

Following leadership change, PC Party takes lead as most preferred political party in NL

- The NL PC Party becomes the most preferred political party in terms of decided voter support, surpassing the governing Liberal Party
- A majority of residents continue to be dissatisfied with the performance of the Liberal government this quarter
- Newly-elected PC Party leader Ches Crosbie becomes the most preferred leader in the province this quarter, surpassing Premier Dwight Ball of the Liberal Party

HALIFAX, NS June 5, 2018: The Progressive Conservative Party has become the most preferred political party in Newfoundland and Labrador, according to the most recent survey conducted by **Corporate Research Associates Inc.** This result can be accredited to a downward trend in preference for the governing Liberal Party over the last six months, combined with an increase in support for the PC Party since last quarter. Specifically, just under four in ten decided voters back the governing Newfoundland and Labrador Liberal Party (36%, compared with 41% in February 2018, and down from 44% in November 2017), while four in ten support the Progressive Conservative Party (42%, up from 33%), and two in ten prefer the New Democratic Party (22%, compared with 24%).

Three in ten residents are undecided (29%, compared with 25%), while four percent either support none of these parties or do not plan to vote (down from 9%), and two percent refuse to state a preference (compared with 1%).

Satisfaction with the performance of the Liberal government is consistent with recent findings. Specifically, four in ten residents (38%, compared with 35% three months ago) are satisfied, while just under six in ten (56%, compared with 61%) continue to be dissatisfied. Seven percent of residents do not offer a definite opinion on the matter (compared with 5%).

With regards to leader preference, support for Premier Dwight Ball is stable and currently stands at 27 percent (compared with 28% in February 2018). Meanwhile, newly-elected leader of the PC Party, Ches Crosbie, becomes the most preferred leader in Newfoundland and Labrador, as one-third of residents express support (34%, up from 27% for Paul Davis three months ago). Preference for NDP leader Gerry Rogers is consistent with that of interim leader Lorraine Michael last quarter and currently rests at 19 percent (compared with 23% for interim leader Lorraine Michael). Meanwhile, six percent prefer none of these leaders (down from 11%), and one in seven residents have no definite opinion at this time (14%, compared with 11%).

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 Newfoundland and Labrador residents. The survey was conducted from May 3 to 17, 2018, with overall results for the province accurate to within ± 3.5 percentage points in 95 out of 100 samples.



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CRA Atlantic Quarterly® Spring 2018 Newfoundland and Labrador Political Results

Sample: 415 Newfoundland and Labrador Residents (18 years plus)

Interview Dates: May 3 to 17, 2018

Overall Margin of Sampling Error: ± 3.5 percentage points (95% confidence level)

Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

| <i>How satisfied are you with the overall performance of the provincial government led by Premier Dwight Ball?</i> | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| | May 2017 | August 2017 | November 2017 | February 2018 | May 2018 |
| Completely satisfied | 2% | 3% | 3% | 4% | 3% |
| Mostly satisfied | 26% | 27% | 30% | 31% | 35% |
| Mostly dissatisfied | 37% | 38% | 38% | 40% | 35% |
| Completely dissatisfied | 28% | 26% | 25% | 21% | 21% |
| Don't know/No answer/Neither | 7% | 6% | 4% | 5% | 7% |

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

| <i>If a provincial election were held today in Newfoundland and Labrador, for which party would you vote?</i> | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Party | May 2017 | August 2017 | November 2017 | February 2018 | May 2018 |
| Liberal Party | 34% | 40% | 44% | 41% | 36% |
| Progressive Conservative Party | 40% | 33% | 33% | 33% | 42% |
| New Democratic Party | 24% | 24% | 19% | 24% | 22% |
| Other | 2% | 3% | 3% | 2% | 0% |
| TOTAL DECIDED VOTE | 100% | 100% | 99% | 100% | 100% |
| None/Do not plan to vote | 5% | 5% | 5% | 8% | 4% |
| Refused to state | 2% | 3% | 1% | 1% | 2% |
| Don't know/Undecided | 32% | 35% | 29% | 25% | 29% |

Current margin of error for decided voters is ± 4.3 percentage points based on a sample size of 517.

| <i>Which one of the following individuals would you most prefer as Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador?</i> | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Leader | May 2017 | August 2017 | November 2017 | February 2018 | May 2018 |
| Dwight Ball of the Liberal Party | 23% | 23% | 31% | 28% | 27% |
| Paul Davis/Ches Crosbie of the PC Party | 36% | 29% | 31% | 27% | 34% |
| Earle McCurdy/Interim leader Lorraine Michael/Gerry Rogers of the NDP | 16% | 18% | 19% | 23% | 19% |
| None of the above/Other | 13% | 15% | 10% | 11% | 6% |
| Don't know/No answer | 12% | 15% | 10% | 11% | 14% |

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