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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Liberals Have a Strong Lead

But Leaders' numbers show little distance between McNeil, Baillie, and Burrill

Toronto, May 8th – In a random sampling of public opinion taken by The Forum Poll™ among 1042 Nova Scotia voters, for those decided and leaning, more than 4-in-10 (41%) support the Nova Scotia Liberals. A third (32%) say they support the Progressive Conservatives, and a quarter (25%) say they support the NDP. (2%) respond that they support another party.

Respondents most likely to say that they support the Liberals include those aged 65+ (53%), males (43%), earning \$40,000-\$60,000 (50%), with some college/university (51%), and living on the South Shore (45%) or North End (44%).

Respondents most likely to say they support the Progressive Conservatives include those aged 45-54 (41%), earning \$20,000-\$40,000 (35%), \$80,000-\$100,000 (34%), and the most wealthy (37%), the least educated (36%), and living in Cape Breton (36%) or the South Shore (34%).

Respondents most likely to say they support the NDP include those aged 34 and younger (44%), females (29%), earning \$60,000-\$80,000 (32%) or \$80,000-\$100,000 (32%), with a post-graduate degree (38%), and living in Halifax (32%).

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

More than a quarter (27%) believe Stephen McNeil would make the best premier, barely ahead of Jamie Baillie (25%). Fewer than 2-in-10 see Gary Burrill (17%) as best premier, with almost a third (31%) reporting they don't know who would make the best premier.

Burrill slightly ahead of McNeil on trustworthiness, but they are virtually tied

A quarter see Gary Burrill (24%) as the most trustworthy provincial leader, but only slightly ahead of Stephen McNeil (22%) as the pair are statistically tied. 2-in-10 see Jaime Baillie (20%) as most trustworthy. More than a third (35%) say they do not know.

"The Liberals have strong numbers, which could account for their decision to call an election. Stephen McNeil, however, is tied with his opponents both on trust and for who would make the best premier, so the Liberals can't celebrate just yet," 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.

MEDIA INQUIRIES:

Lorne Bozinoff, President
lbozinoff@forumresearch.com
416.960.9603

"The Liberals have strong numbers, which could account for their decision to call an election. Stephen McNeil, however, is tied with his opponents both on trust and for who would make the best premier, so the Liberals can't celebrate just yet," said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, President of Forum Research.



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RESEARCH**

180 Bloor Street W., #1400
Toronto, ON M5S 2V6
T 416.960.9600
F 416.960.9602
forumresearch.com

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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 1042 randomly selected Nova Scotia Voters. The poll was conducted May 2nd-3rd, 2017.

The following numbers of households were contacted for this poll:

May 2nd: 20980

May 3rd: 34243

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?

Age/Gender

| % | Total | 18-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65+ | Male | Female |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|------|--------|
| Sample | 927 | 124 | 121 | 172 | 221 | 289 | 453 | 457 |
| Progressive Conservative | 32 | 20 | 33 | 41 | 31 | 31 | 33 | 31 |
| Liberal | 41 | 33 | 28 | 36 | 42 | 53 | 43 | 39 |
| New Democratic | 25 | 44 | 37 | 21 | 26 | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| Other | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |

Income

| % | Total | <\$20K | \$20-\$40K | \$40-\$60K | \$60-\$80K | \$80-\$100K | \$100-\$250K |
|--------------------------|-------|--------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| Sample | 927 | 89 | 159 | 147 | 131 | 84 | 162 |
| Progressive Conservative | 32 | 31 | 35 | 22 | 31 | 34 | 37 |
| Liberal | 41 | 46 | 46 | 50 | 36 | 32 | 35 |
| New Democratic | 25 | 18 | 18 | 27 | 32 | 32 | 27 |
| Other | 2 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |

Region

| % | Total | Halifax | Cape Breton | South Shore | North End |
|--------------------------|-------|---------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| Sample | 927 | 389 | 128 | 265 | 145 |
| Progressive Conservative | 32 | 29 | 36 | 34 | 31 |
| Liberal | 41 | 38 | 37 | 45 | 44 |
| New Democratic | 25 | 32 | 26 | 19 | 24 |
| Other | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 |

Education

| % | Total | Secondary school or less | Some college or university | Completed college or university | Post graduate studies |
|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sample | 927 | 184 | 227 | 308 | 208 |
| Progressive Conservative | 32 | 36 | 31 | 32 | 28 |
| Liberal | 41 | 46 | 51 | 36 | 33 |
| New Democratic | 25 | 15 | 16 | 30 | 38 |
| Other | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |



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Trust

Which provincial leader do you find the most trustworthy?

