

NB Liberals remain most popular party, despite recent election loss

- One-third of New Brunswickers support Liberal Party, more than two months after defeat.
- Survey results closely match popular vote captured by parties on September 24.
- Electorate remains volatile, with one-quarter undecided.

December 11, 2018: The New Brunswick Liberal Party is maintaining its lead in popular support, despite having narrowly lost the September election to the Progressive Conservatives, according to the latest survey conducted by **Corporate Research Associates Inc.**

Among decided voters, 35% support the Liberals (compared to 50% in August 2018), while 30% support the PC Party (unchanged from August). The Green Party has the support of 17% (up from 7%), the People's Alliance of New Brunswick is backed by 12% (up from 6%) and the NDP is supported by 6% (compared to 7%).

The latest survey also shows that only two months after casting ballots on September 24, one quarter of New Brunswickers (23%) are undecided about which party they would vote for if another election were held today, signaling volatility among a significant minority of voters. Meanwhile, 7% refuse to state which party they support, and 4% do not plan to vote.

CRA's results correspond closely to the popular vote captured by each party in September. Decided support for the Liberals sits at 35% today (while the party won 38% of the popular vote), the PCs sit at 30% (and won 32% in the popular vote), the Greens – showing some sign of growth – are at 17% (and won 12%), the PANB sits at 12% (and won 13%) and the NDP sits at 6% (and won 5%).

In terms of which party leader New Brunswickers would most like to have as premier, outgoing Liberal leader Brian Gallant sits in a virtual tie with PC Premier Blaine Higgs as the most preferred option. Gallant is the choice of 25% (compared to 35% in August) while Higgs is preferred by 22% (compared to 23%). David Coon of the Green Party is preferred as premier by 17% (up from 8%), PANB leader Kris Austin is the choice of 10% (compared to 6%) and Jennifer McKenzie is preferred by 5% (unchanged). Sixteen percent are undecided on the question of leadership, while 6% want none of the listed choices.

The survey also assessed opinion regarding the performance of the previous Gallant government up to the announcement of his resignation on November 2. New Brunswickers are generally split, with half being satisfied (48%, compared to 50% in August) and 42% dissatisfied (unchanged). Another 8% did not know and 2% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.

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 New Brunswickers, conducted from November 1 to 24, 2018, with overall results accurate to within ± 3.5 percentage points, 95 out of 100 times.



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CRA Atlantic Quarterly® – November 2018

New Brunswick Political Results

Sample: 800 New Brunswickers (18 years plus)

Interview Dates: November 1 to 24, 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 Brian Gallant?

	November 2017	February 2018	May 2018	August 2018	November 2018
Completely satisfied	4%	5%	4%	5%	6%
Mostly satisfied	45%	47%	46%	45%	42%
Mostly dissatisfied	26%	25%	28%	28%	27%
Completely dissatisfied	13%	13%	11%	14%	15%
Don't know/No answer/Neither	12%	8%	10%	7%	8%

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

If an election were held today in New Brunswick, for which party would you vote?

Party	November 2017	February 2018	May 2018	August 2018*	November 2018
Liberal Party	47%	43%	45%	50%	35%
Progressive Conservative Party	28%	30%	31%	30%	30%
Green Party	9%	11%	7%	7%	17%
People's Alliance of New Brunswick	3%	3%	4%	6%	12%
New Democratic Party	11%	13%	13%	7%	6%
Other	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
TOTAL DECIDED VOTE	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
None/Do not plan to vote	3%	4%	5%	5%	4%
Refused to state	4%	6%	6%	6%	7%
Don't know/Undecided	33%	31%	14%	14%	23%

Current margin of error for decided voters is ± 4.3 percentage points based on a sample size of 527.

*August 2018 results include leaning voters, as well as decided voters.

Which one of the following individuals would you most prefer as Premier of New Brunswick?

Leader	November 2017	February 2018	May 2018	August 2018	November 2018
Brian Gallant of the Liberal Party	32%	32%	32%	35%	25%
Blaine Higgs of the Progressive Conservative Party	18%	19%	20%	23%	22%
David Coon of the Green Party	9%	12%	11%	8%	17%
Kris Austin of the People's Alliance of New Brunswick	3%	5%	4%	6%	10%
Jennifer McKenzie of the NDP	8%	8%	9%	5%	5%
None of the above/Other	5%	3%	5%	5%	6%
Don't know/No answer	25%	21%	19%	17%	16%

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