

Support for NS Liberals stabilized after declining three months ago

- NS Liberals continued to be the preferred party, as voter support stabilized after declining three months ago
- Satisfaction with the performance of the provincial government was stable after two consecutive quarters of decline
- Premier McNeil remained the preferred party leader, as support stabilized after declining for two consecutive quarters

HALIFAX, NS June 7, 2017: Corporate Research Associates continued to conduct its regular tracking of trends across the province during the recent Nova Scotia election campaign. Consequently, today's results reflect the May 3 to 25 polling period and are slightly different than the daily tracking polls leading up to the election, undertaken on behalf of The Chronicle Herald.

Support for the Nova Scotia Liberal Party stabilized this quarter after declining three months ago, according to the most recent survey conducted by **Corporate Research Associates Inc.** Specifically, four in ten decided and leaning voters supported the Liberal Party (40%, compared with 44% in February 2017). Preference for the Progressive Conservative Party rested at 29 percent (compared with 28%), while three in ten also preferred the New Democratic Party (28%, compared with 23%), and two percent supported the Green Party (compared with 5%).

Excluding decided and leaning voters, the number of Nova Scotians who were undecided in the survey period stood at 17 percent (down from 27%), while five percent refused to state a preference (compared with 3%), and six percent either supported none of these parties or did not plan to vote (compared with 4%).

After two consecutive quarters of decline, government satisfaction stabilized, as just over four in ten Nova Scotians were satisfied with the performance of Stephen McNeil's Liberal government (44%, compared with 45% in February 2017). Meanwhile, one-half of Nova Scotians were dissatisfied (48%, compared with 49%), and nine percent (compared with 6%) did not offer a definite opinion.

In terms of leader preference, three in ten Nova Scotians supported Premier Stephen McNeil, representing stability after two consecutive quarters of decline (30%, compared with 31% in February 2017), while two in ten preferred Jamie Baillie of the PC Party (22%, compared with 24%). Support for Gary Burrill of the NDP stood at 19 percent (compared with 17%), while preference for Thomas Trappenberg of the Green Party rested at three percent (compared with 4%), and backing for Jonathan Dean of the Atlantica Party was at one percent (unchanged). Meanwhile, two in ten (20%, compared with 18%) did not offer a definite opinion, and five percent preferred none of these leaders (unchanged).

These results are part of the **CRA Atlantic Quarterly**[®], an independent, quarterly telephone survey of Atlantic Canadians, and are based on a sample of 1,205 adult Nova Scotians, conducted from May 3 to 25, 2017 with overall results accurate to within ± 2.8 percentage points, 95 out of 100 times.



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CRA Atlantic Quarterly® – Spring 2017

Nova Scotia Political Results

Sample: 1,205 Nova Scotians (18 years plus)
Interview Dates: May 3 to 25, 2017
Overall Margin of Sampling Error: ± 2.8 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 Stephen McNeil?					
	May 2016	August 2016	November 2016	February 2017	May 2017
Completely satisfied	3%	5%	3%	4%	4%
Mostly satisfied	52%	53%	50%	41%	40%
Mostly dissatisfied	27%	26%	24%	27%	27%
Completely dissatisfied	8%	9%	15%	22%	21%
Don't know/No answer/Neither	9%	7%	8%	6%	9%

Current overall margin of error is ± 2.8 percentage points based on a sample size of 1,205.

If a provincial election were held today in Nova Scotia, for which party would you vote?						
Party	May 2016	August 2016	November 2016	February 2017	May 2017*	Election Results May 30, 2017
Liberal Party	59%	56%	56%	44%	40%	39%
Progressive Conservative Party	21%	22%	20%	28%	29%	36%
New Democratic Party	18%	19%	19%	23%	28%	22%
Green Party	2%	2%	4%	5%	2%	3%
TOTAL DECIDED/LEANING VOTE	100%	99%	99%	100%	99%	100%
None/Do not plan to vote	6%	3%	3%	4%	6%	-
Refused to state	6%	7%	5%	3%	5%	-
Don't know/Undecided	31%	28%	29%	27%	17%	-

Current margin of error for decided/leaning voters is ± 4.1 percentage points based on a sample size of 567.

*May 2017 results include leaning voters, as well as decided voters.

Which one of the following individuals would you most prefer as Premier of Nova Scotia?					
Leader	May 2016	August 2016	November 2016	February 2017	May 2017
Stephen McNeil of the Liberal Party	41%	43%	38%	31%	30%
Jamie Baillie of the PC Party	19%	18%	20%	24%	22%
Gary Burrill of the NDP	11%	14%	11%	17%	19%
Thomas Trappenberg of the Green Party	3%	2%	5%	4%	3%
Jonathan Dean of the Atlantica Party	-	1%	1%	1%	1%
None	5%	7%	4%	5%	5%
Don't know/No answer	21%	16%	20%	18%	20%

Current overall margin of error is ± 3.5 percentage points based on a sample size of 803.