NEWS RELEASE

FORUM RESEARCH INC.

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Embargoed until 1 pm September 14th

Liberals Lead But PCs Tracking for Thin Majority

People's Alliance and Green battling for third

Toronto, September 13th – In a random sampling of public opinion taken by The Forum Poll™ among 1300 New Brunswick voters, amongst those decided and leaning, just over a third (37%) say they would vote Liberal if an election were held today, while a third (32%) says they would vote Progressive Conservative.

One-sixth (15%) say they would support the People's Alliance of New Brunswick, with 1 in 10 (11%) saying they would support the Green Party.

Few (4%) identify as NDP voters, or as supporting another party (1%).

Coon most popular leader, half disapprove of Gallant

Only a third (34%) approve of the job Brian Gallant is doing as premier, while half (54%) say they disapprove. 1 in 10 (11%) say they do not know.

Gallant's net favourable score (approve – disapprove) is -20.

A third (35%) say they approve of the job Blaine Higgs is doing as leader of the PCs, while 4 in 10 (40%) say they disapprove. One-quarter (25%) say they do not know.

Higgs' net favourable score (approve – disapprove) is -5.

4 in 10 (40%) say they approve of the job David Coon is doing as leader of the Green Party, with a quarter (22%) saying they disapprove. 4 in 10 (38%) say they do not know.

Coon's net favourable score (approve – disapprove) is +19.

One-fifth (18%) say they approve of the job Jennifer McKenzie is doing as Leader of the NDP, with almost a third (29%) saying they disapprove. Half (53%) say they do not know.

McKenzie's net favourable score (approve – disapprove) is -11.

A quarter (27%) say they approve of the job Kris Austin is doing as leader of the People's Alliance of New Brunswick, while a similar proportion (28%) say they disapprove. More than 4 in 10 (45%) say they do not know.

Austin's net favourable score (approve – disapprove) is -1.

"The Liberals lead, but the Progressive Conservatives are tracking for a razor-thin majority, as Gallant's high level of disapproval is potentially dragging his party's support down, somewhat" said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, President of Forum Research. "Kris Austin and the People's Alliance of New Brunswick have surged into third place and lead the Green Party. As of right now, it looks like it could be a fight to the finish for both the Premier's chair, and the third party."

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Gallant and Higgs seen as best Premier

One quarter (28%) say that Brian Gallant would make the best Premier of New Brunswick, while a similar proportion (26%) say Higgs would make the best Premier.

1 in 10 (12%) say David Coon would make the best Premier, while a similar proportion (11%) say Kris Austin would make the best premier.

Few (4%) identified Jennifer McKenzie as the best premier.

One-fifth (19%) do not know which candidate would make the best premier.

Almost half say Liberals most likely to win

More than 4 in 10 (46%) say the Liberals are most likely to win, with a third (30%) saying it would be the PCs.

1 in 10 (8%) say the People's Alliance of New Brunswick is most likely to win. Few identify either the NDP (2%) or Green (2%) as likely to win.

1 in 10 (12%) say they do not know.

Included amongst those that said the Liberals are likely to win are (86%) of Liberal voters, a quarter (22%) of PC voters, a third (32%) of NDP voters, 4 in 10 (42%)Green voters, and one-fifth (18%) of People's Alliance voters.

Included amongst those that said the PCs are likely to win are two-thirds (68%) of PC voters, (5%) of Liberal voters, a quarter (28%) of NDP voters, a quarter (25%) of Green voters, and a quarter (25%) of People's Alliance of New Brunswick voters.

4 in 10 (41%) of People's Alliance voters believes the People's Alliance are likely to win, but only one-sixth (13%) of Green voters believe the Greens are likely to win. One-fifth (19%) of NDP voters believe the NDP are likely to win.

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A third says the economy is their biggest issue

A third (30%) say the economy is the issue that is most likely to determine their vote. Healthcare (18%) and it's time for a change (15%) following somewhat far behind.

Education (10%), local candidate (7%), and ethics in government (7%) are clustered together.

Few (2%) identify party loyalty as their biggest issue.

1 in 10 (10%) said another issue was their biggest.

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Almost half (46%) of PC voters say the economy is their biggest issue, with a quarter (26%) of Liberals saying the same.

