



MEDIA RELEASE: September 26, 2012

For Immediate Release

Nova Scotians are Divided on Eliminating Provincial “Protected Ridings”

HALIFAX: Taking into consideration the margin of error, Nova Scotia residents are divided in their opinions regarding the recent recommended changes to provincial election boundaries, including the elimination of protected ridings, according to the most recent survey conducted by Corporate Research Associates Inc. A recent report by the Nova Scotia Electoral Boundaries Commission recommends that provincial election boundaries in Nova Scotia change, and the report calls for eliminating ‘protected ridings’ that were created to ensure representation in the provincial legislature for minority groups including Acadians and African Nova Scotians.

The Commission was required to develop ridings to ensure the population of each riding was within 25% of the average number of voter per riding. While a plurality (47%) of Nova Scotia residents agree with the recommendations, a significant minority (41%) are opposed to the changes and believe protected ridings should be retained to ensure minority representation within the legislature.

“This is clearly one of those no-win situations for the provincial government,” suggests Don Mills, Chairman and CEO of Corporate Research Associates. “It is one of those issues where there are legitimate arguments for both positions.”

These results are part of the **CRA Atlantic Quarterly**[®], an independent, quarterly survey of Atlantic Canadians, and are based on a sample of 401 adult Nova Scotia residents, conducted from August 15 to September 6, 2012, with results accurate to within ± 4.9 percentage points, 95 out of 100 times.

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CRA Atlantic Quarterly[®] – Summer 2012

Sample: 401 Nova Scotia residents (18 years plus)

Interview Dates: August 15 to September 6, 2012

Provincial Margin of Sampling Error: ±4.9 percentage points (95% confidence level)

As you may or may not be aware, a report recently recommended changing provincial election boundaries in Nova Scotia, with the goal to ensure that all ridings have roughly the same number of voters. To implement this recommendation would mean eliminating so-called ‘protected ridings’ created to ensure representation in the provincial legislature for minority groups including Acadians and African Nova Scotians. Which of the following two views is closer to your own opinion? Do you think ...

	Nova Scotia	HRM	Cape Breton	Rest of Mainland
To be fair to all voters, each riding in Nova Scotia should have approximately the same number of voters even if it means eliminating protected ridings	47%	48%	55%	42%
To ensure representation in the legislature for minorities such as Acadians and African Nova Scotians, protected ridings should be retained	41%	39%	38%	43%
Don't know/No answer	11%	12%	7%	12%
Other	1%	1%	0%	2%