

NB Liberals maintain comfortable lead as election nears

- The New Brunswick Liberal Party continues to be the preferred party in the province, despite a decline in voter support, compared with February 2017
- Consistent with last quarter, one-half of residents express satisfaction with the performance of the New Brunswick government
- Premier Brian Gallant remains the preferred party leader in the province

HALIFAX, NS March 8, 2018: The New Brunswick Liberal Party continues to hold a comfortable lead over other provincial parties in terms of voter support, despite being down from this point last year, according to the most recent survey conducted by **Corporate Research Associates Inc.**

Specifically, just over four in ten New Brunswick decided voters support the Liberals (43%, compared with 47% in November 2017, and down from 51% in February 2017). This represents the lowest level of support for the Liberals since August 2015 (36%). Meanwhile, three in ten decided voters back the PC Party (30%, compared with 28%), and one in eight support the New Democratic Party (13%, compared with 11%). Green Party support is also stable this quarter (11%, compared with 9%), while three percent of voters back the People's Alliance of New Brunswick (unchanged).

The number of residents who are undecided rests at 33 percent (compared with 34% three months ago), while four percent refuse to state a preference (compared with 6%), and three percent either support none of the parties or do not plan to vote (compared with 4%).

In terms of government performance, satisfaction is stable, as one-half of New Brunswickers are satisfied with the performance of the provincial government (52%, compared with 49% three months ago), while four in ten are dissatisfied (38%, compared with 39%), and nine percent do not offer an opinion on the matter (compared with 12%).

With regards to leader preference, support for Premier Brian Gallant stands at 32 percent (unchanged from November 2017), while preference for PC leader Blaine Higgs rests at 19 percent (compared with 18%), and support for Green Party leader David Coon is at 12 percent (compared with 9%). Meanwhile, NDP leader Jennifer McKenzie is backed by eight percent (unchanged), and Kris Austin of the People's Alliance of New Brunswick is preferred by five percent (compared with 3%). Finally, three percent of New Brunswick residents prefer none of these leaders (compared with 5%), while 21 percent (compared with 25%) do not offer a definite opinion.

These results are part of the **CRA Atlantic Quarterly**[®], an independent telephone survey of Atlantic Canadians, and are based on a sample of 800 adult New Brunswickers, conducted from February 1 to March 3, 2018, with overall results accurate to within ± 3.5 percentage points, 95 out of 100 times.



Corporate Research Associates (CRA), 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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CRA Atlantic Quarterly® – Winter 2018

New Brunswick Political Results

Sample: 800 New Brunswickers (18 years plus)

Interview Dates: February 1 to March 3, 2018

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 Brian Gallant?

	February 2017	May 2017	August 2017	November 2017	February 2018
Completely satisfied	5%	5%	4%	4%	5%
Mostly satisfied	50%	48%	48%	45%	47%
Mostly dissatisfied	26%	27%	30%	26%	25%
Completely dissatisfied	10%	14%	9%	13%	13%
Don't know/No answer/Neither	9%	7%	9%	12%	9%

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

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

Party	February 2017	May 2017	August 2017	November 2017	February 2018
Liberal Party	51%	46%	47%	47%	43%
Progressive Conservative Party	30%	33%	32%	28%	30%
New Democratic Party	12%	11%	12%	11%	13%
Green Party	5%	6%	7%	9%	11%
People's Alliance of New Brunswick	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%
Other	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%
TOTAL DECIDED VOTE	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%
None/Do not plan to vote	4%	3%	4%	4%	3%
Refused to state	4%	4%	6%	6%	4%
Don't know/Undecided	31%	36%	30%	34%	33%

Current margin of error for decided voters is ± 4.5 percentage points based on a sample size of 481.

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

Leader	February 2017	May 2017	August 2017	November 2017	February 2018
Brian Gallant of the Liberal Party	35%	31%	36%	32%	32%
Blaine Higgs of the Progressive Conservative Party	22%	23%	20%	18%	19%
David Coon of the Green Party	8%	11%	11%	9%	12%
Interim Leader Rosaire L'Italien/Jennifer McKenzie of the NDP	8%	5%	7%	8%	8%
Kris Austin of the People's Alliance of New Brunswick	4%	5%	2%	3%	5%
None of the above/Other	5%	5%	3%	5%	3%
Don't know/No answer	20%	19%	20%	25%	21%

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