted and distributed by mail, to members of both communities at large. Of the total 1,000 questionnaires sent out, 371 were returned.

The data collected shows that approximately 75 % of the respondents have heard about the Inter-Community Harmony Project. Likewise, more than half of the respondents who have participated in the project-related activities assert that these were varied and interesting. These activities not only resulted in closer ties between the communities, but also favoured meeting new people.

Since the establishment of the Inter-Community Harmony Project, 65 % of the people have noticed a better communication between community members as well as more harmonious relations. Contacts between members of the neighbouring community have significantly increased.

Over 65 % of the respondents agree that the Project's results as well as the communities' relationship are satisfactory.

# Table of Contents

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	Page
Introduction.....	1
Background.....	1
Racial Tension .....	2
Concept and Ideology .....	2
Perception .....	2
Practice .....	2
Community of Listuguj.....	3
Municipality of Pointe-à-la-Croix.....	4
Research Methodology .....	5
Research Question .....	5
Method and Technique .....	5
Presentation and Interpretation of Results .....	5
Summary of Results Presentation.....	20
Analysis and Interpretation of Results .....	22
Summary of Results Analysis.....	29
Conclusion.....	30
Bibliography .....	32

# List of Charts

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	Page
Chart 1: Gender .....	6
Chart 2: Age of Respondents .....	6
Chart 3: Place of Residence .....	6
Chart 4: Financial Situation.....	7
Chart 5: Have you heard about the Inter-Community Harmony Project? .....	7
Chart 6: Have you participated in an activity that the Harmony Project organized?.....	8
Chart 7: Did a member of your family already participate in a Harmony Project activity? .....	8
Chart 8: Did these activities bring the two communities together?.....	9
Chart 9: Did these activities allow people in neighbouring communities a chance to get to know your community? .....	9
Chart 10: The activities organized by the Harmony Project were varied .....	10
Chart 11: The activities organized by the Harmony Project were interesting.....	10
Chart 12: The activities allowed for closer ties between the two communities. ....	11
Chart 13: There has been an improvement in communication between the two communities of Pointe-à-la-Croix and Listuguj since the Harmony Project started .....	11
Chart 14: The Harmony Project has positively changed my relationship with members of the other community .....	12
Chart 15: I am regularly in contact with people from the neighbouring community.....	12
Chart 16: I was well-informed about the inter-community project.....	13
Chart 17: Results obtained following the Inter-Community Harmony Project.....	13
Chart 18: The relationships with the people in the neighbouring community.....	14
Chart 19: Degree of acceptance of romantic relationship between your teenager and another youth in the neighbouring community.....	14

Chart 20:	If you heard someone insult a person from the neighbouring community, it would be? .....	15
Chart 21:	If your child asked you if they could play at a friend’s house in the neighbouring community, it would be? .....	15
Chart 22:	If someone from Listuguj/Pointe-à-la-Croix invited you to do an activity with him/her, would you accept? .....	16
Chart 23:	If you meet someone from the neighbouring community would you be polite and friendly (wave, smile, etc.)?.....	16
Chart 24:	Do you think the neighbouring community is racist?.....	17
Chart 25:	Do you have racist tendencies? .....	17
Chart 26:	According to you, is racism a normal behaviour?.....	18
Chart 27:	According to you, are there different races of human beings? .....	18
Chart 28:	Are some races better than others in society? .....	19
Chart 29:	Do you consider your culture superior to other cultures? .....	19
Chart 30:	Level of agreement of being informed of the goals of the project according to place of residence .....	22
Chart 31:	Satisfaction felt toward the results of the Inter-Community Harmony Project according to place of residence.....	22
Chart 32:	Inter-community relations according to place of residence .....	23
Chart 33:	Acceptance of a romantic relationship between your teenager and a youth from the neighbouring community according to place of residence .....	23
Chart 34:	Acceptance of insulting a member of the neighbouring community according to place of residence .....	24
Chart 35:	Acceptance that the children play in a neighbouring community according to place of residence .....	24
Chart 36:	Acceptance to do an activity with a member of the neighbouring community according to place of residence? .....	25
Chart 37:	Politeness and friendliness when meeting a member of the neighbouring community according to place of residence? .....	25
Chart 38:	Perception of the neighbouring community’s attitude according to place of residence.....	26
Chart 39:	Attitudes of respondents according to place of residence.....	26
Chart 40:	Normality of racism according to place of residence.....	27

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Chart 41:	Belief in the existence of races according to place of residence.....	27
Chart 42:	Opinion on the existence of a superior race according to place of residence .....	28
Chart 43:	Opinion on the culture of the respondents according to place of residence .....	28

# Introduction

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The Inter-Community Harmony Project, designed by the community of Listuguj and the municipality of Pointe-à-la-Croix, encourages a greater understanding between the youth and adults of the two communities in order to improve the overall inter-community relationship.

The Harmony treaty is a commitment between the citizens of both communities. The objectives of the treaty are a mutual respect between individuals, the consideration of the dissimilarities of the two communities as well as the sharing of knowledge.

Since this project has been in place for 9 years now, it is important to analyse the influence of the Inter-Community Harmony Project on the relationship between Listuguj and Pointe-à-la-Croix. Therefore, at the request of Mr. Pierre Vicaire, coordinator of the Inter-Community Harmony Project, this research was conducted.

Indeed, this research's aim is to show whether the Inter-Community Harmony Project has had an impact on the intercultural relations between the two communities.

## Background

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At the time of the European explorations of the 16th century, there was already a certain tension between Europeans and Aborigines. Upon their first contacts, the two peoples discern important cultural differences.

The two peoples come closer to one another to a certain degree with the trade of products. However, the Europeans use the Aborigines to discover the richness of the territory, to learn survival techniques, and finally to exploit them. After having learned the lifestyle of the Aboriginal peoples, the Europeans attempt to assimilate and convert them.

So, the Aborigines realise that the Europeans are taking advantage of them. Among other things, the furs offered to the Europeans are not valued the same as the other traded items. Also, since the arrival of Europeans explorers, diseases were rampant



on Aboriginal territories and many people died. The Aboriginals start to question: “Are these White people a curse?” Aboriginals distance themselves from Europeans and the conflict intensifies, stemming behaviours that could be qualified as racist.

## Racial Tension

There seems to be a racial tension<sup>1</sup> between the White and Aboriginal populations. Racism consists of three aspects: concept and ideology, perception, and practice.

### Concept and Ideology

This aspect consists of supporting discourse systems which purport to scientificity.<sup>2</sup>

### Perception

The perception (or judgement) that an individual has of another.

### Practice

Racist practices consist of subjecting another individual to violence, insults, or threats in order to bring them down.

Racism can be interpreted in relation to many aspects. From a philosophical point of view, Hannah Arendt, German philosopher,<sup>3</sup> explains that racism does not necessarily come from the culture of the individual but from his or her origins. For its part, scientific racism consists of classifying people according to their looks, the colour of their skin (judging people from the outside).

On a legislative level, the Indian Act legitimizes and legalizes a certain vision of social relations between Aboriginal and White people. Entered in force under its current form in 1951, the Indian Act establishes Native rights, primarily concerning life on the Native reservations. This Act allows the Minister of Indian Affairs to manage several aspects of their existence such as territory, education, community membership as well as funding. This Act was inscribed within a politic of assimilation of the Aboriginal peoples established by the Canadian government.

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<sup>1</sup> Racism is an ideology that supposes the existence of human races and that considers that certain races are intrinsically superior to others. S.A. *Racisme*. [Web] <http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Racisme> (page consultée le 8 février 2011).

<sup>2</sup> TAGUIEFF, Pierre-André. *La force du préjugé*. Gallimard, Paris, 1990.

<sup>3</sup> S.A Biographie d'Hannah Arendt. [En ligne] <http://www.evene.fr/celebre/biographie/hannah-arendt-5641.php> (page consultée le 9 février 2011).

## Community of Listuguj

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Listuguj is a First Nations community with an approximate population of 2,014 residents and covers a territory of about 39.07 km.<sup>4</sup>

Listuguj was founded and assigned by the government of Lower-Canada in 1853. Listuguj is one of the three Mi'gmaq communities in the Gaspé Peninsula. The name "Listuguj" derives from the Restigouche River.

The First Nations community of Listuguj is directed by a chief and twelve councillors that are elected by the community members every two years.<sup>5</sup> Other than the official Mi'gmaq language, English is primarily spoken by the population of Listuguj.

A primary school (approx. 300 students) is installed at the heart of the community. The Alaqsité'w Gitpu School (flight of the eagle) is managed by the Band council. Teachers focus their teachings on family and community. Furthermore, the building's decorations highlight Native culture.

To obtain their high school diplomas, Aboriginal youth have to continue going to school in Campbellton. Subsequently, they can choose to continue their studies in French or in English.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Affaires indiennes et du Nord du Canada. Listuguj first nation. [En ligne] <http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ai/scr/qc/aqc/prof/Listuguj-eng.asp>, (page consultée le 15 février 2011).

<sup>5</sup> S.A. Listuguj. [En ligne] <http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Listuguj#Politique>, (page consultée le 17 février 2011).

<sup>6</sup> CHIRON DE LA CASINIÈRE, Annik. Rapport de la recherche-action portant sur le Projet Harmonie inter-communautés Listuguj-Pointe-à-la-Croix, Gaspésie-Québec, page 20.

## Municipality of Pointe-à-la-Croix

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The municipality of Pointe-à-la-Croix was founded in 1855, but it was only in 1970 that it adopted its current name, also called *Cross Point*.

*The geographical name Cross Point still manifests today the will of the Mi'gmaq to mark the limits of their territory threatened by Acadian and Loyalist refugees since the 18<sup>th</sup> century [...]*<sup>7</sup>

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Indeed, the First Nations planted a cross in order to delimit their territory from that of the Acadians, hence the name Pointe-à-la-Croix.<sup>8</sup>

Today, this small village, neighbouring the First Nations community of Listuguj, has a population of 1,554 residents.<sup>9</sup>

Following the closing of several small villages located in the surrounding areas, the municipality of Pointe-à-la-Croix was founded. The geographical territory expands to 394.03 km and becomes one of the largest municipalities in the region. At the very beginning, the residents of Pointe-à-la-Croix spoke mainly English. However, today, the current language spoken is French.<sup>10</sup> Over the years, Pointe-à-la-Croix has become more of a residential municipality.<sup>11</sup> Since there are more business activities across the provincial border (New-Brunswick), most of the people go there to work.

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<sup>7</sup> AUCLAIR, Gabriel *et al.* Parcours historique dans la région touristique de la Gaspésie, Université du Québec à Rimouski, 1998, page 306.

<sup>8</sup> GAGNON, Laurence. Guide touristique de la Gaspésie, Les éditions internationales Alain Stanké, 1992, page 272.

<sup>9</sup> Gouvernement du Québec. Répertoire des municipalités. [En ligne] <http://www.mamrot.gouv.qc.ca/repertoire-des-municipalites/fiche/municipalite/06030/> (page consultée le 9 février 2011).

<sup>10</sup> Comité de protection des œuvres d'Ozias Leduc. Pointe-à-la-Croix. [En ligne] <http://www.grandquebec.com/villes-quebec/pointe-a-la-croix/> (page consultée le 15 février 2011).

<sup>11</sup> Municipalité de Pointe-à-la-Croix. Pointe-à-la-Croix, Terre d'accueil. [En ligne] <http://www.pointe-a-la-croix.com/Historique.aspx> (page consultée le 15 février 2011).

# Research Methodology

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## Research Question

After many years, has the Inter-Community Harmony Project contributed to a decrease in racism between the two communities?

## Method and Technique

To answer the research question, a questionnaire was written up and distributed by mail to the peoples of Listuguj and Pointe-à-la-Croix. The point of the survey was to get information about: the profiles of individuals (age, gender, etc.), the overall satisfaction towards the Inter-Community Harmony Project, the (either positive or negative) evolution of behaviours towards members of the neighbouring community.

Questionnaires were distributed to every household in Pointe-à-la-Croix and in Listuguj. Of a total of 1,000 questionnaires, 371 were returned, of which 245 were from Pointe-à-la-Croix and 126 from Listuguj.

## Presentation and Interpretation of Results

This part of the research presents the results obtained by the compilation of data from completed questionnaires. The answer breakdowns for each multiple-choice question are represented in chart-form with the help of Excel software. For a better understanding, a short text will introduce each chart and explain the significant elements therein.

For clarity, the questions are reiterated as chart titles. Neither analysis nor interpretation of the data is presented in this part of the research. Only an objective presentation of the data is used to show the results.

To improve readability, the data is presented in a relative format (in percentages) rather than in an absolute format (real numbers).

