My perception of New Brunswick has not changed. I think it would have if we had gotten a chance to be a part of some community service activities, which because of COVID-19, were postponed. I have always thought of New Brunswick as a safe and diverse place to live in. Before moving here for Rutgers, the place I lived at was not very diverse, but here in New Brunswick I see all kinds of people. People had told me in past before moving here that it is not safe to go out if one is living in New Brunswick because of their past experiences of robbery or theft. Personally, I have never had a bad experience as I tend to go out with friends and family quite often, even at late night.

The whole purpose of this course to learn more about the community we live in and maybe provide our assistance for the betterment of it. But because of the adverse conditions we are in, students are not able to assist the community. The first day of class, we learned about the New Brunswick community and its history along with the potential future of it. I learned a lot of things as I have not always lived here. It is so amazing that for a really long time this community has consisted different people of different ethnicity so peacefully.

Rutgers is one of the main things that make New Brunswick special, according to me. People from all around the state move to New Brunswick to study at Rutgers. This is a potential reason for the diversity of this town. Not only that, as mentioned in the question, Rutgers in New Brunswick is a double-edged sword. On one side, it brings all the good and positive things to the society and the community of New Brunswick but studying and finishing a comprehensive coursework at Rutgers is not easy and could get the best of one. I, personally, have felt that getting all setup here at Rutgers is not that easy. Finding new people to work with, learning about the campuses and bus schedules, and getting used to the big classes is not easy. From a student’s perspective it might be difficult to get along with everything but once all set up, it is a smooth ride. Hence, Rutgers in New Brunswick is a double-edged sword.

I think the main challenge in a community is people’s active participation. In a growing community, this requirement is very important and often not met. Not only that, an active participation requires the motivation of making a change in the community, and a lack of that, could really bring a community down. A community requires proper leadership as well and not having a dedicated team with a proper leader can really be challenging. Out of all challenges, I think the main challenge is consistency. Keeping up the good work is something I think is often missing and is very important. This can be improved by knowing members beyond online channels and having everyone participate consistently. The community might be facing a lot of challenges, but at the end of the day, it all comes down to who is willing to make a change and want to be the reason for the betterment of the community.