Narrow PC Majority

If the election were held today, the PCs project to secure 25 seats, with the Liberals serving as official opposition with 22. The Green and the People's alliance would secure 1 seat each.

"The Liberals lead, but the Progressive Conservatives are tracking for a razor-thin majority, as Gallant's high level of disapproval is potentially dragging his party's support down, somewhat" said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, President of Forum Research. "Kris Austin and the People's Alliance of New Brunswick have surged into third place and lead the Green Party. As of right now, it looks like it could be a fight to the finish for both the Premier's chair, and the third party."

Lorne Bozinoff, Ph.D. is the president and founder of Forum Research. He can be reached at lbozinoff@forumresearch.com or at (416) 960-9603.

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Methodology

The Forum Poll™ was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 1300 randomly selected New Brunswick Voters. The poll was conducted September 10-11, 2018.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 3 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. Subsample results will be less accurate. Margins of error for subsample (such as age, gender) results are available at www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp

Where appropriate, the data has been statistically weighted by age, region, and other variables to ensure that the sample reflects the actual population according to the latest Census data.

This research is not necessarily predictive of future outcomes, but rather, captures opinion at one point in time. Actual results depend on a party's ability to get their voters out. Forum Research conducted this poll as a public service and to demonstrate our survey research capabilities. Forum houses its poll results in the Data Library of the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto.

With offices across Canada and around the world, 100% Canadian-owned Forum Research is one of the country's leading survey research firms. This Forum Poll™ and other polls may be found at Forum's poll archive at forumpoll.com.

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Top2/Btm2 (or 3 or 4 where applicable) refers to the combined results of the most answered positive and negative responses:

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	631	112	91	133	119	176	303	315
NET: TOP3	66	57	60	68	78	86	67	64
NET: BTM3	34	43	39	32	21	14	32	36
Very satisfied	9	9	6	6	13	20	11	8
Satisfied	28	17	29	35	32	45	25	31
Somewhat satisfied	28	31	26	28	32	20	31	25
Somewhat dissatisfied	12	11	16	14	11	8	13	12
Dissatisfied	11	15	15	9	5	3	9	13
Very dissatisfied	11	18	9	8	5	3	9	12
Don't know	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0

Top 3 here collects very satisfied, satisfied, and somewhat satisfied into one category, and Btm 3 collects very dissatisfied, dissatisfied, and somewhat dissatisfied.

Due to rounding some numbers may not add up to 100

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Provincial voter intention

Which party are you most likely to vote for in the provincial election on September 24th? + Even though you may not have made up your mind, which party are you leaning towards at this time? [Decided and leaning]

Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1236	188	202	229	276	341	661	543
Progressive Conservative	32	27	30	36	31	37	37	27
Liberal	37	37	30	34	39	42	33	42
NDP	4	4	7	2	4	2	3	4
Green	11	14	11	10	13	9	11	11
People's alliance of New Brunswick	15	17	21	18	13	10	15	15
Another party	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1

Income

%	Total	<$20K	$20-$40K	$40-$60K	$60-$80K	$80-$100K	$100-$250K
Sample	1236	97	180	188	169	128	259
Progressive Conservative	32	23	22	31	30	41	40
Liberal	37	41	45	40	43	32	32
NDP	4	6	5	3	3	4	2
Green	11	13	14	11	10	9	9
People's alliance of New Brunswick	15	16	14	14	15	13	15
Another party	1	1	1	1	0	2	1

Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate degree
Sample	1236	228	318	461	229
Progressive Conservative	32	33	32	32	32
Liberal	37	34	39	36	40
NDP	4	4	4	3	3
Green	11	11	10	10	15
People's alliance of New Brunswick	15	18	15	17	8
Another party	1	0	1	0	3

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Language spoken at home

%	Total	English	French	Some other language
Sample	1236	903	301	32
Progressive Conservative	32	36	23	9
Liberal	37	29	60	47
NDP	4	3	4	5
Green	11	12	9	17
People's alliance of New Brunswick	15	19	3	16
Another party	1	1	1	6

Region

%	Total	East Coast Moncton	Bay of Fundy St. John	Central Fredericton
Sample	1236	540	387	309
Progressive Conservative	32	24	45	30
Liberal	37	47	27	32
NDP	4	3	5	3
Green	11	12	9	13
People's alliance of New Brunswick	15	13	13	20
Another party	1	1	0	1

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Brian Gallant

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Brian Gallant is doing as premier?

Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1300	196	212	235	288	369	681	581
Approve	34	34	30	33	35	37	34	35
Disapprove	54	53	56	59	53	52	59	49
Don't know	11	14	13	8	12	11	7	15

Income

%	Total	<$20K	$20-$40K	$40-$60K	$60-$80K	$80-$100K	$100-$250K
Sample	1300	102	191	195	175	131	267
Approve	34	35	39	42	41	28	31
Disapprove	54	48	41	52	52	60	62
Don't know	11	17	20	7	7	12	8

Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate degree
Sample	1300	249	336	481	234
Approve	34	30	38	32	37
Disapprove	54	57	47	59	54
Don't know	11	14	15	9	9

Language spoken at home

%	Total	English	French	Some other language
Sample	1300	946	315	39
Approve	34	28	55	22
Disapprove	54	61	35	48
Don't know	11	11	10	30

Region

%	Total	East Coast Moncton	Bay of Fundy St. John	Central Fredericton
Sample	1300	567	406	327
Approve	34	43	27	28
Disapprove	54	45	63	60
Don't know	11	12	10	12

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Blaine Higgs

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Blaine Higgs is doing as leader of the Progressive Conservatives?

Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1300	196	212	235	288	369	681	581
Approve	35	34	30	38	35	39	40	30
Disapprove	40	38	43	38	43	40	42	38
Don't know	25	28	27	24	22	22	17	31

Income

%	Total	<$20K	$20-$40K	$40-$60K	$60-$80K	$80-$100K	$100-$250K
Sample	1300	102	191	195	175	131	267
Approve	35	39	27	33	35	39	43
Disapprove	40	38	44	40	41	47	37
Don't know	25	23	29	27	24	14	20

Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate degree
Sample	1300	249	336	481	234
Approve	35	35	34	37	35
Disapprove	40	34	39	41	46
Don't know	25	30	27	23	18

Language spoken at home

%	Total	English	French	Some other language
Sample	1300	946	315	39
Approve	35	39	27	25
Disapprove	40	36	51	42
Don't know	25	25	22	33

Region

%	Total	East Coast Moncton	Bay of Fundy St. John	Central Fredericton
Sample	1300	567	406	327
Approve	35	27	48	35
Disapprove	40	46	30	41
Don't know	25	27	22	24

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David Coon

Do you approve or disapprove of the job David Coon is doing as leader of the Progressive Conservatives?

Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1300	196	212	235	288	369	681	581
Approve	40	44	40	34	46	37	43	37
Disapprove	22	21	20	24	21	22	27	17
Don't know	38	35	40	43	33	40	30	46

Income

%	Total	<$20K	$20-$40K	$40-$60K	$60-$80K	$80-$100K	$100-$250K
Sample	1300	102	191	195	175	131	267
Approve	40	34	42	39	46	42	42
Disapprove	22	23	22	19	21	24	24
Don't know	38	43	36	41	34	34	34

Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate degree
Sample	1300	249	336	481	234
Approve	40	29	34	44	53
Disapprove	22	28	23	19	18
Don't know	38	43	43	37	29

Language spoken at home

%	Total	English	French	Some other language
Sample	1300	946	315	39
Approve	40	40	41	38
Disapprove	22	22	20	22
Don't know	38	38	40	40

Region

%	Total	East Coast Moncton	Bay of Fundy St. John	Central Fredericton
Sample	1300	567	406	327
Approve	40	36	38	52
Disapprove	22	22	22	22
Don't know	38	43	41	27

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Jennifer McKenzie

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Jennifer McKenzie is doing as leader of the NDP?