**Gender**

The majority of survey respondents were female: 64 % female compared to 31 % male respondents.

**Age of Respondents**

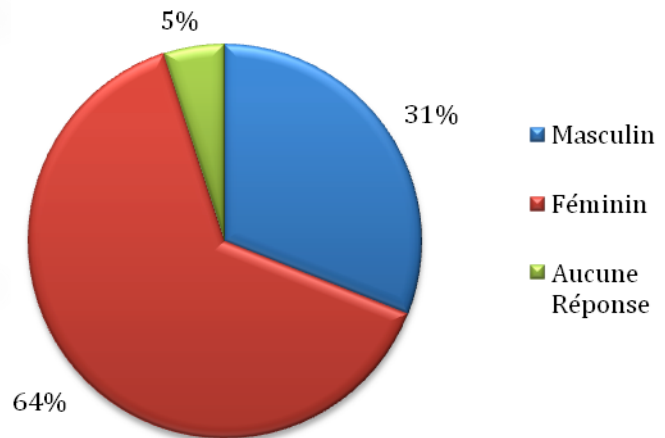
Also, 59 % of respondents were over 40 years old.

**Place of Residence**

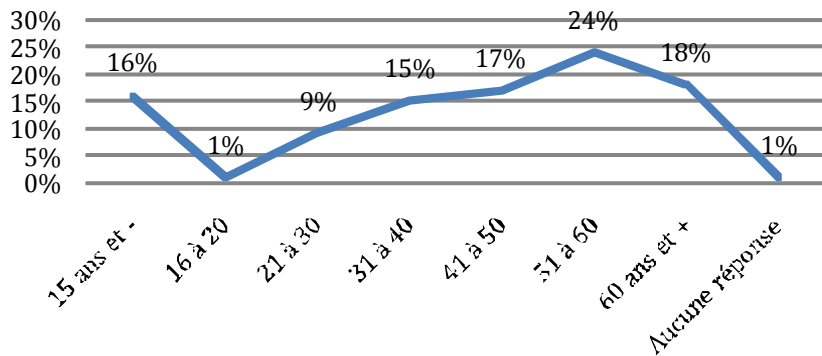
48 % of returned questionnaires were from Pointe-à-la-Croix while 29 % came from Listuguj. Another 20 % came from a neighbouring community.

**Respondent Profiles**

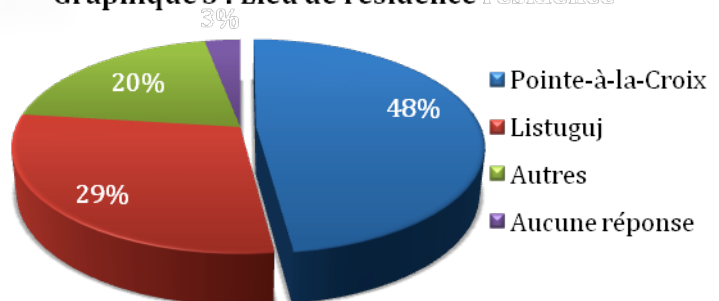
**Graphique 1 : Sexe**

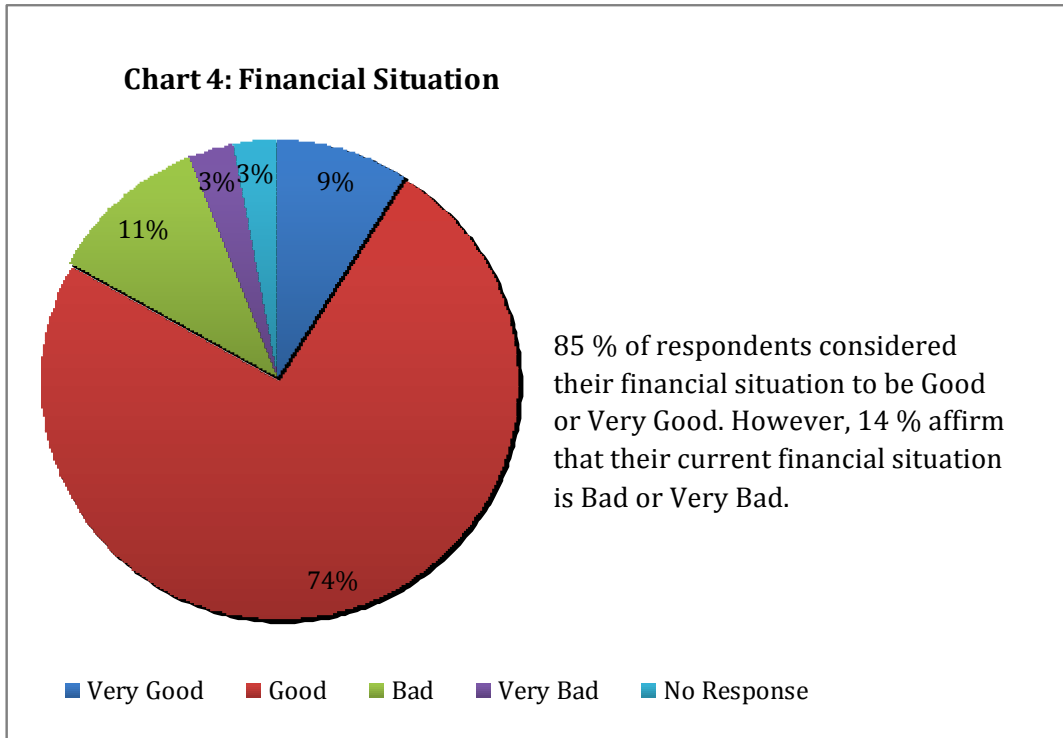


**Graphique 2 : Âge des répondants**

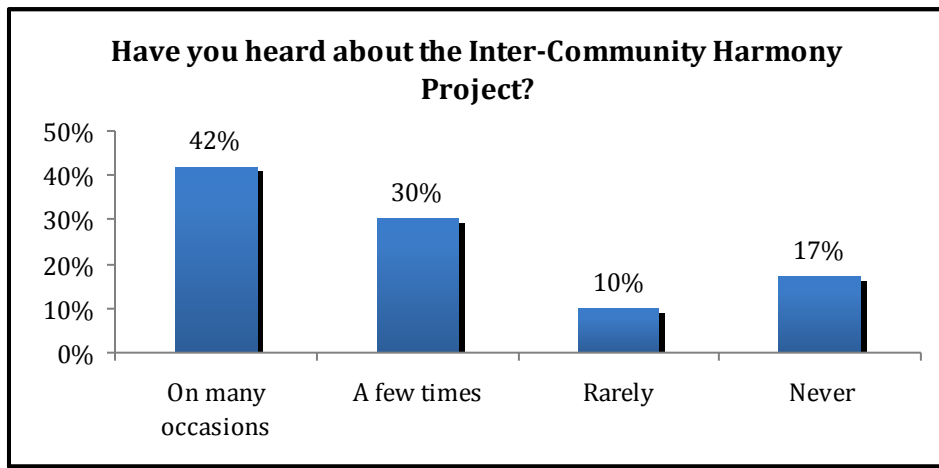


**Graphique 3 : Lieu de résidence**



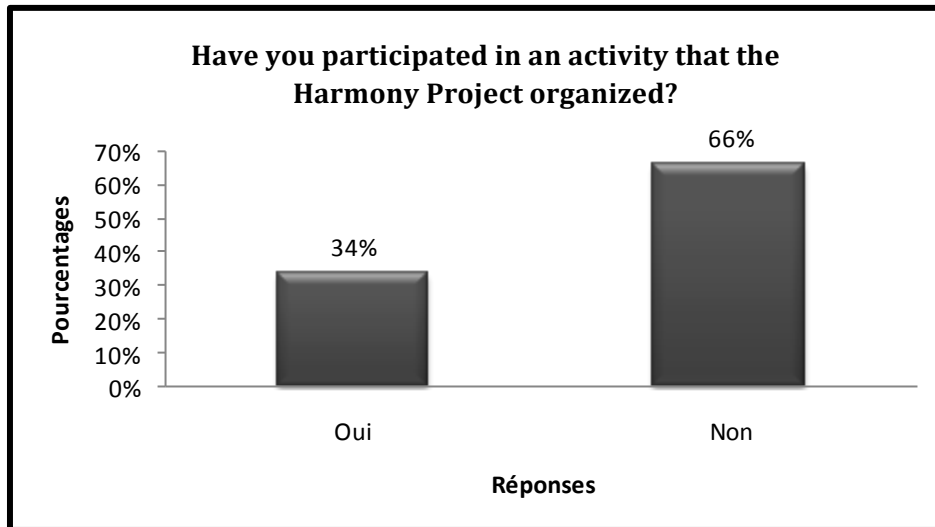


**Chart 5**



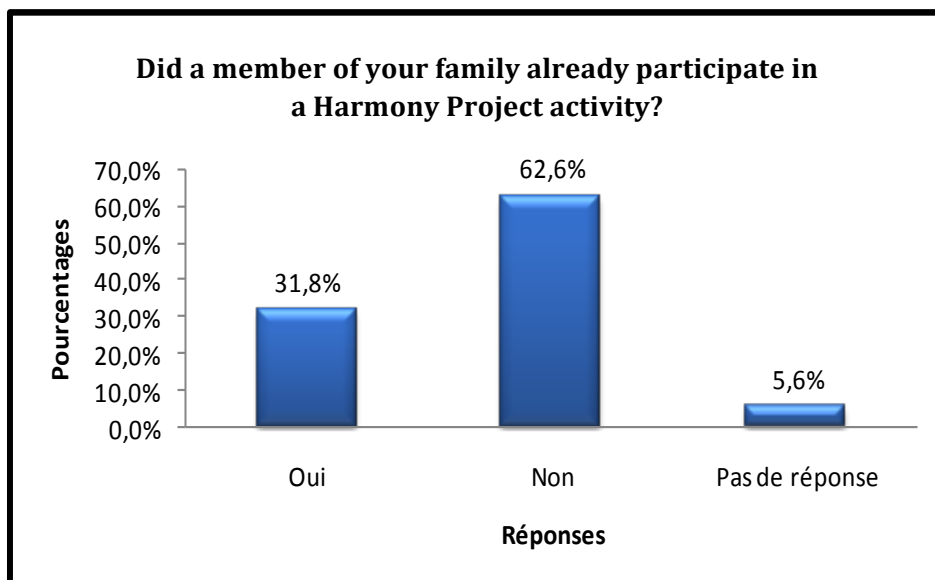
72 % of the people questioned have heard about the Inter-Community Harmony Project.

Chart 6



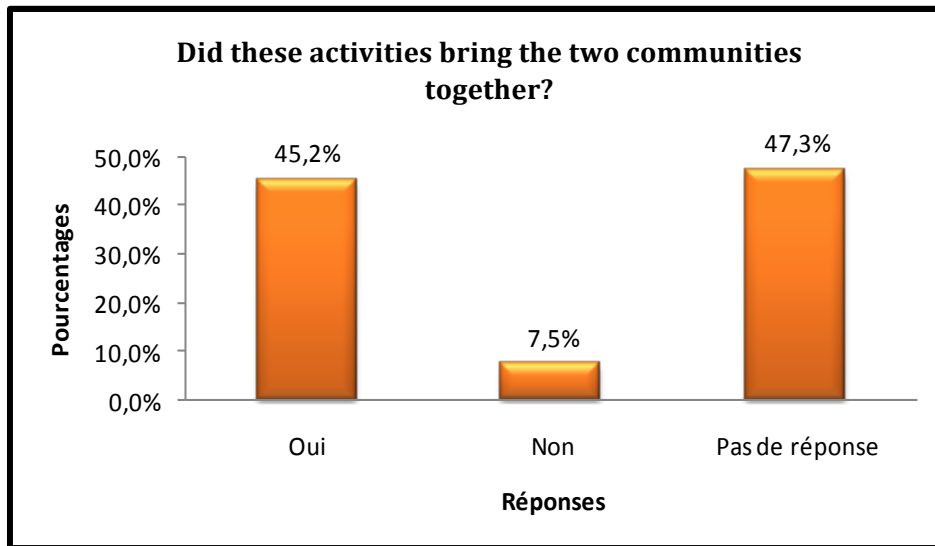
34 % of respondents have participated in activities related to the Harmony Project.

