



**MEDIA RELEASE: March 4, 2015**

**For Immediate Release**

## **PEI Liberals Maintain Lead Although Islanders Uncertain about Performance of Current Government**

**HALIFAX:** Despite a leadership change, the PEI Liberal Party has maintained its lead although more residents are uncertain regarding the performance of the current provincial government, according to the most recent survey conducted by **Corporate Research Associates Inc.** Approximately six in ten decided voters support the Liberals this quarter (58%, compared with 50% in November 2014), while backing for the PCs stands at 26 percent (compared with 23%). Support for the NDP stands at 12 percent (compared with 15%), while support for the Green Party rests at four percent (down from 11%). The number of Islanders who are undecided rests at 32 percent (compared with 26%), while seven percent refuse to state a preference (compared with 5%), and two percent either support none of the parties or do not plan to vote (compared with 4%).

With regards to government satisfaction, over four in ten PEI residents (44%, down from 54% three months ago) are satisfied, while three in ten (30%, down from 39%) are dissatisfied. The number of residents who do not offer a definite opinion has risen and stands at one-quarter (26%, up from 8% three months ago).

Four in ten PEI resident offer their support for newly designated Premier Wade MacLauchlan this quarter (42%, compared with 41% in November; former Premier Ghiz announced his resignation on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014). Meanwhile, prior to Rob Lantz being elected as the new leader of the PEI PC Party on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015, one in ten Islanders (10%, compared with 13%) preferred Interim Leader Steven Myers of the PC Party, while one in seven (14%, compared with 17%) backed Mike Redmond of the NDP. Support for Peter Bevan-Baker of the Green Party stood at five percent (unchanged). Under one in ten (6%, compared with 10%) preferred none of these leaders, while one in seven (23%, up from 14%) were undecided or did not offer an opinion.

These results are part of the **CRA Atlantic Quarterly**<sup>®</sup>, an independent telephone survey of Atlantic Canadians, and are based on a sample of 300 adult Prince Edward Islanders, conducted from February 9 to February 28, 2015 with overall results accurate to within  $\pm 5.7$  percentage points, 95 out of 100 times.

**For more information, please contact:**

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## CRA Atlantic Quarterly® – Winter 2015

### Prince Edward Island Political Results

Sample: 300 Prince Edward Islanders (18 years plus)

Interview Dates: February 9 to February 28, 2015

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...</i>					
	<i>Premier Robert Ghiz?</i>				<i>the newly designated leader of the Liberal party Wade MacLauchlan?</i>
	<b>February 2014</b>	<b>May 2014*</b>	<b>August 2014*</b>	<b>November 2014*</b>	<b>February 2015</b>
Completely satisfied	2%	4%	3%	6%	<b>7%</b>
Mostly satisfied	41%	51%	49%	48%	<b>37%</b>
Mostly dissatisfied	34%	26%	25%	24%	<b>21%</b>
Completely dissatisfied	17%	15%	16%	15%	<b>9%</b>
Don't know/No answer/Neither	6%	5%	6%	8%	<b>26%</b>

\* Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

<i>If an election were held today on Prince Edward Island, for which party would you vote?</i>					
<b>Party</b>	<b>February 2014</b>	<b>May 2014</b>	<b>August 2014*</b>	<b>November 2014*</b>	<b>February 2015</b>
Liberal Party	53%	53%	48%	50%	<b>58%</b>
Progressive Conservative Party	17%	23%	28%	23%	<b>26%</b>
New Democratic Party	22%	21%	16%	15%	<b>12%</b>
Green Party	7%	3%	7%	11%	<b>4%</b>
Other	1%	0%	0%	0%	<b>0%</b>
<b>TOTAL DECIDED VOTE</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>100%</b>
None/Do not plan to vote	7%	6%	5%	4%	<b>2%</b>
Refused to state	5%	8%	8%	5%	<b>7%</b>
Don't know/Undecided	27%	25%	25%	26%	<b>32%</b>

Current margin of error for decided voters is ± 7.4% based on a sample size of 175

\* Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

<i>Which one of the following individuals would you most prefer as Premier of Prince Edward Island?</i>					
<b>Leader</b>	<b>February 2014</b>	<b>May 2014</b>	<b>August 2014</b>	<b>November 2014</b>	<b>February 2015</b>
Robert Ghiz/Wade MacLauchlan of the Liberal Party (Sworn in as Premier on February 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2015)	35%	39%	36%	41%	<b>42%</b>
Interim leader Steven Myers of the Progressive Conservative Party	9%	12%	14%	13%	<b>10%</b>
Mike Redmond of the New Democratic Party	19%	17%	18%	17%	<b>14%</b>
Peter Bevan-Baker of the Green Party	7%	6%	5%	5%	<b>5%</b>
The next leader of the Island Party of PEI	1%	1%	1%	N/A	<b>N/A</b>
None of the above/Other	10%	8%	9%	10%	<b>6%</b>
Don't know/No answer	18%	18%	17%	14%	<b>23%</b>