

**MEDIA RELEASE: September 6, 2012**

**For Immediate Release**

## **Support for Liberal Government Continues to Decline**

**HALIFAX:** Consistent with the previous quarter, the majority of Islanders continue to be dissatisfied with the performance of the Ghiz Government, according to the most recent survey conducted by **Corporate Research Associates Inc.** Presently, four in ten (40%, compared with 42% in May 2012) residents are satisfied with the provincial government, while over one-half express dissatisfaction (53%, compared with 54%). Seven percent (compared with 4%) do not offer a definite opinion at this time.

In terms of voting intentions, just over four in ten decided voters back the Liberal Party (42%, compared with 47% three months ago), while one-third support the Progressive Conservative Party (32%, compared with 26%). This continues a year long decline in support for the Liberals. Meanwhile, support for the NDP is unchanged at 18 percent, as is backing for the Green Party (8%, unchanged). The Island Party of PEI is supported by less than one percent of residents. The number of Islanders who are undecided or refuse to state an opinion stands at 35 percent (compared with 36%).

Liberal leader Robert Ghiz's personal popularity is stable this quarter. Presently, one-third (33%, compared with 35% three months ago) of residents prefer Ghiz for Premier, while Olive Crane, leader of the PC Party, has the backing of one-quarter of Islanders (24%, compared with 22%). Support for the next leader of the NDP stands at 11 percent (compared with 12%), while five percent favour interim leader Darcie Lanthier of the Green Party (unchanged). Meanwhile, one percent prefer the next leader of the Island Party of PEI (unchanged). Less than one in ten (8%, compared with 13%) prefer none of these leaders, while 19 percent (compared with 13%) are undecided or do not offer a response at this time.

These results are part of the **CRA Atlantic Quarterly**<sup>®</sup>, an independent survey of Atlantic Canadians, and are based on a sample of 300 adult Prince Edward Islanders, conducted from August 10 to August 31, 2012, with overall results accurate to within  $\pm 5.7$  percentage points, 95 out of 100 times.

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## CRA Atlantic Quarterly® – Summer 2012

### Prince Edward Island Political Results

Sample: 300 Prince Edward Islanders (18 years plus)

Interview Dates: August 10 to August 31, 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>					
	<b>August 2011</b>	<b>November 2011</b>	<b>February 2012</b>	<b>May 2012</b>	<b>August 2012</b>
Completely satisfied	6%	8%	4%	2%	<b>3%</b>
Mostly satisfied	57%	51%	59%	40%	<b>37%</b>
Mostly dissatisfied	21%	28%	23%	32%	<b>32%</b>
Completely dissatisfied	7%	9%	10%	22%	<b>21%</b>
Don't know/No answer/Neither	8%	5%	5%	4%	<b>7%</b>

<i>If an election were held today on Prince Edward Island, for which party would you vote?</i>					
<b>Party</b>	<b>August 2011</b>	<b>November 2011</b>	<b>February 2012</b>	<b>May 2012</b>	<b>August 2012</b>
Liberal Party	59%	53%	50%	47%	<b>42%</b>
Progressive Conservative Party	31%	34%	33%	26%	<b>32%</b>
New Democratic Party	7%	9%	11%	18%	<b>18%</b>
Green Party	3%	4%	5%	8%	<b>8%</b>
Island Party of PEI	0%	0%	0%	1%	<b>0%</b>
Other	0%	0%	0%	1%	<b>0%</b>
<b>TOTAL DECIDED VOTE</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>100%</b>
None/Do not plan to vote/Refused to state/Don't know/Undecided	41%	26%	36%	36%	<b>35%</b>

<i>Which one of the following individuals would you most prefer as Premier of Prince Edward Island?</i>					
<b>Leader</b>	<b>August 2011</b>	<b>November 2011</b>	<b>February 2012</b>	<b>May 2012</b>	<b>August 2012</b>
Robert Ghiz of the Liberal Party (June 2007)	46%	50%	41%	35%	<b>33%</b>
Olive Crane of the PCs	22%	22%	26%	22%	<b>24%</b>
James Rodd/The next leader of the New Democratic Party	3%	4%	6%	12%	<b>11%</b>
Sharon Labchuk/Interim leader Darcie Lanthier of the Green Party	2%	3%	5%	5%	<b>5%</b>
Billy Cann/The next leader of the Island Party of PEI	2%	0%	1%	1%	<b>1%</b>
None of the above/Other	5%	11%	7%	13%	<b>8%</b>
Don't know/No answer	20%	11%	14%	13%	<b>19%</b>