Chart 7



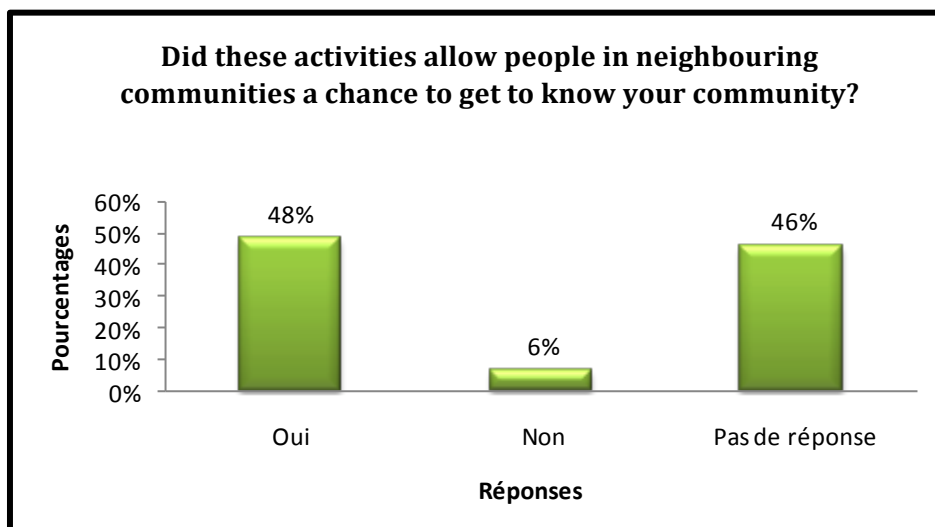
32 % of respondents know of a person in their families who have participated in a Harmony Project activity.

Chart 8



Of the people who participated in the activities, 45 % confirm that these activities brought the two communities together.

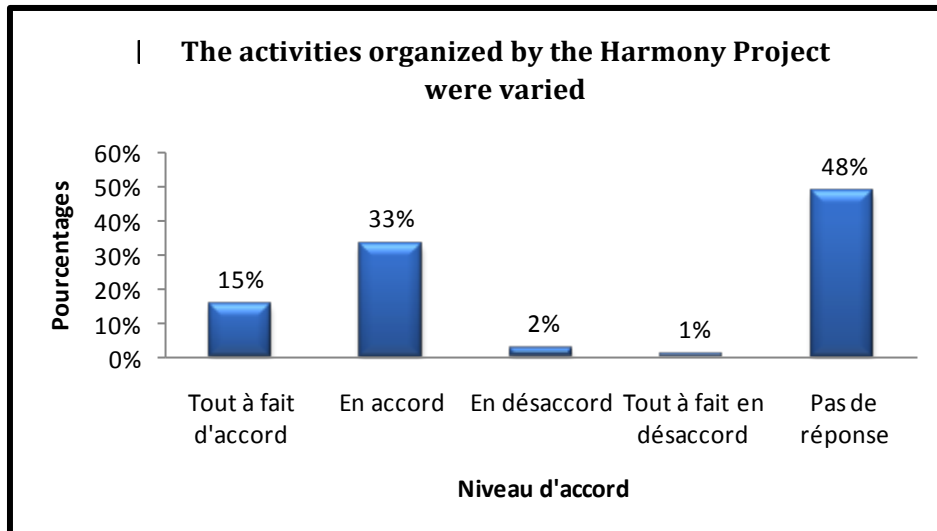
Chart 9



Close to 48 % of respondents confirmed that the activities allowed a chance to get to know people from the neighbouring community.

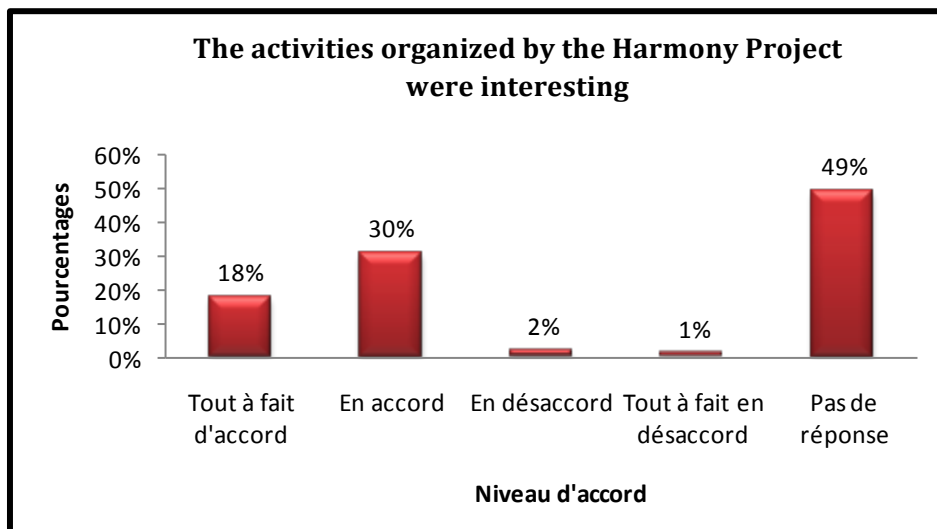


Chart 10



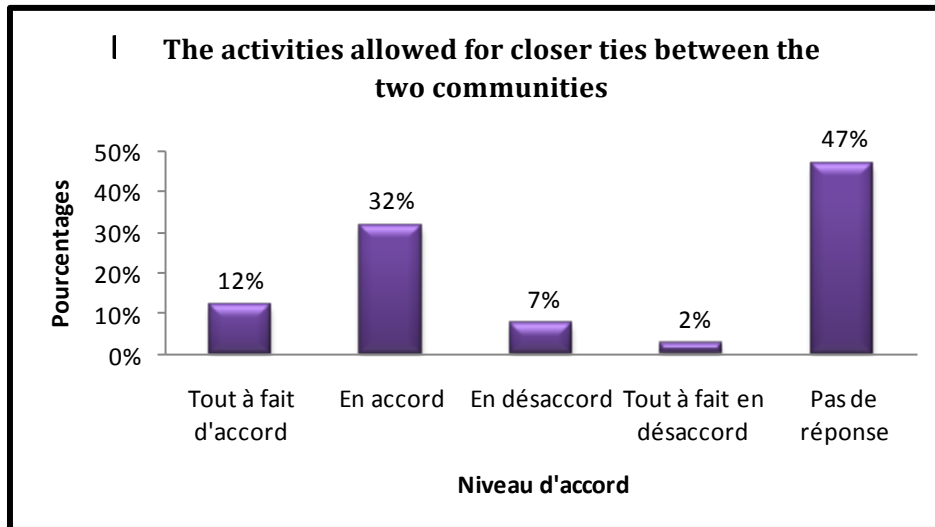
48 % of respondents confirm that they Completely Agree or simply Agree that the activities organized by the Harmony Project are varied.

Chart 11



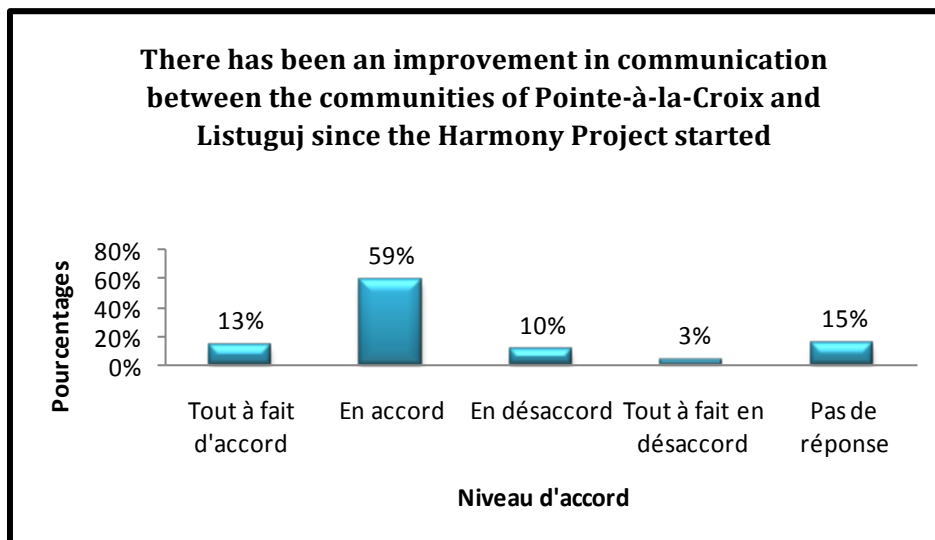
48 % of respondents Completely Agree or Agree that the activities were interesting.

Chart 12



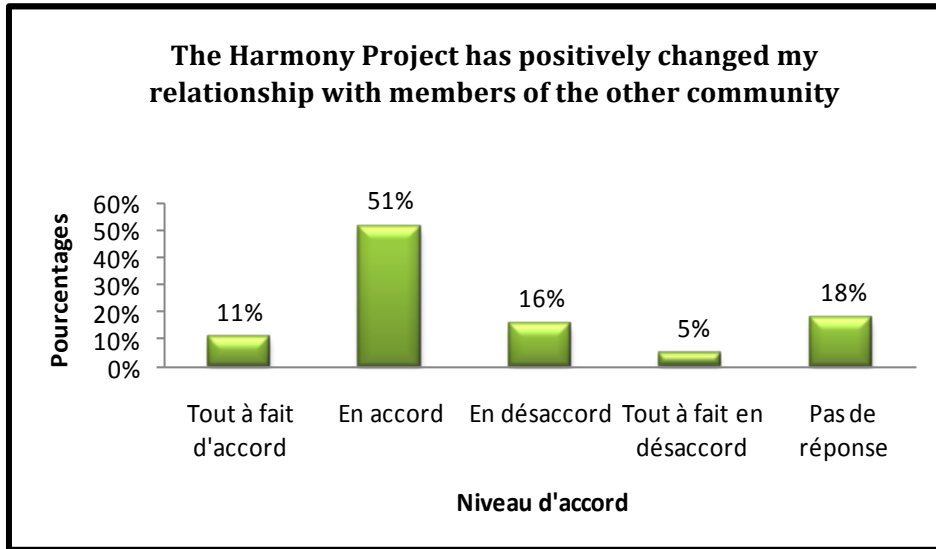
44 % of respondents Agree or Completely Agree that the organized activities allowed for closer ties between the communities of Pointe-à-la-Croix and of Listuguj.

Chart 13



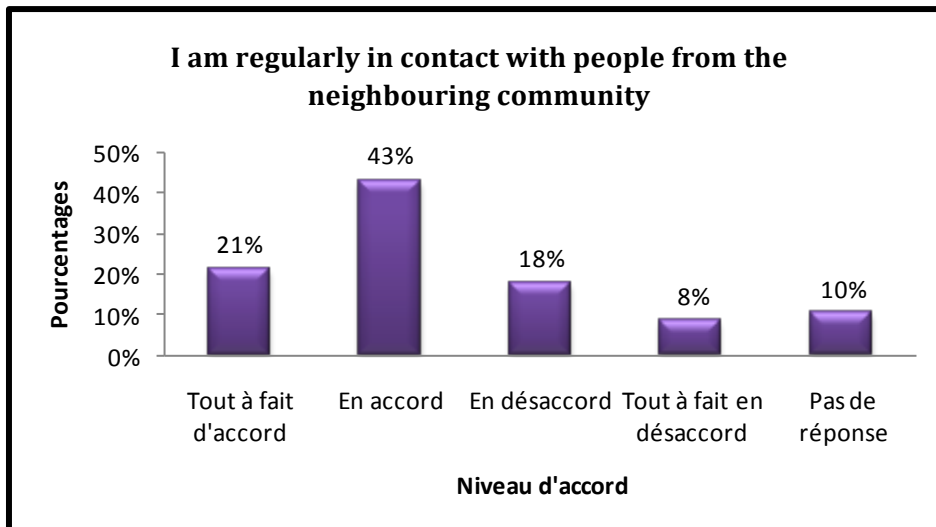
Since the establishment of the Harmony Project, 72 % of respondents Agree or Completely Agree that communication between the two communities has improved.

Chart 14



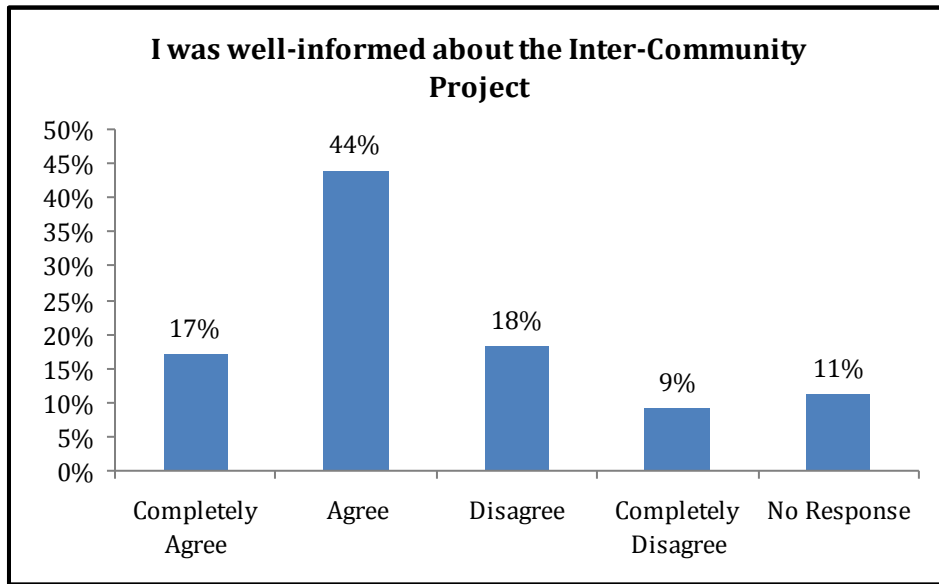
Concerning the relationship between Pointe-à-la-Croix and Listuguj community members, over 60 % confirm that their relationship has changed positively since the establishment of the Harmony Project.

