

## **After rebounding last quarter, Liberals remain the most preferred political party in NS**

- The gap between the NS Liberals and the PC Party in terms of voter support has narrowed this quarter
- After rebounding from its lowest level since the October 2013 election, satisfaction with the performance of the provincial government is stable
- Preference for Premier McNeil remains above that of other party leaders in the province

**HALIFAX, NS September 6, 2018:** Three months after the Nova Scotia Liberal Party rebounded to take the lead in terms of voter support, the gap between the Liberals and the PC Party has narrowed, according to the most recent survey conducted by **Corporate Research Associates Inc.** Specifically, just over four in ten decided voters support the Liberal Party (43%, compared with 45% in May 2018, and 37% in February 2018), and preference for the Progressive Conservative Party stands at 32 percent (compared with 29%). Meanwhile, two in ten support the New Democratic Party (21%, compared with 23%), and four percent support the Green Party (compared with 3%).

The number of Nova Scotians who are undecided stands at 34 percent (compared with 29%), while five percent either support none of these parties or do not plan to vote (compared with 4%), and four percent refuse to state a preference (compared with 6%).

Three months after rebounding from its lowest level under the current Liberal leadership, government satisfaction is stable, with nearly one-half of Nova Scotians satisfied with the performance of Stephen McNeil's Liberal government (47%, compared with 45% in May 2018, and 38% in February 2018). Meanwhile, nearly as many Nova Scotians are dissatisfied (46%, compared with 45%), and eight percent (compared with 9%) do not offer a definite opinion.

In terms of leader preference, three months after the gap between the Liberal and PC Party leaders widened, Premier McNeil has maintained his position as most preferred party leader in Nova Scotia. Specifically, three in ten Nova Scotians support Premier Stephen McNeil (31%, compared with 30% in May 2018). Meanwhile, preference for interim leader Karla MacFarlane of the PC Party rests at 18 percent (compared with 20% three months ago). Support for Gary Burrill of the NDP is at 15 percent (compared with 18%), while preference for Thomas Trappenberg of the Green Party stands at five percent (compared with 4%), and backing for Ryan Smyth of the Atlantica Party remains at one percent (unchanged). Meanwhile, one-quarter (24%, compared with 21%) of residents do not offer a definite opinion, and six percent prefer none of these leaders (unchanged).

These results are part of the **CRA Atlantic Quarterly**<sup>®</sup>, an independent, quarterly telephone survey of Atlantic Canadians, and are based on a sample of 800 adult Nova Scotians, conducted from August 1 to 21, 2018 with overall results accurate to within  $\pm 3.5$  percentage points, 95 out of 100 times.



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## CRA Atlantic Quarterly® – Summer 2018 Nova Scotia Political Results

Sample: 800 Nova Scotians (18 years plus)

Interview Dates: August 1 to 21, 2018

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

Percentages may not equal 100 percent due to rounding

<b><i>How satisfied are you with the overall performance of the provincial government led by Premier Stephen McNeil?</i></b>					
	<b>August 2017</b>	<b>November 2017</b>	<b>February 2018</b>	<b>May 2018</b>	<b>August 2018</b>
Completely satisfied	5%	4%	3%	4%	<b>4%</b>
Mostly satisfied	43%	42%	35%	41%	<b>43%</b>
Mostly dissatisfied	27%	31%	32%	28%	<b>30%</b>
Completely dissatisfied	17%	16%	24%	17%	<b>16%</b>
Don't know/No answer/Neither	7%	7%	6%	9%	<b>8%</b>

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

<b><i>If a provincial election were held today in Nova Scotia, for which party would you vote?</i></b>					
<b>Party</b>	<b>August 2017</b>	<b>November 2017</b>	<b>February 2018</b>	<b>May 2018</b>	<b>August 2018</b>
Liberal Party	45%	38%	37%	45%	<b>43%</b>
Progressive Conservative Party	29%	29%	34%	29%	<b>32%</b>
New Democratic Party	22%	27%	25%	23%	<b>21%</b>
Green Party	4%	5%	4%	3%	<b>4%</b>
<b>TOTAL DECIDED VOTE</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
None/Do not plan to vote/Other	5%	6%	4%	4%	<b>5%</b>
Refused to state	4%	6%	4%	6%	<b>4%</b>
Don't know/Undecided	23%	28%	26%	29%	<b>34%</b>

Current margin of error for decided/leaning voters is ± 4.6 percentage points based on a sample size of 455.

<b><i>Which one of the following individuals would you most prefer as Premier of Nova Scotia?</i></b>					
<b>Leader</b>	<b>August 2017</b>	<b>November 2017</b>	<b>February 2018</b>	<b>May 2018</b>	<b>August 2018</b>
Stephen McNeil of the Liberal Party	34%	28%	27%	30%	<b>31%</b>
Jamie Baillie/Interim leader Karla MacFarlane of the PC Party	23%	21%	25%	20%	<b>18%</b>
Gary Burrill of the NDP	18%	18%	21%	18%	<b>15%</b>
Thomas Trappenberg of the Green Party	3%	4%	4%	4%	<b>5%</b>
Jonathan Dean/Ryan Smyth of the Atlantica Party	1%	1%	0%	1%	<b>1%</b>
None/Other	7%	9%	6%	6%	<b>6%</b>
Don't know/No answer	15%	19%	17%	21%	<b>24%</b>

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