



**MEDIA RELEASE: March 6, 2013**

**For Immediate Release**

## **NS Liberals Maintain Lead over NDP Although Margin Declines**

**HALIFAX:** The Provincial Liberals are again ahead of the NDP in terms of voter support this quarter, according to the most recent survey conducted by **Corporate Research Associates Inc.** Support for the Liberal Party is stable this quarter (39%, compared with 41% three months ago), as is support of the NDP (32%, compared with 29%). Support among decided voters for the PC Party is also stable at 24 percent (compared with 27% three months ago). Five percent prefer the Green Party (compared with 3%). Just under one-half are undecided, do not plan to vote, or do not offer a response (48%, compared with 42%).

Government satisfaction is also stable. Presently, four in ten Nova Scotia residents are satisfied with the overall performance of the Dexter government (40%, compared with 42% in November 2012). One-half of Nova Scotians are dissatisfied with the performance of the NDP Government (51%, compared with 50%), while 10 percent (compared with 7%) do not offer a definite opinion.

Premier Darrell Dexter's personal popularity declined, now resting at 21 percent (down from 26% three months ago). Support for Stephen McNeil of the Liberal Party also declined (26%, down from 33%), while two in ten back Jamie Baillie of the PC Party (20%, compared with 17%). Preference for John Percy of the Green Party stands at four percent (compared with 3%). Over two in ten Nova Scotians (23%, up from 17%) are undecided in terms of leader preference, while six percent prefer none of these leaders (compared with 4%).

These results are part of the **CRA Atlantic Quarterly**<sup>®</sup>, an independent, quarterly survey of Atlantic Canadians, and are based on a sample of 801 adult Nova Scotians, conducted from February 7 to March 3, 2013, with overall results accurate to within  $\pm 3.5$  percentage points, 95 out of 100 times.

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**CRA Atlantic Quarterly® – Winter 2013**  
**Nova Scotia Political Results**

Sample: 801 Nova Scotians (18 years plus)  
Interview Dates: February 7 to March 3, 2013  
Overall Margin of Sampling Error: ± 3.5 percentage points (95% confidence level)

<b>How satisfied are you with the overall performance of the provincial government led by Premier Darrell Dexter?</b>					
	<b>February 2012</b>	<b>May 2012</b>	<b>August 2012</b>	<b>November 2012</b>	<b>February 2013</b>
Completely satisfied	3%	2%	2%	3%	<b>3%</b>
Mostly satisfied	45%	39%	35%	39%	<b>37%</b>
Mostly dissatisfied	30%	33%	32%	34%	<b>34%</b>
Completely dissatisfied	12%	19%	22%	16%	<b>17%</b>
Don't know/No answer/Neither	10%	8%	9%	7%	<b>10%</b>

<b>If a provincial election were held today in Nova Scotia, for which party would you vote?</b>					
<b>Party</b>	<b>February 2012</b>	<b>May 2012</b>	<b>August 2012</b>	<b>November 2012</b>	<b>February 2013</b>
NDP	44%	35%	31%	29%	<b>32%</b>
Liberal Party	27%	33%	41%	41%	<b>39%</b>
PC Party	25%	28%	22%	27%	<b>24%</b>
Green Party	3%	4%	5%	3%	<b>5%</b>
Atlantica Party*	0%	0%	-	-	-
Other	0%	1%	0%	0%	<b>0%</b>
<b>TOTAL DECIDED VOTE</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
Undecided/Don't know/No answer/ Do not plan to vote/Refused	44%	36%	44%	42%	<b>48%</b>

<b>Which one of the following individuals would you most prefer as Premier of Nova Scotia?</b>					
<b>Leader</b>	<b>February 2012</b>	<b>May 2012</b>	<b>August 2012</b>	<b>November 2012</b>	<b>February 2013</b>
Darrell Dexter of the NDP (Elected June, 2009)	29%	23%	23%	26%	<b>21%</b>
Stephen McNeil of the Liberal Party	21%	27%	35%	33%	<b>26%</b>
Jamie Baillie of the PC Party	22%	21%	17%	17%	<b>20%</b>
John Percy of the Green Party	3%	5%	3%	3%	<b>4%</b>
Jonathan Dean of the Atlantica Party*	1%	1%	-	-	-
None	7%	9%	7%	4%	<b>6%</b>
Don't know/No answer	17%	14%	16%	17%	<b>23%</b>

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