Chart 15



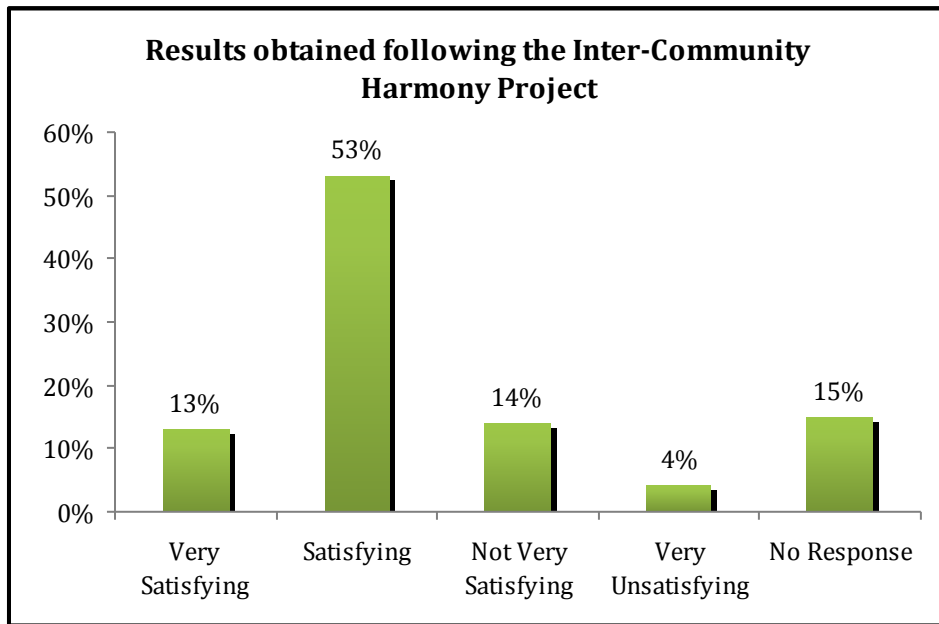
Close to 64 % of respondents affirm that they are regularly in contact with people from the neighbouring community.

Chart 16



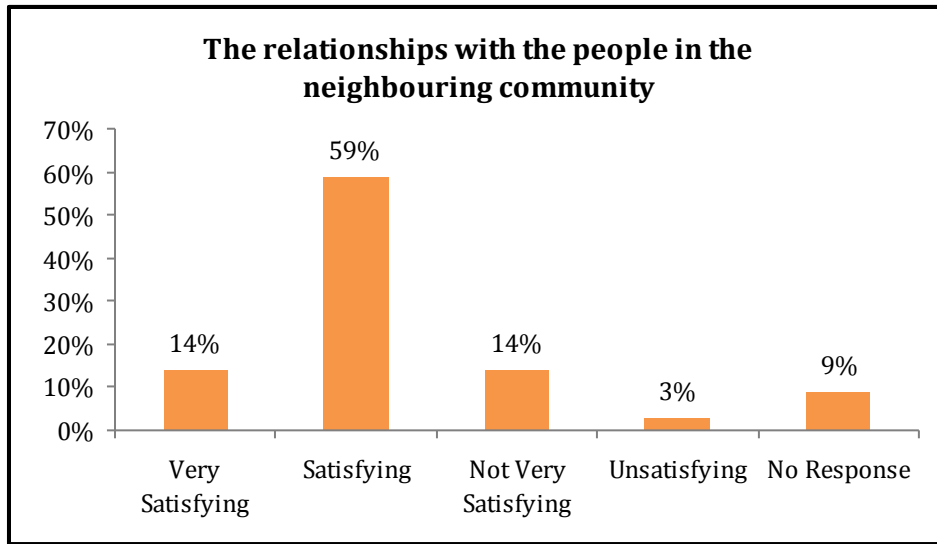
Close to 61 % of respondents Agree that they were well-informed about the goals of the Inter-Community Harmony Project.

Chart 17



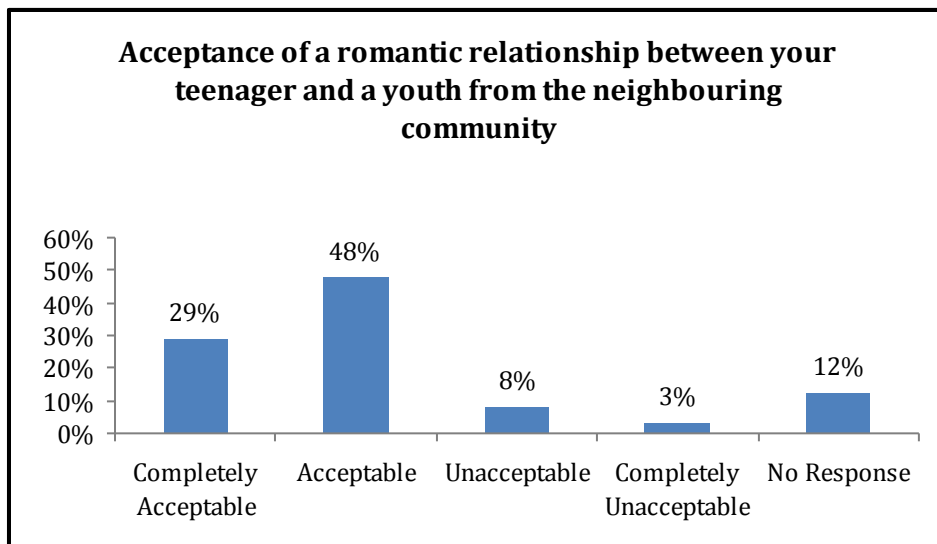
According to 66 % of questionnaire respondents, the results of the Harmony Project are Satisfying or Very Satisfying.

Chart 18



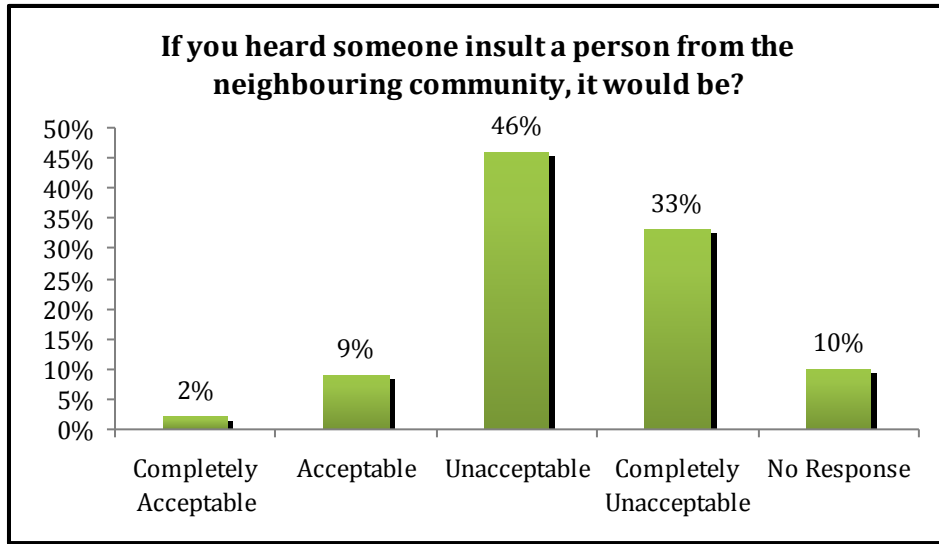
Since the establishment of the Project, 73 % of respondents confirm that the relationship with the neighbouring community is either Satisfying or Very Satisfying.

Chart 19



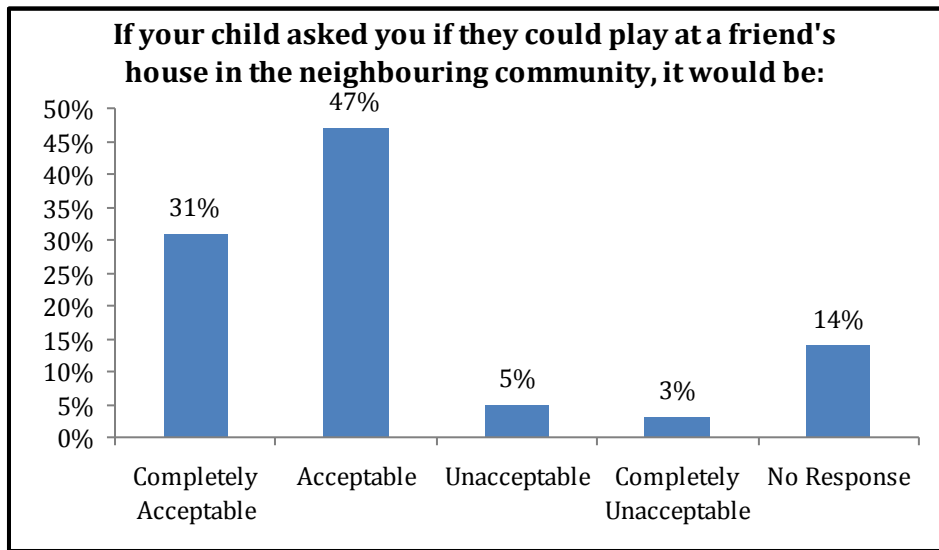
77 % of respondents found it Acceptable or Completely Acceptable for their teenager to have a romantic relationship with a youth from the neighbouring community. Again, a little over 10 % did not provide an answer to the question.

Chart 20



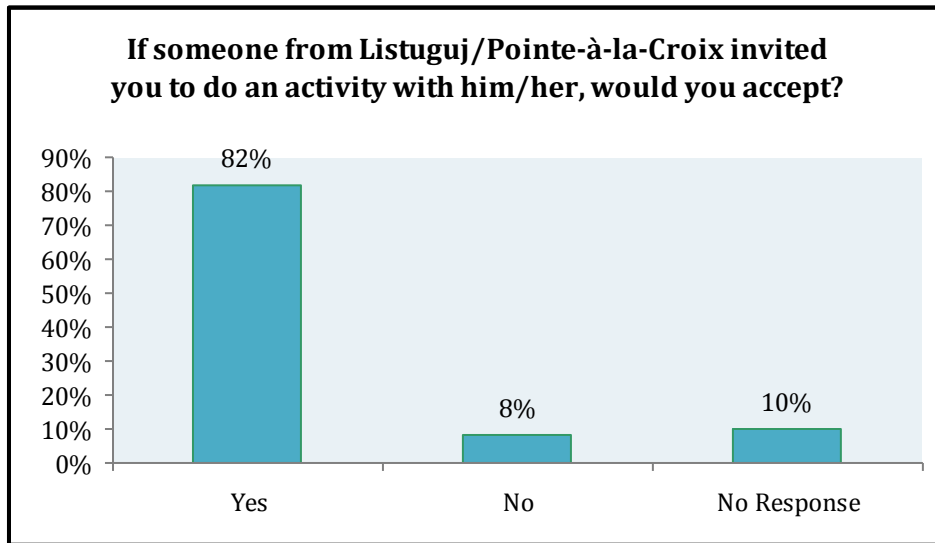
For 79 % of the respondents, it is Unacceptable or Completely Unacceptable to hear a person insult another person from the neighbouring community.

