

Support for NS Liberals at lowest level since first elected in 2013

- NS Liberals continue to be the preferred party in the province, despite voter support declining to its lowest level since the October 2013 election
- Satisfaction with the performance of the provincial government is split among Nova Scotians
- Premier McNeil remains the preferred party leader this quarter, despite support declining over the past three months

HALIFAX, NS December 6, 2017: Support for the Nova Scotia Liberal Party has declined this quarter, reaching its lowest level since the Liberals were elected in October 2013, according to the most recent survey conducted by **Corporate Research Associates Inc.** Specifically, four in ten decided voters support the Liberal Party (38%, down from 45% in August 2017). Preference for the Progressive Conservative Party rests at 29 percent (unchanged), while one-quarter support the New Democratic Party (27%, compared with 22%), and five percent support the Green Party (compared with 4%).

The number of Nova Scotians who are undecided has increased for the second consecutive quarter and stands at 28 percent (up from 23% in August 2017, and from 17% in May 2017), while six percent refuse to state a preference (compared with 4%), and another six percent either support none of these parties or do not plan to vote (compared with 5%).

Government satisfaction is stable this quarter, as nearly one-half of Nova Scotians are satisfied with the performance of Stephen McNeil's Liberal government (46%, compared with 48% in August 2017). Meanwhile, a similar number of Nova Scotians are dissatisfied (47%, compared with 44%), and seven percent (unchanged) do not offer a definite opinion.

In terms of leader preference, three in ten Nova Scotians support Premier Stephen McNeil (28%, down from 34% in August 2017), while two in ten prefer Jamie Baillie of the PC Party (21%, compared with 23%). Support for Gary Burrill of the NDP stands at 18 percent (unchanged), while preference for Thomas Trappenberg of the Green Party rests at four percent (compared with 3%), and backing for Jonathan Dean of the Atlantica Party is at one percent (unchanged). Meanwhile, two in ten (19%, up from 15%) do not offer a definite opinion, and one in ten prefer none of these leaders (9%, compared with 7%).

These results are part of the **CRA Atlantic Quarterly**[®], an independent, quarterly telephone survey of Atlantic Canadians, and are based on a sample of 800 adult Nova Scotians, conducted from November 1 to 30, 2017 with overall results accurate to within ± 3.5 percentage points, 95 out of 100 times.

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CRA Atlantic Quarterly® – Autumn 2017

Nova Scotia Political Results

Sample: 800 Nova Scotians (18 years plus)
Interview Dates: November 1 to 30, 2017
Overall Margin of Sampling Error: ± 3.5 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 Stephen McNeil?					
	November 2016	February 2017	May 2017	August 2017	November 2017
Completely satisfied	3%	4%	4%	5%	4%
Mostly satisfied	50%	41%	40%	43%	42%
Mostly dissatisfied	24%	27%	27%	27%	31%
Completely dissatisfied	15%	22%	21%	17%	16%
Don't know/No answer/Neither	8%	6%	9%	7%	7%

Current overall margin of error is ± 3.5 percentage points based on a sample size of 800.

If a provincial election were held today in Nova Scotia, for which party would you vote?					
Party	November 2016	February 2017	May 2017*	August 2017	November 2017
Liberal Party	56%	44%	40%	45%	38%
Progressive Conservative Party	20%	28%	29%	29%	29%
New Democratic Party	19%	23%	28%	22%	27%
Green Party	4%	5%	2%	4%	5%
TOTAL DECIDED VOTE	99%	100%	99%	100%	99%
None/Do not plan to vote/Other	3%	4%	6%	5%	6%
Refused to state	5%	3%	5%	4%	6%
Don't know/Undecided	29%	27%	17%	23%	28%

Current margin of error for decided/leaning voters is ± 4.5 percentage points based on a sample size of 482.

*May 2017 results include leaning voters, as well as decided voters.

Which one of the following individuals would you most prefer as Premier of Nova Scotia?					
Leader	November 2016	February 2017	May 2017	August 2017	November 2017
Stephen McNeil of the Liberal Party	38%	31%	30%	34%	28%
Jamie Baillie of the PC Party	20%	24%	22%	23%	21%
Gary Burrill of the NDP	11%	17%	19%	18%	18%
Thomas Trappenberg of the Green Party	5%	4%	3%	3%	4%
Jonathan Dean of the Atlantica Party	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
None/Other	4%	5%	5%	7%	9%
Don't know/No answer	20%	18%	20%	15%	19%

Current overall margin of error is ± 3.5 percentage points based on a sample size of 800.