

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Liberal Support Sags

McNeil very unpopular

Toronto, May 17th – In a random sampling of public opinion taken by The Forum Poll™ among 1057 Nova Scotia voters, for those decided and leaning, the Liberals, with over a third (37%) lead but are statistically tied with the Progressive Conservatives (35%) who are just behind. A quarter of respondents (25%) say they support the NDP. Few support the Green Party (4%).

Liberal support has dropped 4 points since the beginning of the campaign (May 3: 41%). The PC share of support has increased by 5 points (May 3: 32%). NDP support is unchanged at (25%).

Respondents most likely to say they support the Liberals include those aged 55-64 (40%), 65+ (43%), the least wealthy (45%), with some college/university (42%), and living on the South Shore (43%).

Respondents most likely to say they support the Progressive Conservatives include those aged 65+ (39%), the least educated (37%) or with a college/university degree (36%), and living in Cape Breton (42%) or the North End (40%).

Respondents most likely to say they support the NDP include those aged 34 and younger (29%), 35-44 (32%), 45-54 (32%), females (30%), with a post-graduate degree (32%), and living in Halifax (33%).

Midway through the campaign, Liberal minority possible

The race has narrowed considerably, and if an election were held today, the Liberals would secure a minority government with 22 seats. The PC would remain the official opposition with 17 seats, and the NDP would secure a strong 12 seats.

McNeil again edges Baillie as best premier, but they are virtually tied

Almost 3-in-10 (28%) believe Stephen McNeil would make the best premier, just ahead of Jamie Baillie (26%). 2-in-10 see Gary Burrill (20%) as best premier, with just over a quarter (26%) reporting they don't know who would make the best premier.

McNeil strong disapproval, Baillie and Burrill better, but still negative

Just over a quarter (28%) approve of Stephen McNeil, but more than 6 in 10 say they disapprove of his job as premier. His net favourable score (approve minus disapprove) is a dismal -32. Just over 1-in-10 (11%) say they do not know about his performance.

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"The premier is very unpopular right now, and that could be why we are seeing such a dip in the Liberal numbers, right now," said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, President of Forum Research.



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Jamie Baillie's approval is better than a third (34%), but his disapproval exceeds it at (37%), for a net favourable score of -3. Almost a third (29%) say they do not know about his performance.

Gary Burrill sees approval from a third (33%), but disapproval of more than a third (36%), for a net favourable score of -3. A third (32%) say the do not know about his performance.

"The premier is very unpopular right now, and that could be why we are seeing such a dip in the Liberal numbers, right now," said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, President of Forum Research.

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 1057 randomly selected Nova Scotia Voters. The poll was conducted May 15-16, 2017.

The following numbers of households were contacted for this poll:

May 15th: 13387

May 16th: 41056

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 3%, 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 will depend on the parties' success at getting 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 www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp



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Ballot Intention

If a provincial election were held today, which party are you most likely to vote for? + 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	956	152	135	149	218	302	450	487
Progressive Conservative	35	31	35	34	31	39	37	32
Liberal	37	32	28	34	40	43	40	34
New Democratic	25	29	32	30	26	15	19	30
Green	4	8	5	3	3	2	3	4
Other	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	956	82	146	133	117	116	179
Progressive Conservative	35	21	33	34	35	37	36
Liberal	37	45	37	41	34	38	34
New Democratic	25	26	24	22	26	24	27
Green	4	7	6	3	4	1	3
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Region

%	Total	Halifax	Cape Breton	South Shore	North End
Sample	956	399	134	278	145
Progressive Conservative	35	30	42	33	40
Liberal	37	33	31	43	38
New Democratic	25	33	21	21	19
Green	4	4	6	3	2
Other	0	0	0	0	0



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Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	956	163	236	345	212
Progressive Conservative	35	37	32	36	33
Liberal	37	37	42	37	31
New Democratic	25	22	22	23	32
Green	4	3	3	3	4
Other	0	0	0	0	0



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McNeil Approval

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Stephen McNeil is doing as premier?

Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1057	168	144	173	236	336	493	540
Approve	28	17	22	28	37	36	33	25
Disapprove	61	67	71	64	54	52	57	64
Don't know	11	16	7	8	9	12	10	11

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1057	91	168	149	132	121	191
Approve	28	23	29	33	32	29	27
Disapprove	61	52	58	54	61	67	67
Don't know	11	25	13	13	7	4	6

Region

%	Total	Halifax	Cape Breton	South Shore	North End
Sample	1057	445	147	305	160
Approve	28	24	27	33	29
Disapprove	61	66	64	55	59
Don't know	11	10	10	12	12

Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1057	197	257	377	226
Approve	28	30	29	29	24
Disapprove	61	52	61	61	69
Don't know	11	18	10	10	7

Current Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Other
Sample	1057	313	336	244	48
Approve	28	8	73	5	15
Disapprove	61	86	16	90	77
Don't know	11	6	11	6	8



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Baillie approval

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Jaime Baillie is doing as leader of the Progressive Conservatives?

Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1057	168	144	173	236	336	493	540
Approve	34	27	35	37	32	39	40	29
Disapprove	37	35	38	38	39	39	41	34
Don't know	29	39	28	25	29	22	19	37

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1057	91	168	149	132	121	191
Approve	34	27	30	37	33	32	43
Disapprove	37	36	33	36	38	47	39
Don't know	29	37	36	27	29	21	18

Region

%	Total	Halifax	Cape Breton	South Shore	North End
Sample	1057	445	147	305	160
Approve	34	32	38	32	36
Disapprove	37	39	31	40	36
Don't know	29	29	31	28	28

Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1057	197	257	377	226
Approve	34	35	33	32	37
Disapprove	37	32	39	38	39
Don't know	29	33	28	30	24

Current Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Other
Sample	1057	313	336	244	48
Approve	34	71	14	25	28
Disapprove	37	12	60	41	36
Don't know	29	17	25	34	37



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Burrill approval

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Gary Burrill as leader of the NDP?

Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1057	168	144	173	236	336	493	540
Approve	33	28	37	43	35	26	31	35
Disapprove	36	33	35	28	32	47	44	28
Don't know	32	39	29	29	33	27	24	37

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1057	91	168	149	132	121	191
Approve	33	32	27	32	36	35	44
Disapprove	36	31	30	41	36	40	35
Don't know	32	37	43	28	27	25	21

Region

%	Total	Halifax	Cape Breton	South Shore	North End
Sample	1057	445	147	305	160
Approve	33	36	39	30	27
Disapprove	36	34	30	39	37
Don't know	32	31	30	30	36

Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1057	197	257	377	226
Approve	33	21	32	32	46
Disapprove	36	41	35	35	31
Don't know	32	38	32	33	23

Current Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Other
Sample	1057	313	336	244	48
Approve	33	32	16	69	30
Disapprove	36	39	57	7	27
Don't know	32	29	27	25	44



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Best Premier

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

Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1057	168	144	173	236	336	493	540
Stephen McNeil	28	19	23	24	35	37	33	24
Jaime Baillie	26	27	28	26	22	28	29	24
Gary Burrill	20	22	21	23	20	14	17	22
Don't know	26	32	28	27	22	21	21	29

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1057	91	168	149	132	121	191
Stephen McNeil	28	23	25	32	31	32	29
Jaime Baillie	26	19	26	30	25	25	30
Gary Burrill	20	27	18	15	19	22	24
Don't know	26	31	31	23	25	21	17

Region

%	Total	Halifax	Cape Breton	South Shore	North End
Sample	1057	445	147	305	160
Stephen McNeil	28	24	21	35	29
Jaime Baillie	26	25	34	21	31
Gary Burrill	20	24	19	18	16
Don't know	26	27	27	26	24

Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1057	197	257	377	226
Stephen McNeil	28	26	31	28	26
Jaime Baillie	26	21	29	27	27
Gary Burrill	20	14	16	20	28
Don't know	26	39	23	25	20



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Current Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Other
Sample	1057	313	336	244	48
Stephen McNeil	28	7	76	3	4
Jaime Baillie	26	71	3	11	21
Gary Burrill	20	7	5	63	27
Don't know	26	15	16	24	48

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