Chart 21



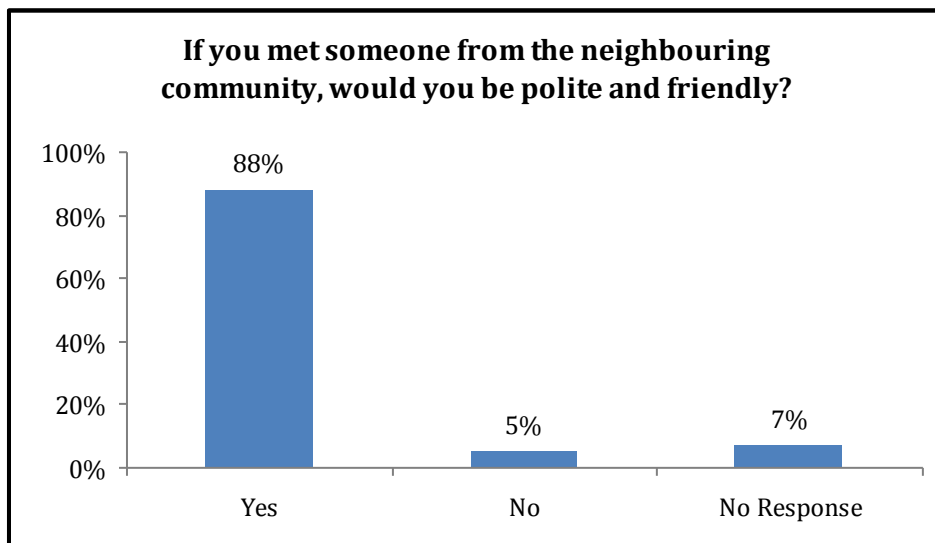
According to this question’s respondents, about 78 % found it Acceptable for their child to ask to play at a friend’s house in the neighbouring community.

Chart 22



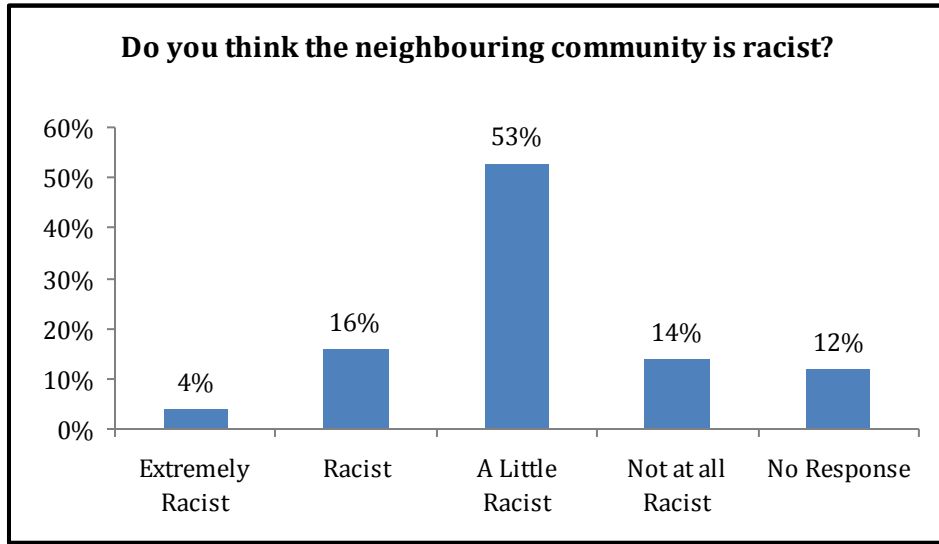
82 % of respondents would accept to do an activity with a person from the neighbouring community.

Chart 23



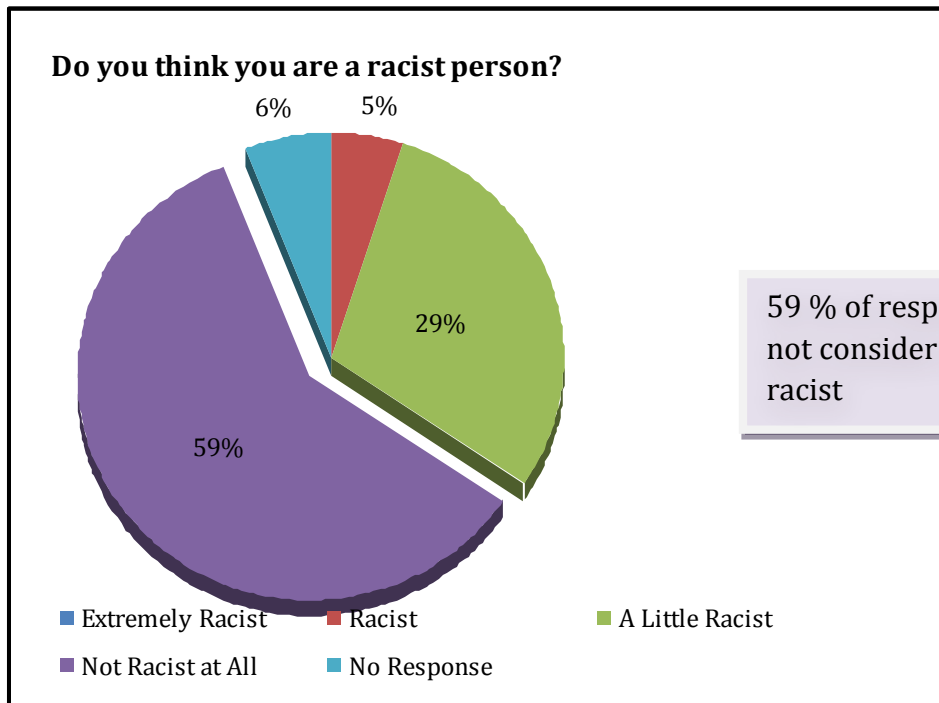
About 88 % of respondents affirm that they would be polite and friendly to a member of the neighbouring community if they met somewhere.

Chart 24



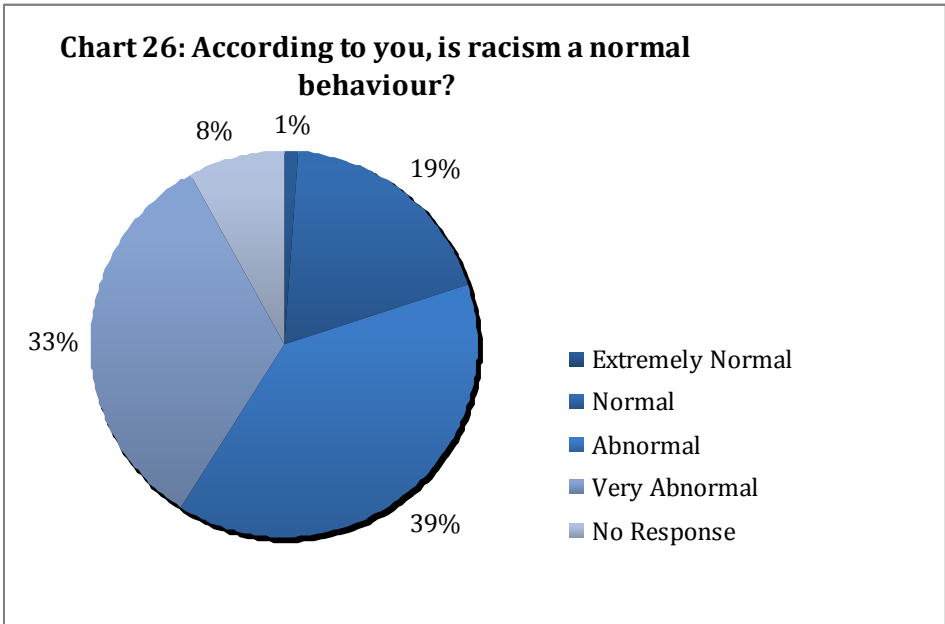
67 % of respondents consider the neighbouring community as A Little Racist or Not at all Racist.

Chart 25

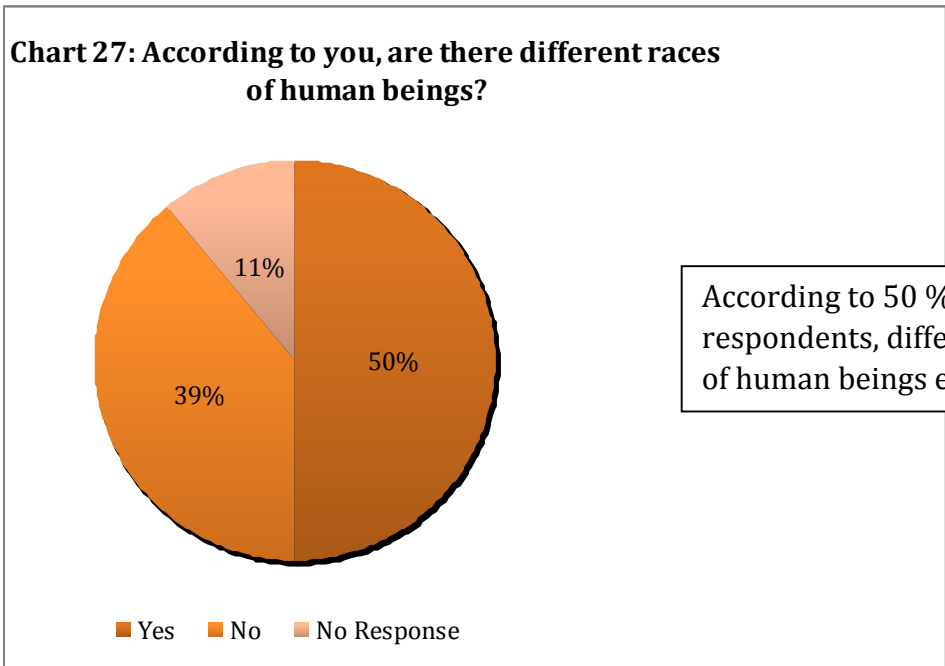


59 % of respondents do not consider themselves racist



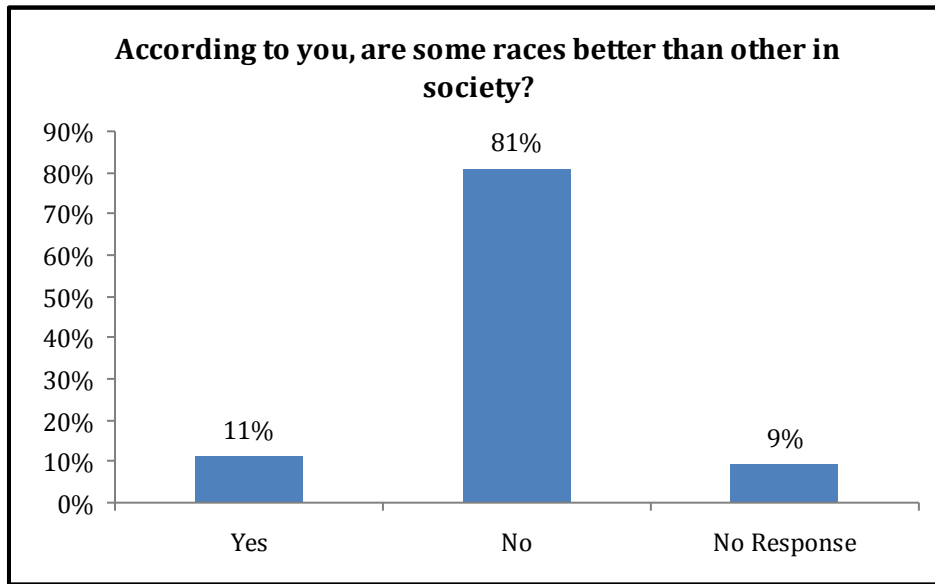


For the community members of Pointe-à-la-Croix and Listuguj, racism is Abnormal or Very Abnormal, with a percentage of 72 %



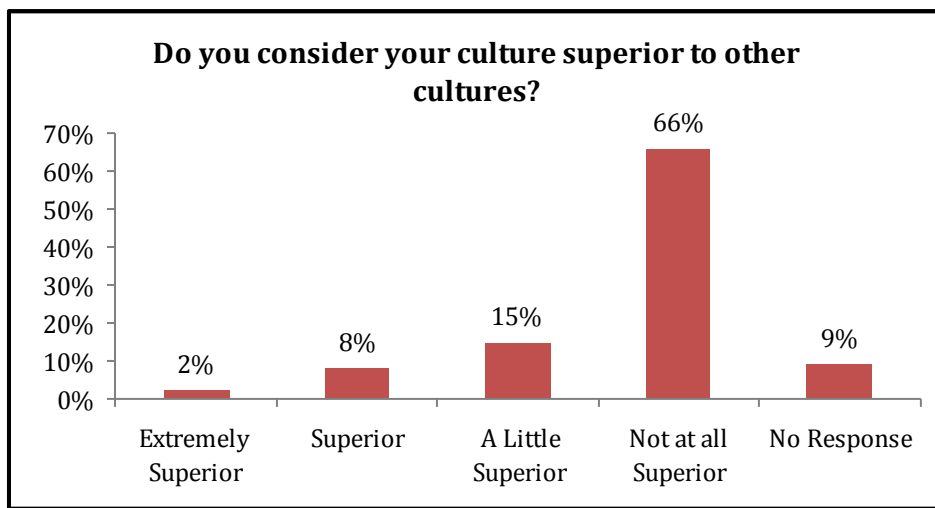
According to 50 % of respondents, different races of human beings exist.

