

NS Liberals rebound in terms of support and satisfaction this quarter

- Support for the governing NS Liberals has increased this quarter, widening the gap over both the PC Party and the NDP
- After reaching its lowest level since the October 2013 election, satisfaction with the performance of the provincial government has rebounded from three months ago
- Preference for Premier McNeil has widened relative to the other party leaders in the last quarter

HALIFAX, NS June 6, 2018: Support for the Nova Scotia Liberal Party has rebounded this quarter, according to the most recent survey conducted by **Corporate Research Associates Inc.** Three months after being at its lowest level since the governing Liberals were elected, voter support has increased significantly. Specifically, over four in ten decided voters support the Liberal Party (45%, up from 37% in February 2018), while preference for the Progressive Conservative Party rests at 29 percent (compared with 34%), One-quarter support the New Democratic Party (23%, compared with 25%), and three percent support the Green Party (compared with 4%).

The number of Nova Scotians who are undecided is stable and rests at 29 percent (compared with 26%), while six percent refuse to state a preference (compared with 4%), and four percent either support none of these parties or do not plan to vote (unchanged).

Three months after declining to its lowest level under the current Liberal leadership, government satisfaction has rebounded, as more than four in ten Nova Scotians are satisfied with the performance of Stephen McNeil's Liberal government (45%, up from 38% in February 2018). Meanwhile, a similar number of Nova Scotians are dissatisfied (45%, down from 56%), and nine percent (compared with 6%) do not offer a definite opinion.

In terms of leader preference, three months after the gap between the Liberal and PC Party leaders disappeared, preference for Premier McNeil has widened above that for leaders of the other political parties in the province. Specifically, three in ten Nova Scotians support Premier Stephen McNeil (30%, compared with 27% in February 2018). Meanwhile, preference for interim leader Karla MacFarlane of the PC Party has declined to 20 percent (down from 25% three months ago). Support for Gary Burrill of the NDP stands at 18 percent (compared with 21%), while preference for Thomas Trappenberg of the Green Party rests at four percent (unchanged), and backing for Ryan Smyth of the Atlantica Party is at one percent (compared with less than 1% last quarter). Meanwhile, two in ten (21%, up from 17%) do not offer a definite opinion, and six percent prefer none of these leaders (unchanged).

These results are part of the **CRA Atlantic Quarterly**[®], an independent, quarterly telephone survey of Atlantic Canadians, and are based on a sample of 801 adult Nova Scotians, conducted from May 1 to 23, 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).

###

For more information, please contact:

Don Mills, Chairman and CEO, at (902) 493-3838

CRA Atlantic Quarterly® – Spring 2018 Nova Scotia Political Results

Sample: 801 Nova Scotians (18 years plus)

Interview Dates: May 1 to 23, 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 Stephen McNeil?					
	May 2017	August 2017	November 2017	February 2018	May 2018
Completely satisfied	4%	5%	4%	3%	4%
Mostly satisfied	40%	43%	42%	35%	41%
Mostly dissatisfied	27%	27%	31%	32%	28%
Completely dissatisfied	21%	17%	16%	24%	17%
Don't know/No answer/Neither	9%	7%	7%	6%	9%

Current overall margin of error is ± 3.5 percentage points based on a sample size of 801.

If a provincial election were held today in Nova Scotia, for which party would you vote?					
Party	May 2017*	August 2017	November 2017	February 2018	May 2017
Liberal Party	40%	45%	38%	37%	45%
Progressive Conservative Party	29%	29%	29%	34%	29%
New Democratic Party	28%	22%	27%	25%	23%
Green Party	2%	4%	5%	4%	3%
TOTAL DECIDED VOTE	99%	100%	99%	100%	100%
None/Do not plan to vote/Other	6%	5%	6%	4%	4%
Refused to state	5%	4%	6%	4%	6%
Don't know/Undecided	17%	23%	28%	26%	29%

Current margin of error for decided/leaning voters is ± 4.5 percentage points based on a sample size of 480.

*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	May 2017	August 2017	November 2017	February 2018	May 2018
Stephen McNeil of the Liberal Party	30%	34%	28%	27%	30%
Jamie Baillie/Interim leader Karla MacFarlane of the PC Party	22%	23%	21%	25%	20%
Gary Burrill of the NDP	19%	18%	18%	21%	18%
Thomas Trappenberg of the Green Party	3%	3%	4%	4%	4%
Jonathan Dean/Ryan Smyth of the Atlantica Party	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%
None/Other	5%	7%	9%	6%	6%
Don't know/No answer	20%	15%	19%	17%	21%

Current overall margin of error is ± 3.5 percentage points based on a sample size of 801.