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GOVERNMENT SATISFACTION DECLINES

HALIFAX: Satisfaction with the government decreased, according to the most recent survey conducted by **Corporate Research Associates Inc.** Presently, just under one-half of Nova Scotia residents are satisfied with the overall performance of the Dexter government (48%, down from 55% in November 2011). Four in ten are dissatisfied (42%, up from 36%), while 10 percent (compared with 9%) do not offer a definite opinion.

In terms of voting intentions, support for the governing NDP is stable, with 44 percent of decided voters backing the NDP (compared with 45%). Support for the Liberal Party increased (27%, up from 22%), while support for the PC Party declined slightly (25%, down from 29%). Three percent prefer the Green Party (compared with 4%). Over four in ten are undecided, do not plan to vote, or did not offer a response (44%, compared with 40%).

Premier Darrell Dexter's personal popularity decreased this quarter, with three in ten preferring Dexter for Premier (29%, down from 36%). Support for Stephen McNeil of the Liberal Party is stable (21%, compared with 22%), while support for Jamie Baillie of the PC Party increased slightly (22%, up from 18%). Preference for John Percy of the Green Party is stable at three percent (compared with 5%), while preference for Jonathan Dean of the Atlantica Party remains unchanged at one percent. Just under two in ten Nova Scotians (17%, compared with 14%) are undecided in terms of leader preference, while the remainder prefer none of these leaders (7%, compared with 5%).

These results are part of the **CRA Atlantic Quarterly**[®], an independent, quarterly survey of Atlantic Canadians, and are based on a sample of 806 adult Nova Scotians, conducted from February 8 to February 26, 2012, with overall results accurate to within ± 3.4 percentage points, 95 out of 100 times.

For more information, please contact:

Margaret Brigley, Executive Vice President at (902) 493-3830.

CRA Atlantic Quarterly® – Winter 2012
Nova Scotia Political Results

Sample: 806 Nova Scotians (18 years plus)
 Interview Dates: February 8 to February 26, 2012
 Overall Margin of Sampling Error: ± 3.4 percentage points (95% confidence level)

<i>How satisfied are you with the overall performance of the provincial government led by Premier Darrell Dexter?</i>					
	February 2011	May 2011	August 2011	November 2011	February 2012
Completely satisfied	2%	1%	3%	5%	3%
Mostly satisfied	42%	46%	46%	50%	45%
Mostly dissatisfied	32%	28%	28%	23%	30%
Completely dissatisfied	13%	11%	11%	13%	12%
Don't know/No answer/Neither	11%	13%	11%	9%	10%

<i>If a provincial election were held today in Nova Scotia, for which party would you vote?</i>					
Party	February 2011	May 2011	August 2011	November 2011	February 2012
NDP	34%	42%	41%	45%	44%
Liberal Party	35%	22%	26%	22%	27%
PC Party	26%	31%	30%	29%	25%
Green Party	4%	4%	4%	4%	3%
Atlantica Party	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
TOTAL DECIDED VOTE	99%	100%	101%	100%	99%
Undecided/Don't know/No answer/ Do not plan to vote/Refused	45%	41%	40%	40%	44%

<i>Which one of the following individuals would you most prefer as Premier of Nova Scotia?</i>					
Leader	February 2011	May 2011	August 2011	November 2011	February 2012
Darrell Dexter of the NDP	23%	28%	31%	36%	29%
Stephen McNeil of the Liberal Party	26%	20%	23%	22%	21%
Jamie Baillie of the PC Party	13%	21%	17%	18%	22%
John Percy of the Green Party	2%	3%	5%	5%	3%
Jonathan Dean of the Atlantica Party	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%
None	8%	5%	6%	5%	7%
Don't know/No answer	27%	17%	18%	14%	17%