Age/Gender

%	Total	<$20K	$20-$40K	$40-$60K	$60-$80K	$80-$100K	$100-$250K
Sample	1300	102	191	195	175	131	267
Approve	18	22	20	21	22	17	16
Disapprove	29	31	27	24	29	32	33
Don't know	53	47	54	56	50	51	51

Income

%	Total	<$20K	$20-$40K	$40-$60K	$60-$80K	$80-$100K	$100-$250K
Sample	1300	102	191	195	175	131	267
Approve	18	22	20	21	22	17	16
Disapprove	29	31	27	24	29	32	33
Don't know	53	47	54	56	50	51	51

Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate degree
Sample	1300	249	336	481	234
Approve	18	16	15	20	20
Disapprove	29	32	28	28	29
Don't know	53	53	57	52	51

Language spoken at home

%	Total	English	French	Some other language
Sample	1300	946	315	39
Approve	18	17	21	12
Disapprove	29	30	25	28
Don't know	53	53	54	60

Region

%	Total	East Coast Moncton	Bay of Fundy St. John	Central Fredericton
Sample	1300	567	406	327
Approve	18	20	16	17
Disapprove	29	26	32	30
Don't know	53	54	52	53

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Kris Austin

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Kris Austin is doing as Leader of the People´s Alliance of New Brunswick?

Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1300	196	212	235	288	369	681	581
Approve	27	28	30	28	29	22	30	23
Disapprove	28	23	28	27	31	32	33	23
Don't know	45	50	42	45	41	46	37	53

Income

%	Total	<$20K	$20-$40K	$40-$60K	$60-$80K	$80-$100K	$100-$250K
Sample	1300	102	191	195	175	131	267
Approve	27	34	26	22	31	24	28
Disapprove	28	20	28	26	30	32	33
Don't know	45	46	46	52	40	43	40

Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate degree
Sample	1300	249	336	481	234
Approve	27	31	24	29	22
Disapprove	28	21	29	27	37
Don't know	45	48	47	44	42

Language spoken at home

%	Total	English	French	Some other language
Sample	1300	946	315	39
Approve	27	32	10	43
Disapprove	28	23	45	14
Don't know	45	45	45	43

Region

%	Total	East Coast Moncton	Bay of Fundy St. John	Central Fredericton
Sample	1300	567	406	327
Approve	27	25	26	31
Disapprove	28	31	24	28
Don't know	45	44	50	41

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Best premier

Regardless of which party you would vote for, who do you think would make the best Premier of New Brunswick?

Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1300	196	212	235	288	369	681	581
Brian Gallant	28	21	23	29	34	34	28	30
Blaine Higgs	26	18	20	31	26	33	31	21
David Coon	12	17	11	12	9	10	11	12
Jennifer McKenzie	4	7	5	3	4	1	5	4
Kris Austin	11	11	18	12	10	7	12	10
Don't know	19	26	23	12	18	15	13	24

Income

%	Total	<$20K	$20-$40K	$40-$60K	$60-$80K	$80-$100K	$100-$250K
Sample	1300	102	191	195	175	131	267
Brian Gallant	28	29	36	33	29	26	25
Blaine Higgs	26	13	14	26	23	32	37
David Coon	12	8	12	12	15	15	10
Jennifer McKenzie	4	8	5	5	3	6	2
Kris Austin	11	12	11	11	11	11	13
Don't know	19	31	23	14	19	10	13

Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate degree
Sample	1300	249	336	481	234
Brian Gallant	28	24	31	27	31
Blaine Higgs	26	21	25	26	31
David Coon	12	8	8	13	18
Jennifer McKenzie	4	3	6	4	3
Kris Austin	11	14	8	14	7
Don't know	19	28	22	16	10

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Language spoken at home

%	Total	English	French	Some other language
Sample	1300	946	315	39
Brian Gallant	28	22	50	16
Blaine Higgs	26	29	18	10
David Coon	12	13	9	11
Jennifer McKenzie	4	4	4	8
Kris Austin	11	14	3	16
Don't know	19	19	16	39

Region

%	Total	East Coast Moncton	Bay of Fundy St. John	Central Fredericton
Sample	1300	567	406	327
Brian Gallant	28	37	20	23
Blaine Higgs	26	19	37	23
David Coon	12	13	8	15
Jennifer McKenzie	4	4	5	3
Kris Austin	11	9	11	14
Don't know	19	17	19	21

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Likely winner

In your opinion, which party is most likely to win the upcoming provincial election?

Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1300	196	212	235	288	369	681	581
Progressive Conservative	30	26	35	32	30	30	33	27
Liberal	46	43	40	50	46	49	45	48
NDP	2	3	3	1	3	1	3	2
Green	2	3	4	1	1	1	2	1
People's alliance of New Brunswick	8	15	7	8	5	4	7	9
Don't know	12	10	11	8	15	15	10	13

Income

%	Total	<$20K	$20-$40K	$40-$60K	$60-$80K	$80-$100K	$100-$250K
Sample	1300	102	191	195	175	131	267
Progressive Conservative	30	27	21	33	29	40	31
Liberal	46	38	49	51	50	42	49
NDP	2	8	5	0	0	1	1
Green	2	3	2	1	3	1	2
People's alliance of New Brunswick	8	12	11	7	8	9	5
Don't know	12	12	13	7	9	8	11

Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate degree
Sample	1300	249	336	481	234
Progressive Conservative	30	30	29	33	27
Liberal	46	38	47	46	54
NDP	2	5	1	2	2
Green	2	3	3	1	1
People's alliance of New Brunswick	8	12	7	8	4
Don't know	12	13	13	10	13

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Language spoken at home

%	Total	English	French	Some other language
Sample	1300	946	315	39
Progressive Conservative	30	34	20	9
Liberal	46	41	62	38
NDP	2	2	3	2
Green	2	1	3	10
People's alliance of New Brunswick	8	9	4	13
Don't know	12	13	8	28

Region

%	Total	East Coast Moncton	Bay of Fundy St. John	Central Fredericton
Sample	1300	567	406	327
Progressive Conservative	30	22	43	27
Liberal	46	55	37	41
NDP	2	3	1	3
Green	2	2	1	3
People's alliance of New Brunswick	8	7	6	11
Don't know	12	11	11	15

Voter intention

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	People's alliance of New Brunswick	Another party
Sample	1300	404	437	54	144	183	14
Progressive Conservative	30	68	5	28	25	25	5
Liberal	46	22	86	32	42	18	34
NDP	2	0	1	19	7	2	8
Green	2	0	1	0	13	1	0
People's alliance of New Brunswick	8	2	2	6	2	41	14
Don't know	12	7	6	16	12	13	39

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Ballot issue
In your opinion, which party is most likely to win the upcoming provincial election?

Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1300	196	212	235	288	369	681	581
Education	10	19	12	9	4	6	7	13
Healthcare	18	13	11	12	19	32	13	24
Economy	30	28	27	34	33	28	36	25
Party Loyalty	2	3	3	2	1	2	2	2
It's time for a change	15	12	20	14	19	13	16	15
Local Candidate	7	5	8	10	7	8	8	6
Ethics in Government	7	10	7	8	6	4	8	6
Other	10	11	12	11	11	7	10	10

Income

%	Total	<$20K	$20-$40K	$40-$60K	$60-$80K	$80-$100K	$100-$250K
Sample	1300	102	191	195	175	131	267
Education	10	9	9	5	12	10	13
Healthcare	18	20	26	22	18	14	11
Economy	30	19	20	29	35	31	38
Party Loyalty	2	1	3	4	1	3	1
It's time for a change	15	26	25	13	12	10	13
Local Candidate	7	6	4	9	12	7	6
Ethics in Government	7	4	5	9	3	13	8
Other	10	14	9	9	8	12	10

Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate degree
Sample	1300	249	336	481	234
Education	10	5	12	10	12
Healthcare	18	23	21	16	15
Economy	30	24	25	33	35
Party Loyalty	2	1	3	2	1
It's time for a change	15	22	16	14	9
Local Candidate	7	7	7	7	9
Ethics in Government	7	6	5	8	9
Other	10	11	11	10	9

FORUM RESEARCH

NEWS RELEASE

FORUM RESEARCH INC.

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Language spoken at home

%	Total	English	French	Some other language
Sample	**1300**	**946**	**315**	**39**
Education	10	8	15	14
Healthcare	18	16	26	20
Economy	30	32	24	16
Party Loyalty	2	2	3	0
It's time for a change	15	18	8	21
Local Candidate	7	6	10	10
Ethics in Government	7	8	4	2
Other	10	10	10	16

Region

%	Total	East Coast Moncton	Bay of Fundy St. John	Central Fredericton
Sample	**1300**	**567**	**406**	**327**
Education	10	11	9	9
Healthcare	18	21	15	18
Economy	30	27	35	28
Party Loyalty	2	3	1	2
It's time for a change	15	16	13	17
Local Candidate	7	7	9	5
Ethics in Government	7	5	9	7
Other	10	10	9	13

FORUM RESEARCH

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