

## **New Brunswick Liberals continue to enjoy comfortable lead as preferred party**

- One-half of decided voters support the New Brunswick Liberal Party, consistent with last quarter
- Satisfaction with the performance of the New Brunswick government is stable this quarter
- Premier Brian Gallant continues to be the preferred party leader

**HALIFAX, NS March 13, 2017:** The New Brunswick Liberals continue to hold a wide margin over other provincial parties in terms of voter support, according to the most recent survey conducted by **Corporate Research Associates Inc.**

Specifically, preference for the New Brunswick Liberal Party is consistent with last quarter, with one-half of New Brunswick decided voters indicating their support for the Liberals (51%, compared with 53% in November 2016). Meanwhile, three in ten decided voters back the PC Party (30%, unchanged), and one in ten support the New Democratic Party (12%, up from with 7%). Green Party support has declined this quarter (5%, down from 9%), while two percent of voters back the People's Alliance of New Brunswick (unchanged).

The number of residents who are undecided rests at 31 percent (compared with 34% three months ago), while four percent refuse to state a preference (compared with 5%), and four percent either support none of the parties or do not plan to vote (compared with 3%).

In terms of government performance, satisfaction is stable, with just over one-half of New Brunswickers reporting satisfaction with the performance of the provincial government (55%, unchanged from three months ago), while just over one-third are dissatisfied (36%, compared with 34%). Meanwhile, one in ten do not offer an opinion on the matter (9%, compared with 11%).

With regards to leader preference, support for Premier Brian Gallant rests at 35 percent (compared with 36% in November 2016), while support for PC leader Blaine Higgs stands at 22 percent (compared with 21% three months ago). Meanwhile, Green Party leader David Coon is preferred by one in ten (8%, compared with 9%), interim leader Rosaire L'Italien of the NDP is backed by a similar number (8%, compared with 6% for Dominic Cardy in November 2016), and Kris Austin of the People's Alliance of New Brunswick is preferred by four percent of residents (compared with 3%). Finally, five percent of New Brunswick residents prefer none of these leaders (unchanged), 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 807 adult New Brunswickers, conducted from February 7 to March 1, 2017, with overall results accurate to within  $\pm 3.4$  percentage points, 95 out of 100 times.



Corporate Research Associates (CRA), [www.cra.ca](http://www.cra.ca), is one of Canada's leading public opinion and market research companies. Founded in 1978, CRA is dedicated to providing clients with state-of-the-art research and strategic consulting services. CRA is a **Certified Gold Seal Member** of the Marketing Research and Intelligence Association (MRIA), which sets stringent standards as a condition of membership, and enforces those standards through independent audits. Follow us on Twitter [@CRAInsight](https://twitter.com/CRAInsight).

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**Ce communiqué de presse est également offert en français.**

## CRA Atlantic Quarterly® – Winter 2017

### New Brunswick Political Results

Sample: 807 New Brunswickers (18 years plus)

Interview Dates: February 7 to March 1, 2017

Overall Margin of Sampling Error: ± 3.4 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 2016	May 2016	August 2016	November 2016	February 2017
Completely satisfied	3%	4%	4%	4%	5%
Mostly satisfied	40%	45%	45%	51%	50%
Mostly dissatisfied	35%	28%	28%	25%	26%
Completely dissatisfied	14%	13%	11%	9%	10%
Don't know/No answer/Neither	7%	10%	12%	11%	9%

Current overall margin of error is ± 3.5 percentage points based on a sample size of 807.

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

Party	February 2016	May 2016	August 2016	November 2016	February 2017
Liberal Party	45%	52%	54%	53%	51%
Progressive Conservative Party	27%	25%	28%	30%	30%
New Democratic Party	18%	12%	8%	7%	12%
Green Party	8%	9%	8%	9%	5%
People's Alliance of New Brunswick	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
<b>TOTAL DECIDED VOTE</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>100%</b>
None/Do not plan to vote	5%	4%	4%	3%	4%
Refused to state	7%	7%	6%	5%	4%
Don't know/Undecided	29%	29%	32%	34%	31%

Current margin of error for decided voters is ± 4.4 percentage points based on a sample size of 492.

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

Leader	February 2016	May 2016	August 2016	November 2016	February 2017
Brian Gallant of the Liberal Party	30%	39%	39%	36%	35%
Interim Leader Bruce Fitch/Blaine Higgs of the Progressive Conservative Party	19%	14%	15%	21%	22%
Dominic Cardy/Interim Leader Rosaire L'Italien of the NDP	10%	7%	8%	6%	8%
David Coon of the Green Party	10%	11%	9%	9%	8%
Kris Austin of the People's Alliance of New Brunswick	2%	4%	4%	3%	4%
None of the above/Other	9%	6%	7%	5%	5%
Don't know/No answer	20%	19%	18%	21%	20%

Current overall margin of error is ± 3.4 percentage points based on a sample size of 807.