

## **Cecil Clarke remains the most preferred candidate in the race for Nova Scotia PC Party leadership**

**HALIFAX, NS September 24, 2018:** Among the five candidates running for the leadership of the Nova Scotia Progressive Conservative Party, residents are most likely to prefer Cape Breton Regional Municipality Mayor Cecil Clarke as Nova Scotia Premier, despite declining levels of support for this candidate over the course of the year. Over the last nine months, Nova Scotians have also been increasingly indicative of a preference for none of the five candidates vying for PC Party leadership, according to the most recent survey conducted by **Corporate Research Associates Inc.**

Specifically, two in ten Nova Scotians (19%, compared with 23% in May 2018, and with 26% in February 2018) would most likely support Cecil Clarke as Nova Scotia Premier, while one in ten (10%, compared with 13% three months ago) would prefer Halifax Seaport Farmers' Market Executive Director Julie Chaisson, and a similar number would most likely support Pictou East MLA Tim Houston (9%, compared with 11%). Meanwhile, six percent (compared with 4%) of residents would prefer Kings North MLA John Lohr as Premier, and the same number (6%, compared with 4%) would most likely support Cumberland North MLA Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin. One-third (32%, compared with 34%) of Nova Scotians do not know or do not have an opinion on the matter, while two in ten (18%, up from 10%) do not prefer any of the five current candidates as Nova Scotia Premier.

Across the region, residents in Cape Breton are more likely than those elsewhere in the region to prefer Cecil Clarke as Nova Scotia Premier, among the five candidates running for PC Party leadership.

"Cape Breton Regional Municipality Mayor Cecil Clarke continues to be favoured in terms of public support among those indicating a preference for one of the five PC candidates vying for the leadership of the party," said Don Mills, Chairman and CEO of Corporate Research Associates. "Support for each candidate varies by geography across the province."

These results are part of the **CRA Atlantic Quarterly**<sup>®</sup>, an independent, quarterly telephone survey of Atlantic Canadians, and are based on a telephone sample of 400 adult Nova Scotians, conducted from August 16 to September 1, 2018, with overall results accurate to within  $\pm 4.9$  percentage points, 95 out of 100 times.

Corporate Research Associates (CRA), [www.cra.ca](http://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. Follow us on Twitter [@CRAInsight](https://twitter.com/CRAInsight).

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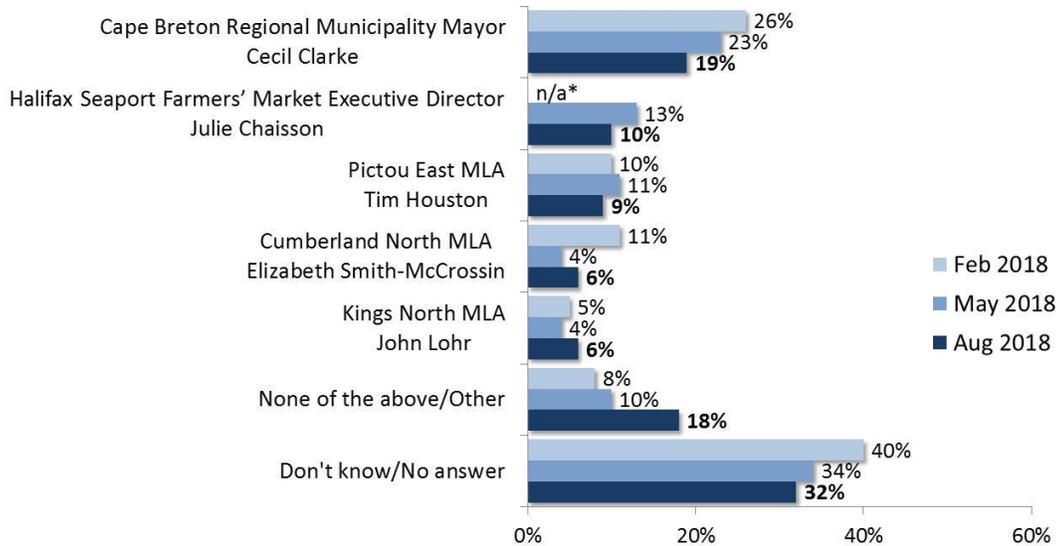
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## CRA Atlantic Quarterly® – Summer 2018

Sample: 400 Nova Scotians (18 years plus)  
 Interview Dates: August 16 to September 1  
 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)

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	Nova Scotia (n=400)	Region		
		Halifax (n=178)	Cape Breton (n=51)	Rest of Mainland NS (n=171)
<b>Cecil Clarke</b>	<b>19%</b>	16%	50%	11%
<b>Julie Chaisson</b>	<b>10%</b>	14%	5%	8%
<b>Tim Houston</b>	<b>9%</b>	5%	10%	14%
<b>Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin</b>	<b>6%</b>	5%	6%	7%
<b>John Lohr</b>	<b>6%</b>	4%	4%	8%
<b>Don't know/No answer</b>	<b>32%</b>	35%	19%	34%
<b>None of the above/Other</b>	<b>18%</b>	22%	5%	18%