



## **NB PCs maintain lead in popular support, satisfaction stable**

- Thin majority of NB voters satisfied with performance of Higgs' minority government.
- PCs maintain wide lead over opposition parties in popular support.
- Green Party reaches new statistical record among decided voters.

**June 13, 2019:** A slim majority of New Brunswickers are satisfied with the performance of Premier Blaine Higgs' provincial government, according to the latest survey by **Narrative Research** (formerly Corporate Research Associates).

Seven months after Higgs and the Progressive Conservatives assumed power, 53% of New Brunswick voters are satisfied versus 34% dissatisfied with their government's performance (compared with 56% satisfied and 30% dissatisfied three months ago). Six percent are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied this quarter, and 7% don't have an opinion on the matter.

At the same time, the PCs are maintaining their lead over the opposition parties in terms of popular support. The PCs have the backing of 42% of decided voters (unchanged from February 2019), while the provincial Liberals have the support of 25% (compared to 29% in February), and the Green Party has 18% support— a statistical high for the Greens – (compared to 14% in February). The New Democratic Party has 8% support (compared to 6%) and the People's Alliance of NB (PANB) has 6% (compared to 9%).

One quarter of the electorate (23%) is undecided about which party to vote for if an election were held today, and 9% do not plan to vote or will not say where their support lies.

Meanwhile, Higgs is also holding onto his position as the most preferred option for premier among the party leaders, with 29% in favour of his leadership (unchanged from February). Kevin Vickers, who became the new Liberal leader in April, is preferred by 19% of New Brunswickers, Green Party leader David Coon is the choice of 17% (compared to 15% in February), PANB leader Kris Austin is favoured by 8% (compared with 9%) and former NDP leader Jennifer McKenzie, who recently stepped down as leader, is preferred by 6% (compared with 7%).

These results are part of **Narrative Research's Atlantic Quarterly**<sup>®</sup>, an independent telephone survey of Atlantic Canadians, and are based on a sample of 800 adult New Brunswickers, conducted from May 2 to 22, 2019, with overall results accurate to within  $\pm 3.5$  percentage points, 95 out of 100 times.

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## Narrative Research *Atlantic Quarterly*® – May 2019

### New Brunswick Political Results

Sample: 800 New Brunswickers (18 years plus)

Interview Dates: May 2 to 22, 2019

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 Blaine Higgs (as of Feb/19)?***

	May 2018	August 2018	November 2018	February 2019	May 2019
Completely satisfied	4%	5%	6%	11%	6%
Mostly satisfied	46%	45%	42%	45%	47%
Mostly dissatisfied	28%	28%	27%	20%	23%
Completely dissatisfied	11%	14%	15%	10%	11%
Don't know/No answer/Neither	10%	7%	8%	15%	13%

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? (decided voters)***

Party	May 2018	August 2018*	November 2018	February 2019	May 2019
Progressive Conservative Party	31%	30%	30%	42%	42%
Liberal Party	45%	50%	35%	29%	25%
Green Party	7%	7%	17%	14%	18%
New Democratic Party	13%	7%	6%	6%	8%
People's Alliance of New Brunswick	4%	6%	12%	9%	6%
Other	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
<b>TOTAL DECIDED VOTE</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
None/Do not plan to vote	5%	5%	4%	3%	4%
Refused to state	6%	6%	7%	7%	5%
Don't know/Undecided	14%	14%	23%	23%	23%

Current margin of error for decided voters is ± 4.3 percentage points based on a sample size of 542.

\*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	May 2018	August 2018	November 2018	February 2019	May 2019
Blaine Higgs of the Progressive Conservative Party	20%	23%	22%	29%	29%
<i>Brian Gallant</i> ~/ Next leader of the Liberal Party* /Kevin Vickers of the Liberal Party	32%~	35%~	25%~	17%*	19%
David Coon of the Green Party	11%	8%	17%	15%	17%
Kris Austin of the People's Alliance of New Brunswick	4%	6%	10%	9%	8%
Jennifer McKenzie of the NDP	9%	5%	5%	7%	6%
None of the above/Other	5%	5%	6%	3%	4%
Don't know/No answer	19%	17%	16%	21%	18%

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