

Support and satisfaction with Liberal government plunges amid difficult times in NL

- Preference for the Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador drops dramatically this quarter
- A large majority of residents are dissatisfied with the performance of the Liberal government
- Popularity of Premier Dwight Ball declines sharply

HALIFAX, NS June 9, 2016: Perhaps not unexpectedly following the harsh measures in the recent provincial budget, as well as the controversy associated with the resignation of Nalcor's CEO, support for the Newfoundland and Labrador Liberal Party declined significantly this quarter, according to the most recent survey conducted by **Corporate Research Associates Inc.** Specifically, one-quarter of decided voters back the governing Newfoundland and Labrador Liberal Party (27%, down from 66% in February 2016), while 34 percent support the Progressive Conservative Party (up from 23%). Meanwhile, four in ten prefer the New Democratic Party (38%, up from 11%).

The number of residents who are undecided stands at 25 percent (compared with 21%), while three percent refuse to state a preference (unchanged), and eight percent either support none of the parties or do not plan to vote (up from 3%).

Satisfaction with the Liberal government also declined substantially this quarter, with two in ten residents satisfied with the performance of the government (21%, down from 64% three months ago), while three-quarters are dissatisfied (75%, up from 26%). Meanwhile, three percent do not offer a definite opinion (down from 8%), and one percent say it is too soon to tell (down from 3%).

Premier Dwight Ball's popularity has declined to 18 percent (down from 53% three months ago), while over one-third support Paul Davis of the PC Party (35%, compared with 29%), and preference for NDP leader Earle McCurdy stands at 22 percent (up from 8%). Just under two in ten (17%, up from 5%) prefer none of these leaders, and eight percent have no definite opinion at this time (compared with 6%).

These results are part of the **CRA Atlantic Quarterly**[®], an independent telephone survey of Atlantic Canadians, and are based on a sample of 801 adult Newfoundland and Labrador residents. The survey was conducted from May 9 to May 30, 2016 with overall results for the province accurate to within ± 3.5 percentage points in 95 out of 100 samples.

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CRA Atlantic Quarterly® Spring 2016 Newfoundland and Labrador Political Results

Sample: 801 Newfoundland and Labrador Residents (18 years plus)

Interview Dates: May 9 to May 30, 2016

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

Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

| <i>How satisfied are you with the overall performance of the provincial government led by....</i> | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| | <i>Premier Paul Davis?</i> | | | <i>Premier Dwight Ball?</i> | |
| | May 2015 | August 2015 | November 2015 | February 2016 | May 2016 |
| Completely satisfied | 4% | 4% | 6% | 7% | 1% |
| Mostly satisfied | 43% | 45% | 44% | 57% | 20% |
| Mostly dissatisfied | 30% | 26% | 29% | 19% | 27% |
| Completely dissatisfied | 16% | 14% | 13% | 7% | 48% |
| Don't know/No answer/Neither | 7% | 10% | 8% | 8% | 3% |
| Too soon to tell | - | - | - | 3% | 1% |

Current overall margin of error is ± 4.9 percentage points based on a sample size of 400.

| <i>If a provincial election were held today in Newfoundland and Labrador, for which party would you vote?</i> | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Party | May 2015 | August 2015 | November 2015 | February 2016 | May 2016 |
| Liberal Party | 50% | 48% | 67% | 66% | 27% |
| Progressive Conservative Party | 27% | 27% | 22% | 23% | 34% |
| New Democratic Party | 22% | 25% | 10% | 11% | 38% |
| Green Party | 1% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 2% |
| Other | 0% | 0% | 1% | 0% | 0% |
| TOTAL DECIDED VOTE | 100% | 101% | 100% | 100% | 101% |
| None/Do not plan to vote | 4% | 4% | 3% | 3% | 8% |
| Refused to state | 3% | 3% | 3% | 3% | 3% |
| Don't know/Undecided | 22% | 28% | 23% | 21% | 25% |

Current overall margin of error for decided voters is ± 4.3 percentage points based on a sample size of 516.

| <i>Which one of the following individuals would you most prefer as Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador?</i> | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Leader | May 2015 | August 2015 | November 2015 | February 2016 | May 2016 |
| Dwight Ball of the Liberal Party (Elected Premier in November 2015) | 43% | 42% | 50% | 53% | 18% |
| Paul Davis of the PC Party | 26% | 24% | 27% | 29% | 35% |
| Earle McCurdy of the NDP | 18% | 17% | 11% | 8% | 22% |
| None of the above/Other | 4% | 6% | 3% | 5% | 17% |
| Don't know/No answer | 10% | 11% | 8% | 6% | 8% |

Current overall margin of error is ± 4.9 percentage points based on a sample size of 400.