

## Support for NL Liberals grows to highest level since 2016

- Nearly half of decided voters would cast ballots for Liberal Party if an election were held today.
- PC support holding steady at about one-third of decided voters.
- Satisfaction with Dwight Ball's Liberal government stable at 45%.

**December 12, 2018:** Support for the provincial Liberal Party continues to strengthen, with the governing Liberals now the preferred choice of 46% of decided voters in Newfoundland and Labrador – the highest level since February 2016 when support reached 66%, according to the most recent survey conducted by **Corporate Research Associates Inc.** Liberal support has been rising since May 2018, when it sat at 36% and climbed to 43% in August.

The Progressive Conservatives are holding steady, with 35% of decided voters saying they would back the PCs if an election were held today. That number is unchanged from August, but down from 42% in May. The New Democrats have 17% support (compared to 19% in August and 22% in May) and the Green Party has 1% (2% and 0%). Overall, one-quarter of voters (27%) are undecided, while 4% do not plan to vote and 3% refuse to state which party they support.

Satisfaction with the performance of the Liberal government is holding steady this quarter, with 45% of voters expressing satisfaction (compared to 43% in August and 38% in May), against 51% who are dissatisfied (compared to 53% and 56%).

In terms of leadership, Liberal Premier Dwight Ball is the preferred choice for premier among 32% of voters (compared to 31% in August and 27% in May), while PC leader Ches Crosbie is the choice of 30% (compared to 30% and 34%), and Gerry Rogers of the NDP is preferred by 17% (compared to 16% and 19%). Fourteen percent of voters don't know who their preferred leader is, and 7% prefer none of the main party leaders.

These results are part of the **CRA Atlantic Quarterly**<sup>®</sup>, an independent telephone survey of Atlantic Canadians, and are based on a sample of 800 adult Newfoundland and Labrador residents. The survey was conducted from November 1 to 24, 2018, with overall results for the province accurate to within  $\pm$  3.5 percentage points in 95 out of 100 samples.

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## CRA Atlantic Quarterly® November 2018 Newfoundland and Labrador Political Results

Sample: 800 Newfoundland and Labrador Residents (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% due to rounding.

| <b><i>How satisfied are you with the overall performance of the provincial government led by Premier Dwight Ball?</i></b> |                      |                      |                 |                    |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------|
|   | <b>November 2017</b> | <b>February 2018</b> | <b>May 2018</b> | <b>August 2018</b> | <b>November 2018</b> |
| Completely satisfied  | 3%                   | 4%                   | 3%              | 4%                 | <b>2%</b>            |
| Mostly satisfied  | 30%                  | 31%                  | 35%             | 39%                | <b>43%</b>           |
| Mostly dissatisfied   | 38%                  | 40%                  | 35%             | 36%                | <b>34%</b>           |
| Completely dissatisfied   | 25%                  | 21%                  | 21%             | 17%                | <b>17%</b>           |
| Don't know/No answer/Neither  | 4%                   | 5%                   | 7%              | 6%                 | <b>2%</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 Newfoundland and Labrador, for which party would you vote?</i></b> |                      |                      |                 |                    |                      |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Party</b>   | <b>November 2017</b> | <b>February 2018</b> | <b>May 2018</b> | <b>August 2018</b> | <b>November 2018</b> |
| Liberal Party  | 44%                  | 41%                  | 36%             | 43%                | <b>46%</b>           |
| Progressive Conservative Party   | 33%                  | 33%                  | 42%             | 35%                | <b>35%</b>           |
| New Democratic Party   | 19%                  | 24%                  | 22%             | 19%                | <b>17%</b>           |
| Other  | 3%                   | 2%                   | 0%              | 2%                 | <b>1%</b>            |
| <b>TOTAL DECIDED VOTE</b>  | <b>99%</b>           | <b>100%</b>          | <b>100%</b>     | <b>99%</b>         | <b>99%</b>           |
| None/Do not plan to vote   | 5%                   | 8%                   | 4%              | 5%                 | <b>4%</b>            |
| Refused to state   | 1%                   | 1%                   | 2%              | 2%                 | <b>3%</b>            |
| Don't know/Undecided   | 29%                  | 25%                  | 29%             | 28%                | <b>27%</b>           |

Current margin of error for decided voters is ± 4.3 percentage points based on a sample size of 535.

| <b><i>Which one of the following individuals would you most prefer as Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador?</i></b> |                      |                      |                 |                    |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Leader</b>   | <b>November 2017</b> | <b>February 2018</b> | <b>May 2018</b> | <b>August 2018</b> | <b>November 2018</b> |
| Dwight Ball of the Liberal Party  | 31%                  | 28%                  | 27%             | 31%                | <b>32%</b>           |
| Paul Davis/Ches Crosbie of the PC Party   | 31%                  | 27%                  | 34%             | 30%                | <b>30%</b>           |
| Interim leader Lorraine Michael/Gerry Rogers of the NDP   | 19%                  | 23%                  | 19%             | 16%                | <b>17%</b>           |
| None of the above/Other   | 10%                  | 11%                  | 6%              | 6%                 | <b>7%</b>            |
| Don't know/No answer  | 10%                  | 11%                  | 14%             | 17%                | <b>14%</b>           |

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