Chart 28



81 % of respondents do not consider that there is a superior race.

Chart 29



About 66 % of respondents do not consider their culture as superior to others. However, over 25 % state that their culture is A Little Superior to Extremely Superior to other cultures.

# Summary of Results

## Presentation



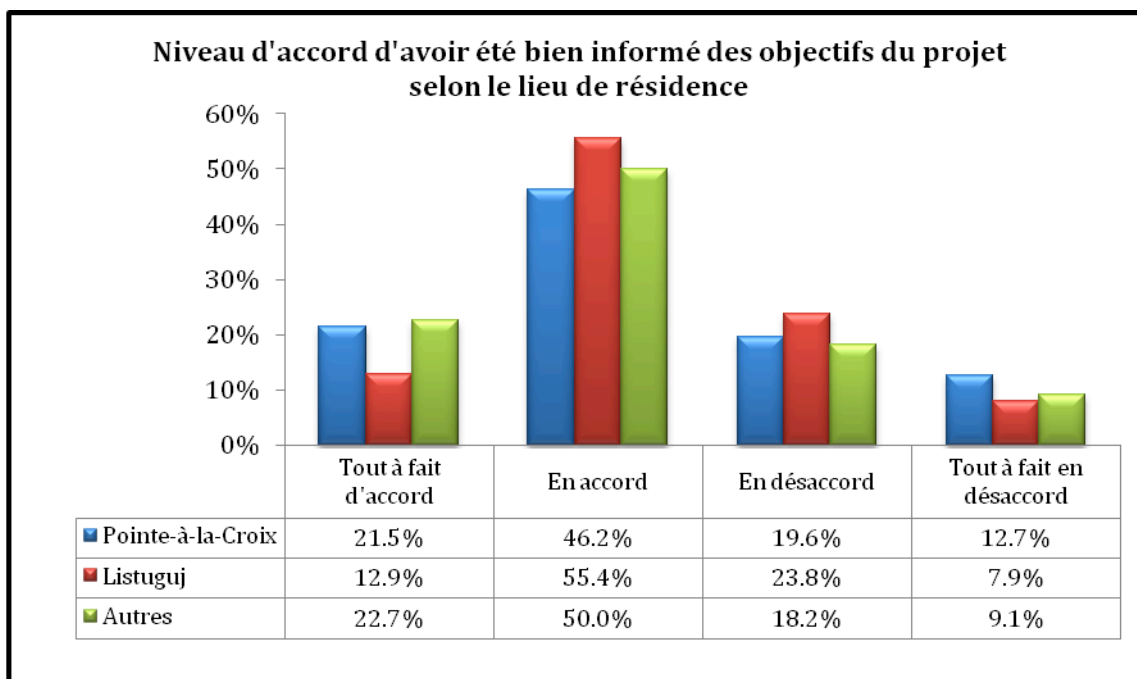
- 31 % of respondents were male and 64 % were female.
- The 50 to 60 years old age range represents 24 % of respondents, only 1 % of respondents were 15 to 20 years old.
- 48 % of questionnaires were filled out in Pointe-à-la-Croix, 29 % in Listuguj, and 20 % in other neighbouring communities.
- 85 % of respondents consider that their financial situation is Good or Very Good.
- 72 % of Pointe-à-la-Croix and Listuguj respondents have heard about the Inter-Community Harmony Project managed by their municipality or community.
- Only 34 % of respondents have participated in a Harmony Project.
- 63 % of respondents do not know a family member that has participated in a Harmony Project.
- Close to 45 % of respondents affirm that the activities brought the communities together.
- 48 % confirm that the activities allowed them to meet other people from the neighbouring community.
- 48 % of people agree that the organized activities were varied.
- Similarly, 48 % of respondents said that the Harmony Project activities were interesting.
- 44 % mentioned that the activities allowed for inter-community reconciliation.
- 72 % of respondents notice an improvement in communication between the two communities since the establishment of the Project.
- 62 % affirm that the Harmony Project has changed their attitude towards the neighbouring community for the better.
- 64 % of respondents confirm being regularly in contact people from the neighbouring community.
- 61 % of people said they were well-informed about the Harmony Project's goals.
- 66 % were satisfied with the results of the Project.
- 73 % of respondents claim to have a satisfactory relationship with members of the neighbouring community.

- Only 11 % of respondents believe that inter-community romantic relationships are unacceptable.
- 79 % of respondents find that insulting the other community is unacceptable.
- 78 % of respondents trust a member of the neighbouring community with their child(ren).
- 82 % of people would accept to do an activity with a member from the neighbouring community.
- 88 % would be polite and friendly towards people from the other community.
- 67 % of the total respondents consider the neighbouring community to be “a little racist.”
- 88 % of respondents consider themselves “a little racist” or “not racist at all.”
- 72 % consider racism to be abnormal.
- 50 % of respondents believe that there are different races in human society.
- 81 % of respondents do not consider one race superior to others.
- Almost 66 % of respondents do not consider their culture superior to any others at all.

# Analysis and Interpretation

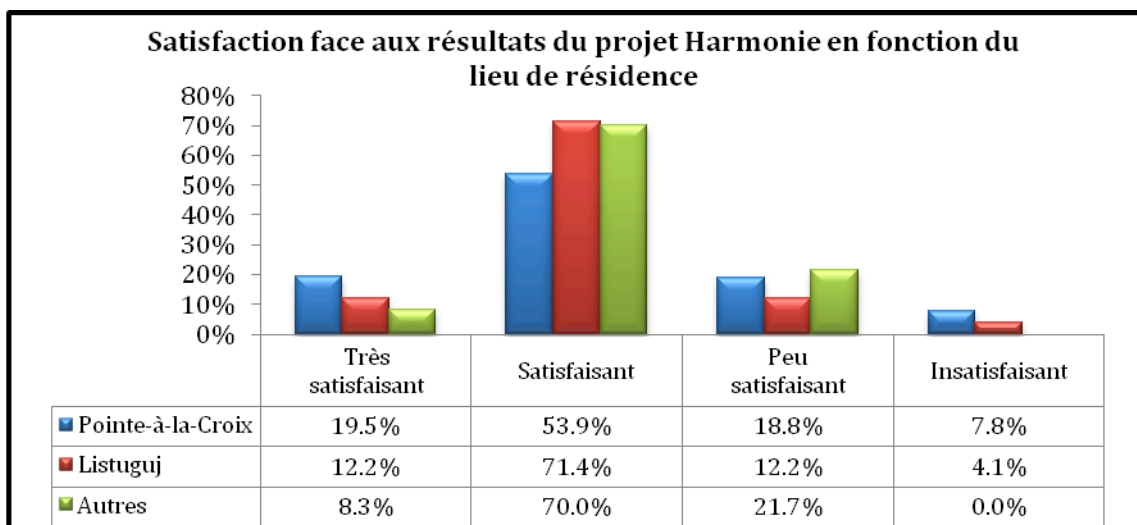
Chart

30



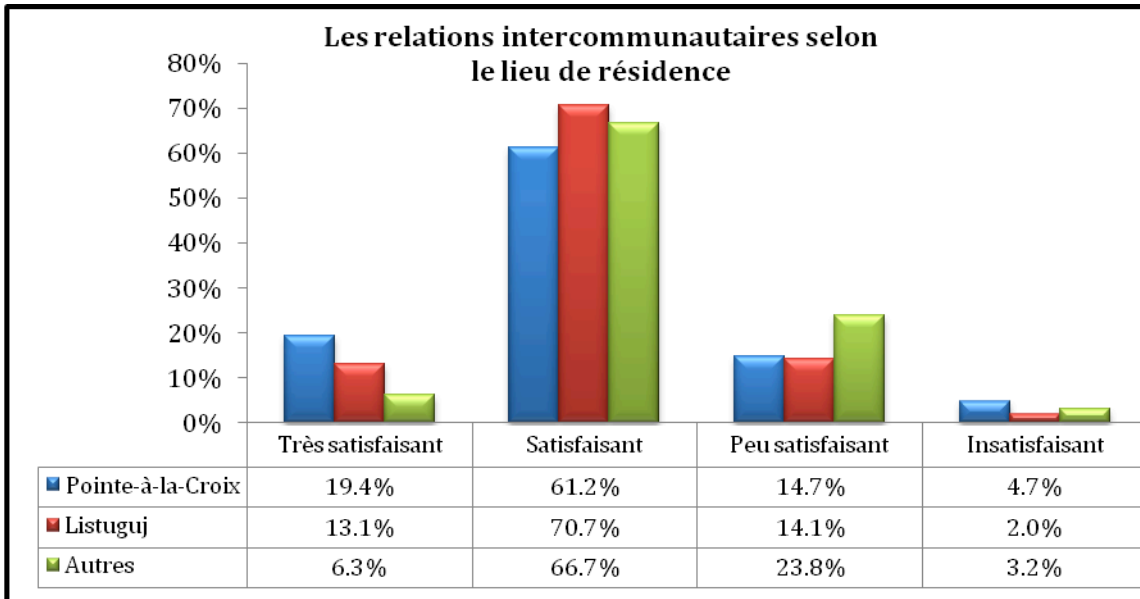
It seems the residents of Listuguj (68.3 %) and of Pointe-à-la-Croix (67.7 %) have been well-informed about the objectives of the Harmony Project.

Chart 31



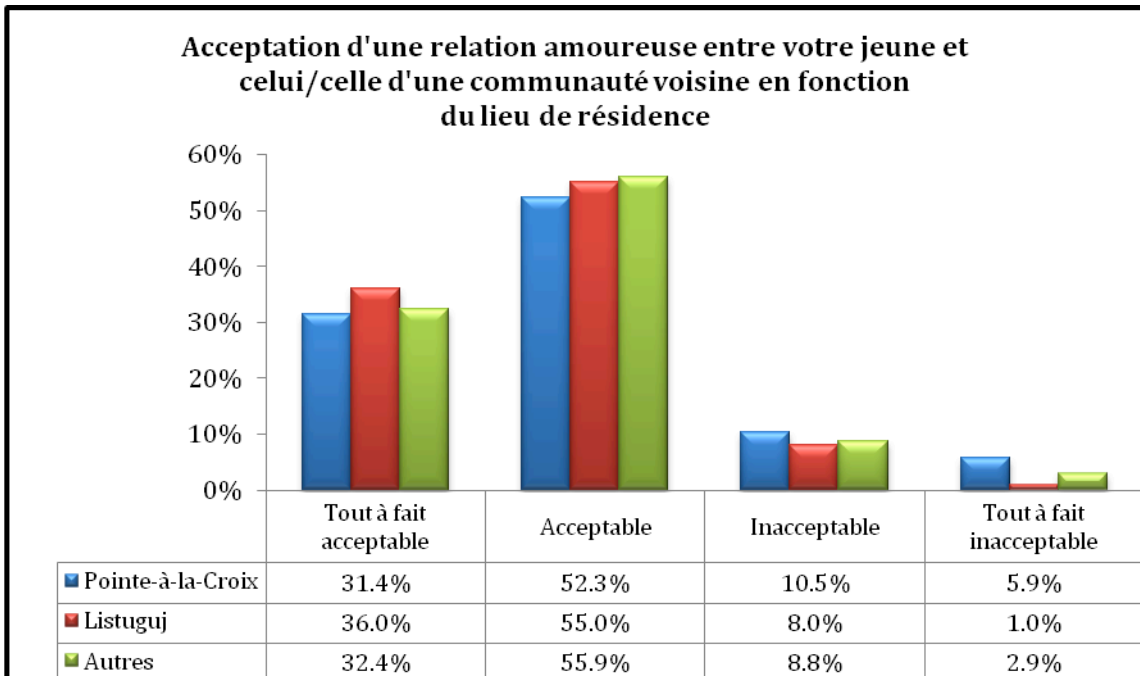
This chart illustrates that 83.6 % of Listuguj residents are Satisfied or Very Satisfied with the results obtained by the Inter-Community Harmony Project against 73.4 % of respondents from Pointe-à-la-Croix.

