Nova Scotians most likely to prefer PC leadership candidate Cecil Clarke as Premier

HALIFAX, NS June 21, 2018: Among the five candidates running for the leadership of the Nova Scotia Progressive Conservative Party, residents are most likely to support Cape Breton Regional Municipality Mayor Cecil Clarke as Nova Scotia Premier, according to the most recent survey conducted by **Corporate Research Associates Inc.**

Specifically, one-quarter of Nova Scotians would most likely support Cecil Clarke as Nova Scotia Premier (23%, compared with 26% in February 2018), while one in eight would prefer Halifax Seaport Farmers' Market Executive Director Julie Chaisson (13%, candidate not included on previous survey), and one in ten would most likely support Pictou East MLA Tim Houston (11%, compared with 10%). Meanwhile, four percent of residents would prefer Kings North MLA John Lohr as Premier (compared with 5%), and a similar number would most likely support Cumberland North MLA Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin (4%, down from 11%). One-third of Nova Scotians do not know or do not have an opinion on the matter (34%, compared with 40%), while one in ten do not prefer any of the five current candidates as Nova Scotia Premier (10%, compared with 8%).

"Cecil Clarke has a slight edge in support among the general population as the most preferred leadership candidate," said Don Mills, Chairman and CEO of Corporate Research Associates. "These results only reflect current public preferences of the PC leadership candidates and not support within the party for each individual candidate."

These results are part of the **CRA *Atlantic Quarterly*®**, an independent, quarterly telephone survey of Atlantic Canadians, and are based on a telephone sample of 400 adult Nova Scotians, conducted from May 7 to 23, 2018, with overall results accurate to within ± 4.9 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.

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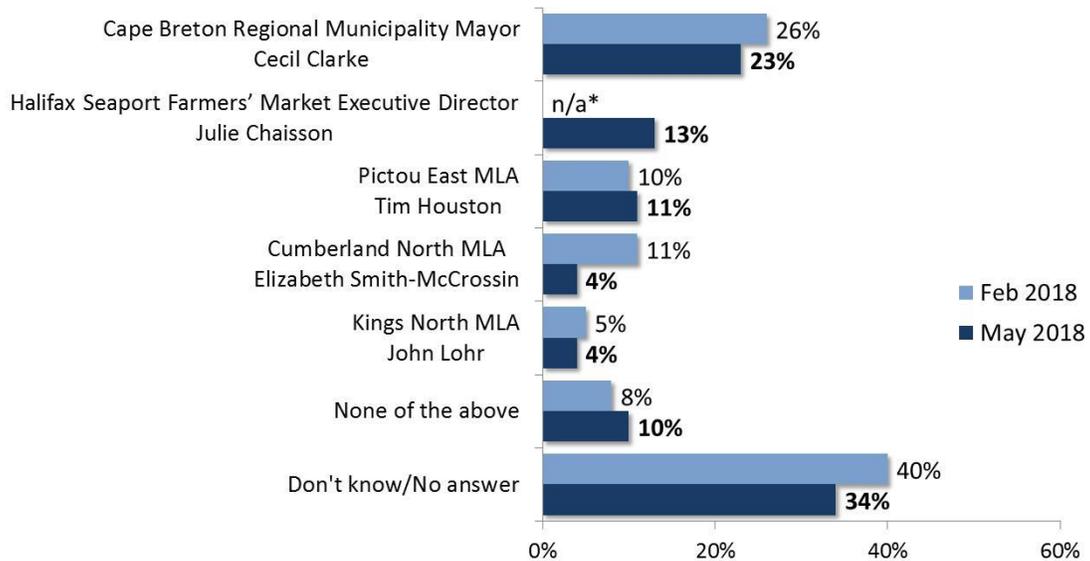Sample: 400 Nova Scotians (18 years plus)
Interview Dates: May 7 to 23, 2018
Overall Margin of Sampling Error: ± 4.9 percentage points (95% confidence level)

PC Party Leadership Candidate Would Most Likely Support as Nova Scotia Premier

Question: As you may know, Jamie Baillie is no longer serving as leader of the Nova Scotia Progressive Conservative Party. Of the five candidates who will be running for the PC Party leadership, which one would you most likely support as Nova Scotia Premier? Would it be:

Note: Julie Chaisson had not yet announced her intention to enter the PC Party leadership race at the time of the survey in February 2018.

Sample Size: (n=400 NS residents aged 18+ years)
Interview Dates: May 7 to May 23, 2018.
Overall Margin of Sampling Error: ±4.9 percentage points, 95% confidence level.