

## Satisfaction with NL Liberal government at highest point in three years

- Despite voter divisions over government performance, dissatisfaction drops below 50% for first time since 2016.
- Liberal support steady at 45% at start of election year.
- Liberal Premier Dwight Ball ahead in leadership preferences.

**March 6, 2019:** Satisfaction with the Liberal government of Premier Dwight Ball has reached its highest point in three years, with dissatisfaction sentiment dipping below 50% for the first time in that period, according to the most recent survey conducted by **Corporate Research Associates Inc.**

Opinion in Newfoundland and Labrador is sharply divided regarding the overall performance of the Ball government, with 47% of voters expressing satisfaction and 46% expressing dissatisfaction (compared to 45% and 51% in November). However, this marks the first time since February 2016, soon after Ball became premier, that dissatisfaction with his government has registered below 50%, following a gradual upward trend in satisfaction levels.

Meanwhile, popular support for the three main political parties is holding steady ahead of a provincial election expected later this year, with 45% of decided NL voters backing the Liberals (compared to 46% in November), 38% supporting the Progressive Conservatives led by Ches Crosbie (up slightly from 35%), and 16% supporting the New Democrats and their departing leader Gerry Rogers (compared to 17%).

In addition, 28% of the electorate is undecided, 4% support none of the parties or do not plan to vote and 2% refuse to state who they will cast ballots for.

Asked which party leader voters would most like to see as premier, 38% favour Ball (up from 32% in November), 31% prefer Crosbie (compared to 30%), and 12% back Rogers (down from 17%). At the same time, 14% don't know who they prefer as premier, and 5% like none of the listed options.

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 January 31 to February 24, 2019, with overall results for the province accurate to within  $\pm 3.5$  percentage points in 95 out of 100 samples.

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).

###

### For more information, please contact:

Margaret Chapman, COO and Partner, CRA at (902) 493-3834, [mchapman@cra.ca](mailto:mchapman@cra.ca)

or

Richard Foot, Manager, *Atlantic Quarterly* at (902) 493-3826, [rfoot@cra.ca](mailto:rfoot@cra.ca)

## CRA Atlantic Quarterly® February 2019 Newfoundland and Labrador Political Results

Sample: 800 Newfoundland and Labrador Residents (18 years plus)

Interview Dates: January 31 to February 24, 2019

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

Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

<b>How satisfied are you with the overall performance of the provincial government led by Premier Dwight Ball?</b>					
	<b>February 2018</b>	<b>May 2018</b>	<b>August 2018</b>	<b>November 2018</b>	<b>February 2019</b>
Completely satisfied	4%	3%	4%	2%	<b>4%</b>
Mostly satisfied	31%	35%	39%	43%	<b>43%</b>
Mostly dissatisfied	40%	35%	36%	34%	<b>32%</b>
Completely dissatisfied	21%	21%	17%	17%	<b>14%</b>
Don't know/No answer/Neither	5%	7%	6%	2%	<b>6%</b>

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

<b>If a provincial election were held today in Newfoundland and Labrador, for which party would you vote? (decided voters)</b>					
<b>Party</b>	<b>February 2018</b>	<b>May 2018</b>	<b>August 2018</b>	<b>November 2018</b>	<b>February 2019</b>
Liberal Party	41%	36%	43%	46%	<b>45%</b>
Progressive Conservative Party	33%	42%	35%	35%	<b>38%</b>
New Democratic Party	24%	22%	19%	17%	<b>16%</b>
Other	2%	0%	2%	1%	<b>0%</b>
<b>TOTAL DECIDED VOTE</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>99%</b>
None/Do not plan to vote	8%	4%	5%	4%	<b>4%</b>
Refused to state	1%	2%	2%	3%	<b>2%</b>
Don't know/Undecided	25%	29%	28%	27%	<b>28%</b>

Current margin of error for decided voters is ± 4.3 percentage points based on a sample size of 536.

<b>Which one of the following individuals would you most prefer as Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador?</b>					
<b>Leader</b>	<b>February 2018</b>	<b>May 2018</b>	<b>August 2018</b>	<b>November 2018</b>	<b>February 2019</b>
Dwight Ball of the Liberal Party	28%	27%	31%	32%	<b>38%</b>
Paul Davis/Ches Crosbie of the PC Party	27%	34%	30%	30%	<b>31%</b>
Gerry Rogers of the NDP/ <i>Interim leader Lorraine Michael~</i>	23%~	19%	16%	17%	<b>12%</b>
None of the above/Other	11%	6%	6%	7%	<b>5%</b>
Don't know/No answer	11%	14%	17%	14%	<b>14%</b>

Current overall margin of error is ± 3.5 percentage points based on a sample size of 603.