Chart 32



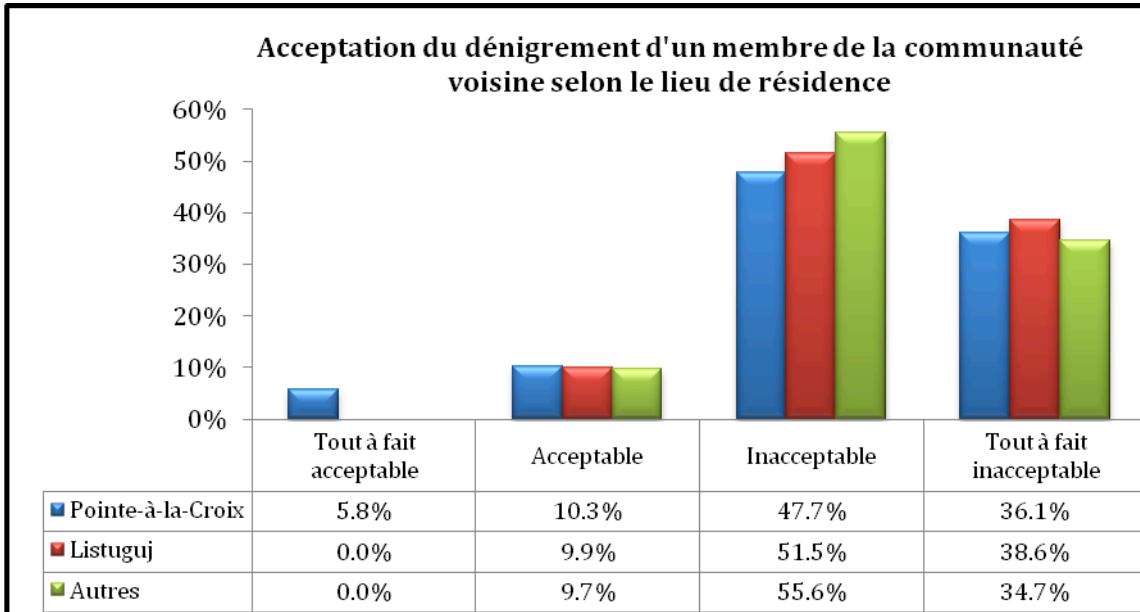
This chart demonstrates a nearly equal degree of satisfaction for the communities of Listuguj (83.8 %) and Pointe-à-la-Croix (80.6 %).

Chart 33



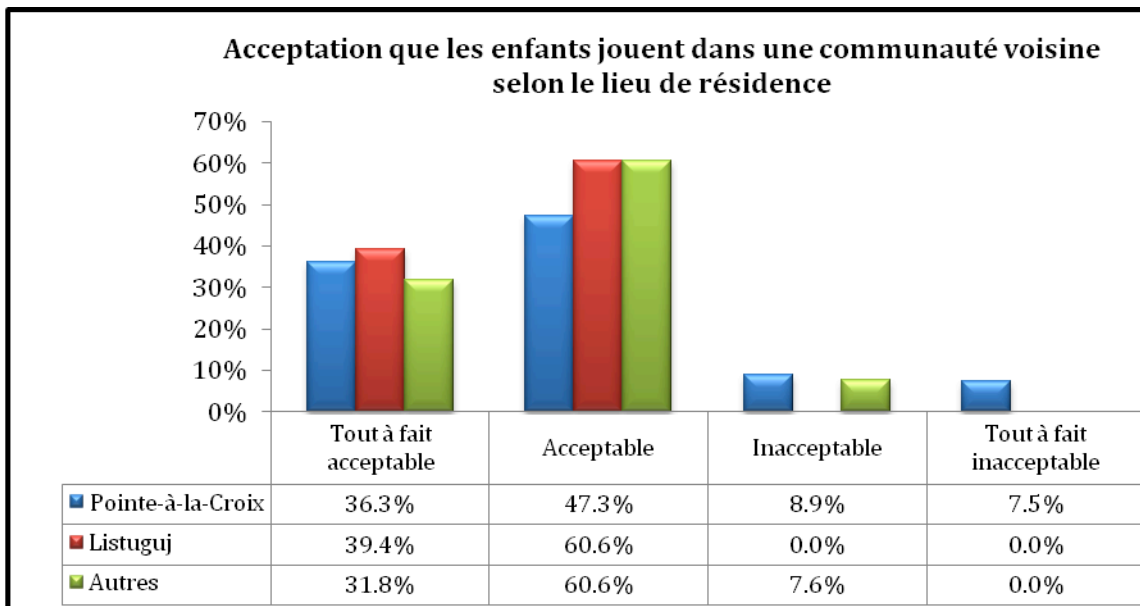
91 % of Listuguj residents find the situation acceptable while 83.7 % of Pointe-à-la-Croix respondents find it acceptable.

Chart 34



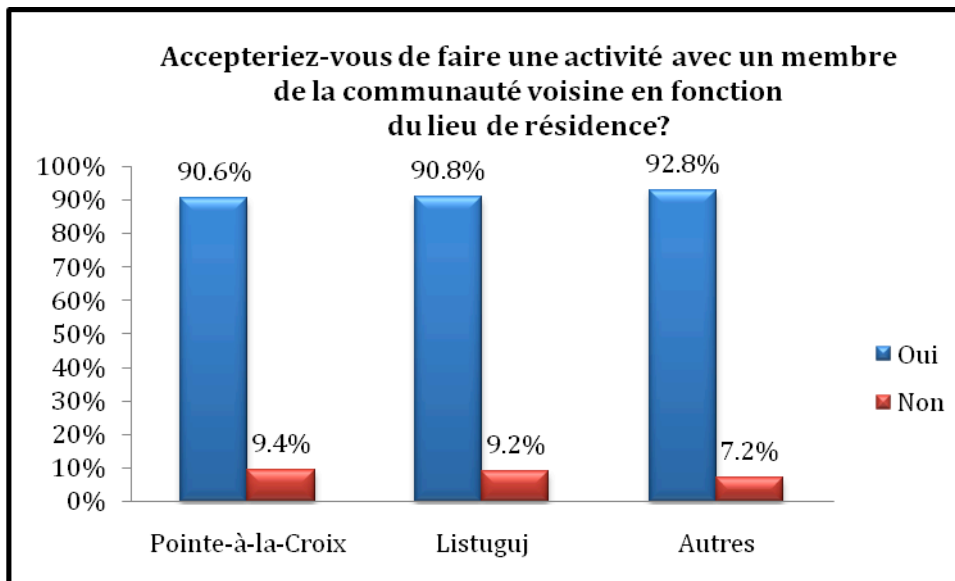
16.1 % of Pointe-à-la-Croix residents answered that it was acceptable to insult a member of the neighbouring community against 10 % for the Listuguj respondents.

Chart 35



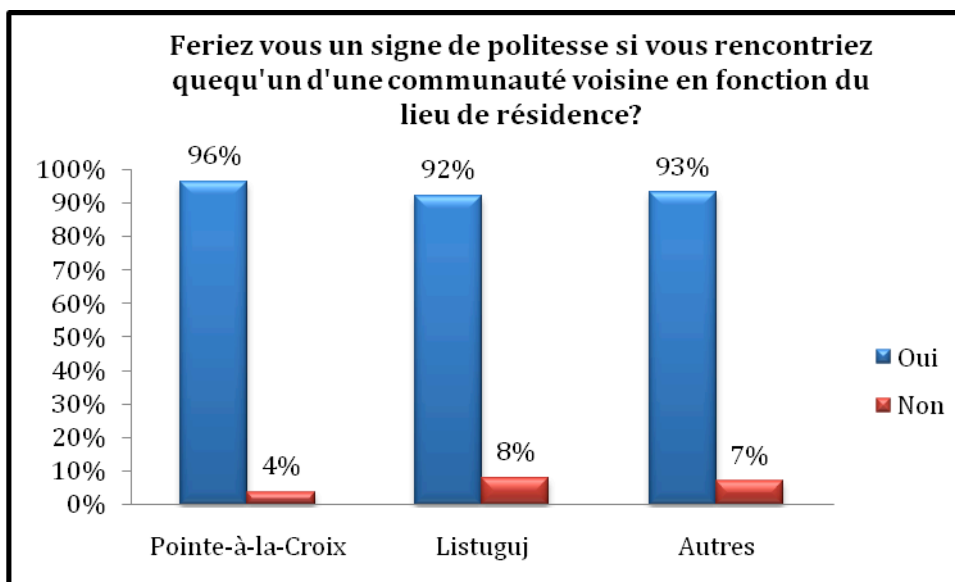
16.4 % of Pointe-à-la-Croix residents as well as 7.6 % of respondents from different communities consider this action Unacceptable, even Completely Unacceptable.

Chart 36



Over 90 % of respondents would accept to participate in an activity with a member of the neighbouring community.

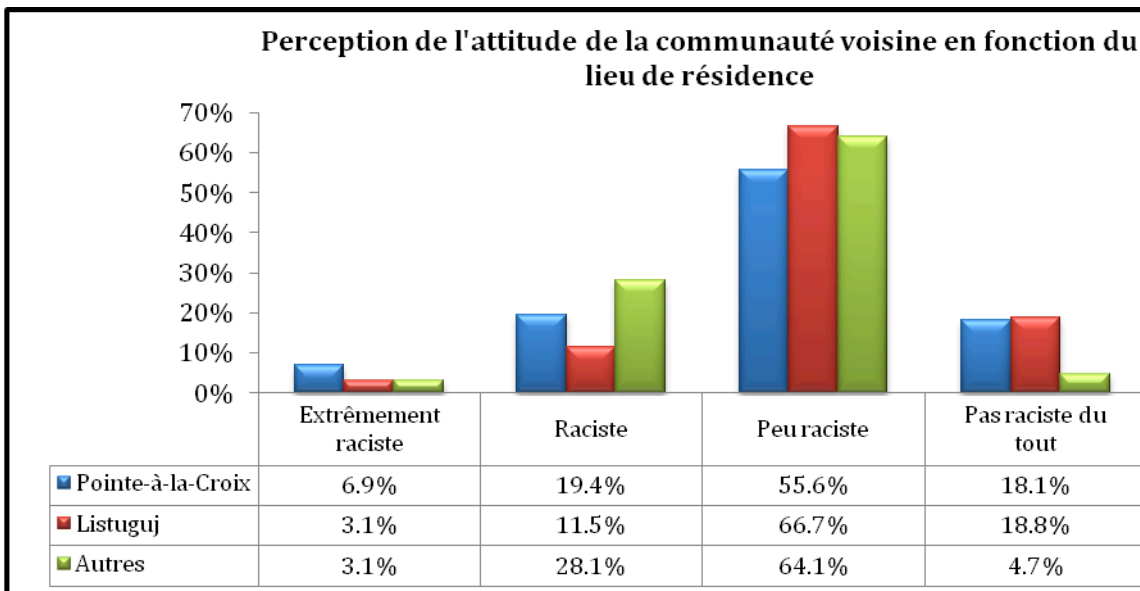
Chart 37



We can see that the three locations responded “Yes” with a high rate of positive answers. All three locations responded “Yes” with a percentage higher than 90 %.



Chart 38



Other communities (31.2 %) had more of a tendency to perceive the neighbouring communities as racist while 26 % of Pointe-à-la-Croix and 14.6 % of Listuguj members consider the neighbouring community as racist.

