



MEDIA RELEASE: September 6, 2012

For Immediate Release

Provincial Liberals Move Ahead of NDP in Voter Support

HALIFAX: For the first time since 2006, a party other than the NDP has the lead in voter intentions in Nova Scotia, according to the most recent survey conducted by **Corporate Research Associates Inc.** Support for the governing NDP among decided voters stands at 31 percent (compared with 35% three months ago). Meanwhile, support for the Liberal Party increased (41%, up from 33%), while backing of the PC Party stands at 22 percent (compared with 28%). Five 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%, up from 36%).

Consistent with the previous quarter, more than one-half of Nova Scotians are dissatisfied with the performance of the NDP Government. This high level of dissatisfaction has negatively impacted support for the NDP. Presently, just under four in ten Nova Scotia residents are satisfied with the overall performance of the Dexter government (37%, compared with 41% in May 2012 and 48% in February 2012). Just over one-half are dissatisfied (54%, compared to 52%), while nine percent (compared with 8%) do not offer a definite opinion.

Premier Darrell Dexter's personal popularity is unchanged from three months ago, with just under one-quarter preferring Dexter for Premier (23%, unchanged). Support for Stephen McNeil of the Liberal Party increased (35%, up from 27%), while just under two in ten back Jamie Baillie of the PC Party (17%, compared with 21%). Preference for John Percy of the Green Party stands at three percent (compared with 5%). Under two in ten Nova Scotians (16%, compared with 14%) are undecided in terms of leader preference, while others prefer none of these leaders (7%, compared with 9%).

These results are part of the **CRA Atlantic Quarterly**[®], an independent, quarterly survey of Atlantic Canadians, and are based on a sample of 800 adult Nova Scotians, conducted from August 9 to Sept 2, 2012, with overall results accurate to within ± 3.5 percentage points, 95 out of 100 times.

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CRA Atlantic Quarterly® – Summer 2012
Nova Scotia Political Results

Sample: 800 Nova Scotians (18 years plus)

Interview Dates: August 9 to Sept 2, 2012

Overall Margin of Sampling Error: ± 3.5 percentage points (95% confidence level)

<i>How satisfied are you with the overall performance of the provincial government led by Premier Darrell Dexter?</i>					
	August 2011	November 2011	February 2012	May 2012	August 2012
Completely satisfied	3%	5%	3%	2%	2%
Mostly satisfied	46%	50%	45%	39%	35%
Mostly dissatisfied	28%	23%	30%	33%	32%
Completely dissatisfied	11%	13%	12%	19%	22%
Don't know/No answer/Neither	11%	9%	10%	8%	9%

<i>If a provincial election were held today in Nova Scotia, for which party would you vote?</i>					
Party	August 2011	November 2011	February 2012	May 2012	August 2012
NDP	41%	45%	44%	35%	31%
Liberal Party	26%	22%	27%	33%	41%
PC Party	30%	29%	25%	28%	22%
Green Party	4%	4%	3%	4%	5%
Atlantica Party*	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
TOTAL DECIDED VOTE	101%	100%	99%	101%	99%
Undecided/Don't know/No answer/ Do not plan to vote/Refused	40%	40%	44%	36%	44%

<i>Which one of the following individuals would you most prefer as Premier of Nova Scotia?</i>					
Leader	August 2011	November 2011	February 2012	May 2012	August 2012
Darrell Dexter of the NDP (Elected June, 2009)	31%	36%	29%	23%	23%
Stephen McNeil of the Liberal Party	23%	22%	21%	27%	35%
Jamie Baillie of the PC Party	17%	18%	22%	21%	17%
John Percy of the Green Party	5%	5%	3%	5%	3%
Jonathan Dean of the Atlantica Party*	0%	1%	1%	1%	-
None	6%	5%	7%	9%	7%
Don't know/No answer	18%	14%	17%	14%	16%

*The Atlantica Party was deregistered as of June 5, 2012