

## **New Brunswick Liberal Party support declines after surge in support last quarter**

- Support for the New Brunswick Liberals decreases this quarter after a surge in support in November
- More New Brunswick residents are currently dissatisfied than satisfied with the performance of the provincial government
- Premier Gallant remains the preferred party leader by a comfortable margin although support is down from last quarter

**HALIFAX, NS March 11, 2016:** Preference for the New Brunswick Liberals declines slightly after surging in support last quarter, according to the most recent survey conducted by **Corporate Research Associates Inc.**

The New Brunswick Liberal Party continues to be the preferred party, with just under one-half of New Brunswick decided voters supporting the party (45%, down from 55% in November 2015). Meanwhile, one-quarter back the PC Party of New Brunswick (27%, compared with 25%), while two in ten residents support the New Brunswick New Democratic Party (NDP) (18%, up from 12%). Green Party of New Brunswick support is stable (8%, compared with 7%), while two percent of voters back the People's Alliance of New Brunswick (compared with 1%). The number of residents who are undecided rests at 29 percent (compared with 25%), while seven percent refuse to state a preference (compared with 9%), and five percent support none of the parties or do not plan to vote (compared with 3%).

Four in ten New Brunswickers are satisfied with the performance of the provincial government (43%, down from 53% three months ago), while one-half are dissatisfied (49%, up from 36%). Meanwhile, seven percent do not offer an opinion on the matter (down from 12%).

Premier Brian Gallant's personal popularity declined this quarter, with three in ten New Brunswick residents preferring Gallant for Premier (30%, down from 39%), while support for PC interim leader Bruce Fitch stands at 19 percent (up from 13%). Meanwhile NDP leader Dominic Cardy is preferred by one in ten (10%, compared with 8%), while a similar number (10%, compared with 9%) prefer David Coon of the Green Party, and two percent (compared with 3%) prefer Kris Austin of the People's Alliance of New Brunswick. Nine percent of New Brunswick residents prefer none of these leaders or identify others (compared with 7%), while 20 percent (compared with 21%) do not offer a definite 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 763 adult New Brunswickers, conducted from February 10 to March 2, 2016, with overall results accurate to within  $\pm 3.6$  percentage points, 95 out of 100 times.

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## CRA Atlantic Quarterly® – Winter 2016

### New Brunswick Political Results

Sample: 763 New Brunswickers (18 years plus)

Interview Dates: February 10 to March 2, 2016

Overall Margin of Sampling Error: ±3.6 percentage points (95% confidence level)

Percentages may not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

#### *How satisfied are you with the overall performance of the provincial government led by Premier Brian Gallant?*

	February 2015	May 2015	August 2015	November 2015	February 2016
Completely satisfied	5%	3%	2%	5%	3%
Mostly satisfied	51%	38%	36%	48%	40%
Mostly dissatisfied	17%	33%	32%	25%	35%
Completely dissatisfied	7%	17%	18%	11%	14%
Don't know/No answer/Neither	20%	9%	13%	12%	7%

Current margin of error is ±4.9 percentage points based on a sample size of 405.

#### *If an election were held today in New Brunswick, for which party would you vote?*

Party	February 2015	May 2015	August 2015	November 2015	February 2016
Liberal Party	54%	38%	36%	55%	45%
Progressive Conservative Party	27%	28%	28%	25%	27%
New Democratic Party	9%	23%	25%	12%	18%
Green Party	10%	11%	10%	7%	8%
People's Alliance of New Brunswick	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%
<b>TOTAL DECIDED/LEANING VOTE</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
None/Do not plan to vote	5%	6%	4%	3%	5%
Refused to state	6%	5%	7%	9%	7%
Don't know/Undecided	27%	27%	33%	25%	29%

Current margin of error for decided is ±4.7 percentage points based on a sample size of 444.

#### *Which one of the following individuals would you most prefer as Premier of New Brunswick?*

Leader	February 2015	May 2015	August 2015	November 2015	February 2016
Brian Gallant of the Liberal Party (Elected September 2014)	43%	29%	26%	39%	30%
Interim leader Bruce Fitch of the PC Party	17%	18%	16%	13%	19%
Dominic Cardy of the NDP	8%	19%	14%	8%	10%
David Coon of the Green Party	10%	11%	10%	9%	10%
Kris Austin of the People's Alliance of New Brunswick	3%	3%	4%	3%	2%
None of the above/Other	6%	6%	6%	7%	9%
Don't know/No answer/Refused to state	13%	15%	25%	21%	20%

Current margin of error is ±4.9 percentage points based on a sample size of 405.