Chart 39

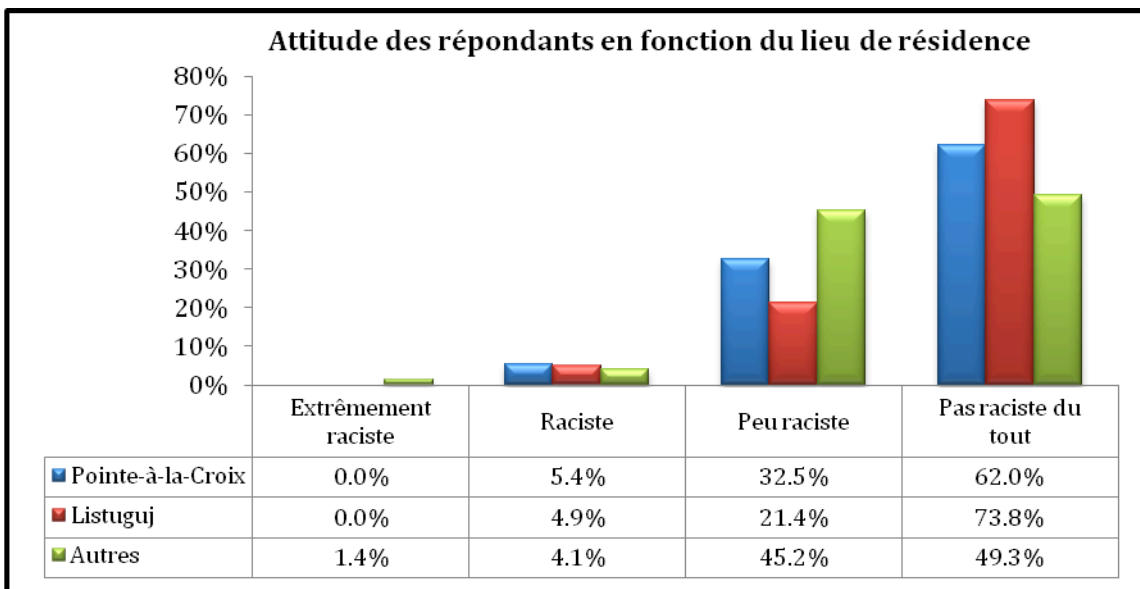
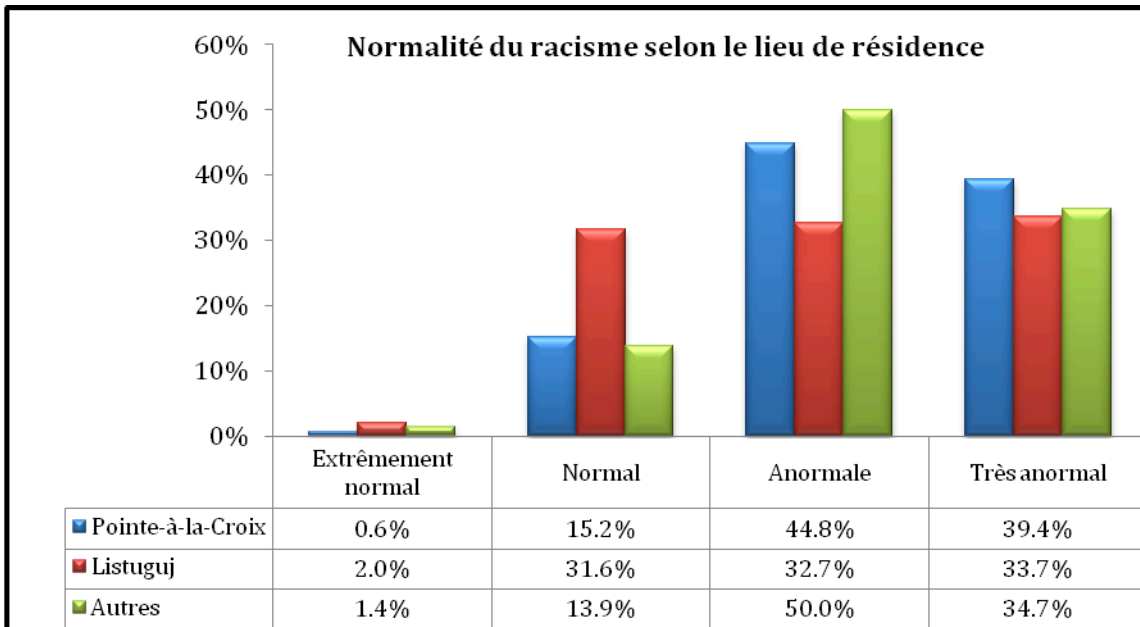


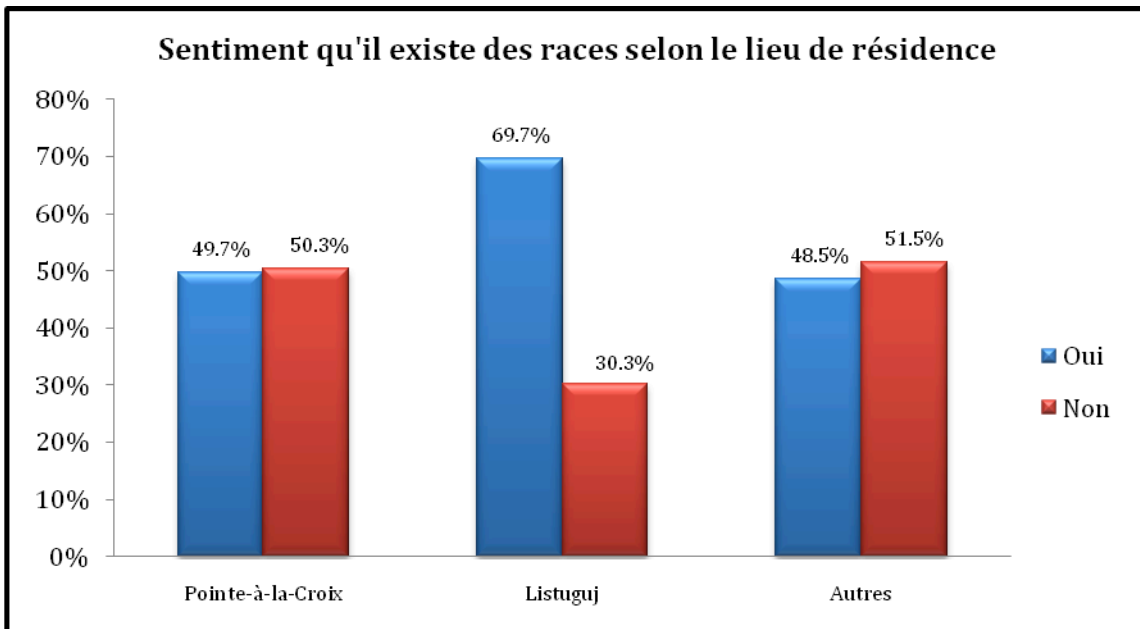
Chart 39 illustrates that 94.5 % of Pointe-à-la-Croix residents and 95.2 % of Listuguj residents consider themselves to be A Little Racist or Not at all Racist.

Chart 40



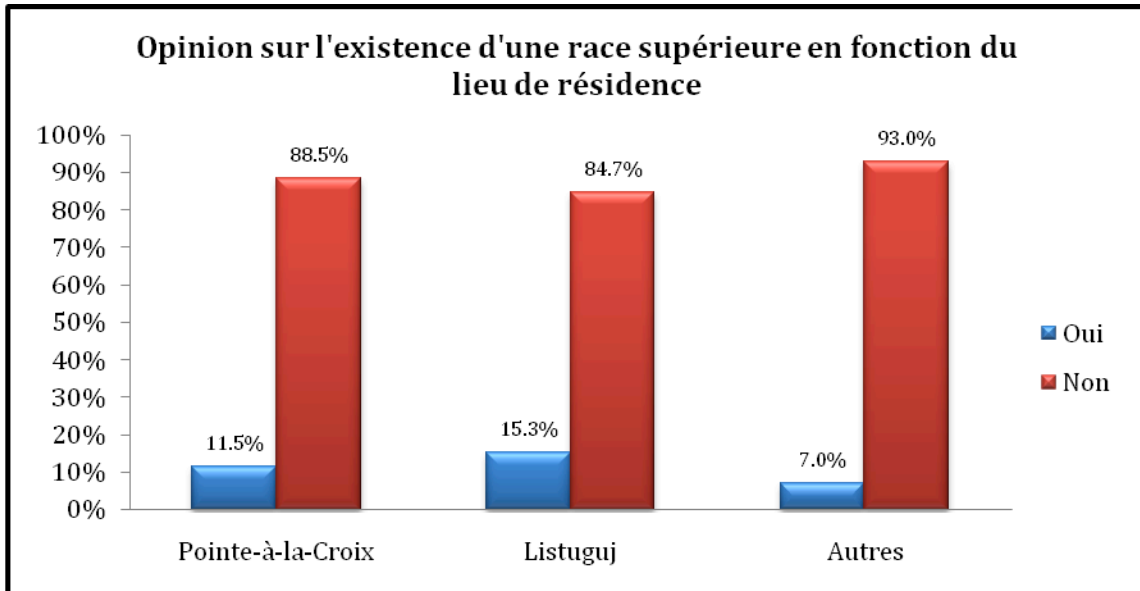
The above chart illustrates that 31.8 % of Listuguj residents affirm that racism is a Normal occurrence compared to only 15.8 % of Pointe-à-la-Croix residents.

Chart 41



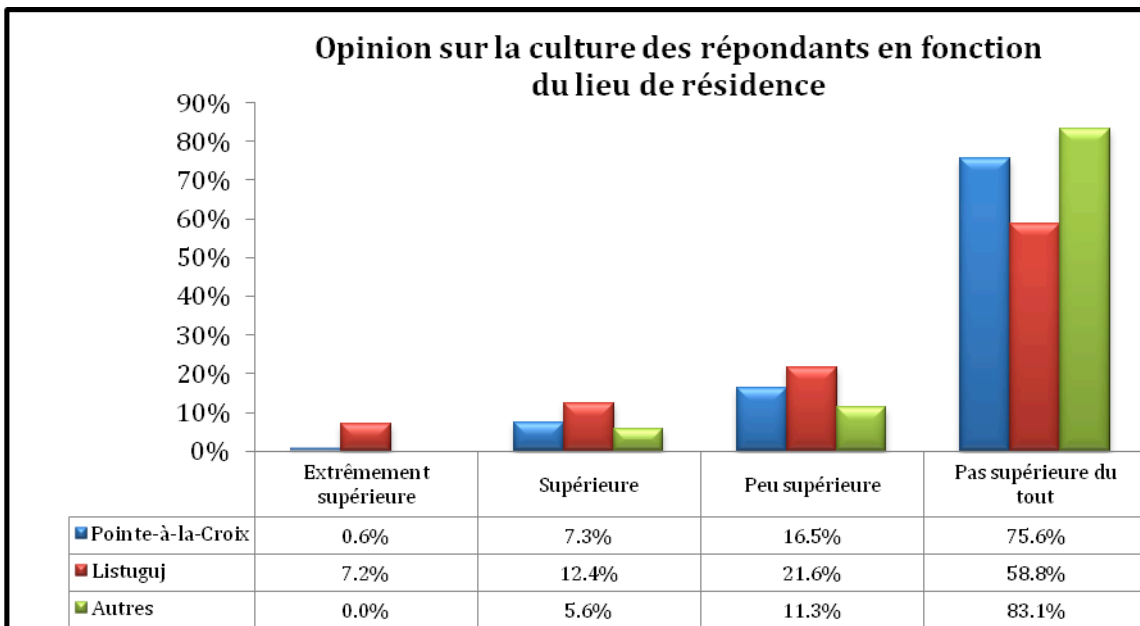
69.7 % of Listuguj respondents believe that different human races exist compared to 50 % of Pointe-à-la-Croix respondents.

Chart 42



Only 15.3 % of Listuguj residents and 11.5 % of Pointe-à-la-Croix residents believe in the existence of a superior human race.

Chart 43



19 % of Listuguj respondents consider their culture to be Superior or Extremely Superior against 7.3 % for the Pointe-à-la-Croix respondents.

# Summary of Results

## Analysis



- Listuguj residents (68.3 %) and Pointe-à-la-Croix residents (67.7 %) were equally informed about the goals of the Harmony Project.
- 83.6 % of Listuguj respondents were satisfied, even very satisfied with the results brought about the Inter-Community Harmony Project.
- There is a similar degree of satisfaction for both communities: Listuguj (83.8 %) and Pointe-à-la-Croix (80.6 %).
- 16.4 % of Pointe-à-la-Croix residents would not approve of their children having romantic relationships with someone from the neighbouring community while 91 % of Listuguj respondents found this situation acceptable.
- 6 % of Pointe-à-la-Croix residents consider it to be completely acceptable to insult a member of the neighbouring community.
- Only 16.4 % of Pointe-à-la-Croix residents compared to 7.6 % of respondents coming from another community find it unacceptable to let their children play with other youth from the neighbouring community.
- It is noted that close to 90 % of the people surveyed would voluntarily accept to participate in an activity with a member of the neighbouring community.
- All three communities have responded “Yes” (over 90 %) concerning the importance of being friendly and polite towards a member of the neighbouring community.
- The other communities (31.2 %) have more of a tendency to view the neighbouring communities as racist.
- The community of Listuguj appears to be the least prejudiced with only 14.6 % of its members that consider others as racist.
- 94.5 % of Pointe-à-la-Croix residents and 95.2 % of Listuguj residents consider themselves to be a little racist, or not racist at all in majority.
- 31.8 % of Listuguj respondents state that racism is a normal behaviour and 69.7 % of these same respondents believe in the existence of different races of human beings

# Conclusion

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In light of the survey results collected, it can be said that, after several years, the Inter-Community Harmony Project seems to have positive results. Firstly, close to 75 % of questionnaire respondents have heard about the Harmony Project. More than half of the respondents that participated in some activities related to the Project found these to be varied and interesting. Furthermore, the activities allowed for closer ties between the communities as well as promoting the meeting of new people. On average, 65 % of respondents assert that there is a better communication, a more positive relationship as well as more contact between the members of both communities, since the implementation of the Inter-Community Harmony Project. Even though about half of the respondents mention the existence of different human races, over 80 % assert that there is no race that is superior to others. Finally, over 65 % of respondents conclude that the results of the Project were satisfactory and that inter-community relations are just as agreeable.

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