

MEDIA RELEASE: June 7, 2012

For Immediate Release

Sharp Decline in Satisfaction with PEI Government

HALIFAX: Satisfaction with the ruling provincial Liberal Party in Prince Edward Island decreased significantly this quarter, according to the most recent survey conducted by **Corporate Research Associates Inc.** Presently, just over four in ten (42%, down from 63% in February 2012) residents are satisfied with the provincial government, while over one-half express dissatisfaction (54%, up from 33%). Four percent (unchanged) do not offer a definite opinion at this time. The decline in satisfaction with government corresponds with a sharp decline in consumer confidence on the Island in the last quarter.

In terms of voting intentions, just under one-half of decided voters back the Liberal Party (47%, compared with 50% three months ago), while one-quarter support the Progressive Conservative Party (26%, down from 33%). Meanwhile, support for the NDP increased (18%, up from 11%), as did support for the Green Party (8%, compared with 5%). The number of Islanders who are undecided or refuse to state an opinion stands at 36 percent.

Liberal leader Robert Ghiz's personal popularity declined again this quarter. Presently, over one-third (35%, down from 41% three months ago) of residents prefer Ghiz for Premier, while Olive Crane, leader of the PC Party, has the backing of two in ten Islanders (22%, down from 26%). Support for James Rodd of the NDP increased (12%, up from 6%), while five percent favour Sharon Labchuk of the Green Party (unchanged). Meanwhile, one percent prefer Billy Cann, the leader of the Island Party of PEI (unchanged). Over one in ten (13%, up from 7%) prefer none of these leaders, while 13 percent (compared with 14%) are undecided or do not offer a response at this time.

These results are part of the **CRA Atlantic Quarterly**[®], an independent survey of Atlantic Canadians, and are based on a sample of 300 adult Prince Edward Islanders, conducted from May 10 to June 4, 2012, with overall results accurate to within ± 5.7 percentage points, 95 out of 100 times.

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CRA Atlantic Quarterly® – Spring 2012

Prince Edward Island Political Results

Sample: 300 Prince Edward Islanders (18 years plus)

Interview Dates: May 10 to June 4, 2012

Overall Margin of Sampling Error: ± 5.7 percentage points (95% confidence level)

<i>How satisfied are you with the overall performance of the provincial government led by Premier Robert Ghiz?</i>					
	May 2011	August 2011	November 2011	February 2012	May 2012
Completely satisfied	6%	6%	8%	4%	2%
Mostly satisfied	63%	57%	51%	59%	40%
Mostly dissatisfied	19%	21%	28%	23%	32%
Completely dissatisfied	6%	7%	9%	10%	22%
Don't know/No answer/Neither	5%	8%	5%	5%	4%

<i>If an election were held today on Prince Edward Island, for which party would you vote?</i>					
Party	May 2011	August 2011	November 2011	February 2012	May 2012
Liberal Party	51%	59%	53%	50%	47%
Progressive Conservative Party	35%	31%	34%	33%	26%
New Democratic Party	13%	7%	9%	11%	18%
Green Party	2%	3%	4%	5%	8%
Island Party of PEI	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Other	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
TOTAL DECIDED VOTE	101%	100%	100%	99%	101%
None/Do not plan to vote/Refused to state/Don't know/Undecided	40%	41%	26%	36%	36%

<i>Which one of the following individuals would you most prefer as Premier of Prince Edward Island?</i>					
Leader	May 2011	August 2011	November 2011	February 2012	May 2012
Robert Ghiz of the Liberal Party	48%	46%	50%	41%	35%
Olive Crane of the PCs	19%	22%	22%	26%	22%
James Rodd* of the New Democratic Party	5%	3%	4%	6%	12%
Sharon Labchuk of the Green Party	1%	2%	3%	5%	5%
Billy Cann of the Island Party of PEI	0%	2%	0%	1%	1%
None of the above/Other	6%	5%	11%	7%	13%
Don't know/No answer	21%	20%	11%	14%	13%

* James Rodd announced his resignation in February 2012. CRA will continue to include his name in polling until he leaves office later in 2012.