

PEI Liberals remain the preferred political party despite decline in satisfaction

- PEI Liberals remain the preferred party by a two-to-one margin, despite the downward trend in government satisfaction and support for Premier MacLauchlan
- Preference for Premier Wade MacLauchlan continues to decline this quarter

HALIFAX, NS March 13, 2017: The Prince Edward Island Liberal Party remains the preferred party in the province, according to the most recent survey conducted by **Corporate Research Associates Inc.** Specifically, one-half of decided voters support the PEI Liberal Party this quarter (48%, compared with 46% in November 2016). Backing for the Green Party stands at 26 percent (compared with 22%), while support for the Progressive Conservative Party rests at 19 percent (compared with 25% in November 2016). Meanwhile, seven percent of PEI residents support the New Democratic Party (unchanged).

One-quarter of Islanders are undecided (24%, up from 15% three months ago), while six percent refuse to state a preference (compared with 4%), and four percent either support none of the parties or do not plan to vote (unchanged).

With regards to government satisfaction, one-half of PEI residents are satisfied (50%, down from 60% three months ago). Meanwhile, nearly one-half of residents are dissatisfied (46%, up from 35%), and the number of residents who do not offer a definite opinion stands at four percent (compared with 5%).

In terms of leader preference, three in ten PEI residents express their support for Premier Wade MacLauchlan this quarter (29%, down from 37% in November 2016 and 46% in August 2016), while one-third currently prefer Peter Bevan-Baker of the Green Party (34%, compared with 31% in November 2016). Preference for interim leader Jamie Fox of the PC Party is stable (12%, compared to 13%), while four percent back Mike Redmond of the NDP (compared with 5%). Finally, five percent prefer none of these leaders (compared with 4%), and one in six residents are undecided or do not offer an opinion (16%, up from 9%).

These results are part of the **CRA Atlantic Quarterly**[®], an independent telephone survey of Atlantic Canadians, and are based on a sample of 304 adult Prince Edward Islanders, conducted February 3 to March 1, 2017, with overall results accurate to within ± 5.6 percentage points, 95 out of 100 times.

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CRA Atlantic Quarterly® – Winter 2017 Prince Edward Island Political Results

Sample: 304 Prince Edward Islanders (18 years plus)

Interview Dates: February 3 to March 1, 2017

Overall Margin of Sampling Error: ± 5.6 percentage points (95% confidence level)

Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

How satisfied are you with the overall performance of the provincial government led by Premier Wade MacLauchlan?					
	February 2016	May 2016	August 2016	November 2016	February 2017
Completely satisfied	7%	3%	7%	7%	5%
Mostly satisfied	64%	61%	58%	53%	45%
Mostly dissatisfied	16%	19%	22%	26%	31%
Completely dissatisfied	4%	11%	7%	9%	15%
Don't know/No answer/Neither	8%	6%	5%	5%	4%
Too soon to tell	-	-	-	-	-

Current overall margin of error is ± 5.6 percentage points based on a sample size of 304.

If an election were held today on Prince Edward Island, for which party would you vote?					
Party	February 2016	May 2016	August 2016	November 2016	February 2017
Liberal Party	61%	58%	64%	46%	48%
Green Party	11%	16%	9%	22%	26%
Progressive Conservative Party	19%	20%	19%	25%	19%
New Democratic Party	9%	7%	8%	7%	7%
Other	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%
TOTAL DECIDED VOTE	100%	101%	101%	100%	100%
None/Do not plan to vote	2%	5%	6%	4%	4%
Refused to state	6%	4%	7%	4%	6%
Don't know/Undecided	19%	16%	15%	15%	24%

Current overall margin of error for decided voters is ± 6.9 percentage points based on a sample size of 201.

Which one of the following individuals would you most prefer as Premier of Prince Edward Island?					
Leader	February 2016	May 2016	August 2016	November 2016	February 2017
Wade MacLauchlan of the Liberal Party	41%	38%	46%	37%	29%
Peter Bevan-Baker of the Green Party	22%	27%	22%	31%	34%
Interim leader Jamie Fox of the PC Party	13%	13%	11%	13%	12%
Mike Redmond of the NDP	10%	7%	5%	5%	4%
None of the above/Other	3%	6%	4%	4%	5%
Don't know/No answer	10%	9%	12%	9%	16%

Current overall margin of error is ± 5.6 percentage points based on a sample size of 304.