Age/Gender

| % | Total | 18-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65+ | Male | Female |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|------|--------|
| Sample | 1042 | 134 | 136 | 194 | 246 | 332 | 499 | 519 |
| Stephen McNeil | 22 | 11 | 18 | 20 | 27 | 34 | 25 | 20 |
| Jaime Baillie | 20 | 17 | 20 | 24 | 21 | 18 | 24 | 17 |
| Gary Burrill | 24 | 27 | 34 | 22 | 20 | 16 | 25 | 23 |
| Don't know | 35 | 45 | 29 | 33 | 32 | 32 | 27 | 40 |

Income

| % | Total | <\$20K | \$20-\$40K | \$40-\$60K | \$60-\$80K | \$80-\$100K | \$100-\$250K |
|----------------|-------|--------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| Sample | 1042 | 106 | 179 | 161 | 138 | 96 | 175 |
| Stephen McNeil | 22 | 18 | 24 | 31 | 22 | 17 | 18 |
| Jaime Baillie | 20 | 15 | 21 | 14 | 29 | 25 | 21 |
| Gary Burrill | 24 | 12 | 19 | 24 | 26 | 34 | 33 |
| Don't know | 35 | 55 | 36 | 30 | 23 | 24 | 28 |

Region

| % | Total | Secondary school or less | Some college or university | Completed college or university | Post graduate studies |
|----------------|-------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sample | 1042 | 211 | 254 | 348 | 229 |
| Stephen McNeil | 22 | 22 | 27 | 19 | 18 |
| Jaime Baillie | 20 | 21 | 21 | 19 | 19 |
| Gary Burrill | 24 | 12 | 17 | 25 | 41 |
| Don't know | 35 | 45 | 35 | 37 | 22 |

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Education

| % | Total | Halifax | Cape Breton | South Shore | North End |
|----------------|-------|---------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| Sample | 1042 | 436 | 146 | 298 | 162 |
| Stephen McNeil | 22 | 22 | 21 | 22 | 20 |
| Jaime Baillie | 20 | 20 | 28 | 18 | 18 |
| Gary Burrill | 24 | 29 | 24 | 19 | 24 |
| Don't know | 35 | 30 | 27 | 41 | 38 |

Current Provincial Vote Preference

| % | Total | Progressive Conservative | Liberal | New Democratic | Other |
|----------------|-------|--------------------------|---------|----------------|-------|
| Sample | 1042 | 281 | 348 | 231 | 67 |
| Stephen McNeil | 22 | 4 | 62 | 1 | 7 |
| Jaime Baillie | 20 | 56 | 4 | 9 | 8 |
| Gary Burrill | 24 | 13 | 6 | 65 | 19 |
| Don't know | 35 | 27 | 28 | 25 | 67 |



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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 | 1042 | 134 | 136 | 194 | 246 | 332 | 499 | 519 |
| Stephen McNeil | 27 | 15 | 25 | 27 | 32 | 40 | 32 | 24 |
| Jaime Baillie | 25 | 23 | 24 | 31 | 23 | 21 | 26 | 24 |
| Gary Burrill | 17 | 21 | 21 | 15 | 14 | 13 | 17 | 17 |
| Don't know | 31 | 40 | 30 | 26 | 30 | 26 | 26 | 35 |

Income

| % | Total | <\$20K | \$20-\$40K | \$40-\$60K | \$60-\$80K | \$80-\$100K | \$100-\$250K |
|----------------|-------|--------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| Sample | 1042 | 106 | 179 | 161 | 138 | 96 | 175 |
| Stephen McNeil | 27 | 22 | 29 | 35 | 25 | 29 | 27 |
| Jaime Baillie | 25 | 15 | 28 | 18 | 27 | 28 | 30 |
| Gary Burrill | 17 | 10 | 14 | 22 | 18 | 24 | 21 |
| Don't know | 31 | 52 | 29 | 25 | 30 | 20 | 22 |

Region

| % | Total | Halifax | Cape Breton | South Shore | North End |
|----------------|-------|---------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| Sample | 1042 | 436 | 146 | 298 | 162 |
| Stephen McNeil | 27 | 28 | 27 | 28 | 26 |
| Jaime Baillie | 25 | 22 | 27 | 24 | 29 |
| Gary Burrill | 17 | 22 | 20 | 11 | 14 |
| Don't know | 31 | 28 | 26 | 37 | 31 |



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Education

| % | Total | Secondary school or less | Some college or university | Completed college or university | Post graduate studies |
|----------------|-------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sample | 1042 | 211 | 254 | 348 | 229 |
| Stephen McNeil | 27 | 27 | 32 | 27 | 24 |
| Jaime Baillie | 25 | 26 | 23 | 23 | 27 |
| Gary Burrill | 17 | 10 | 11 | 21 | 24 |
| Don't know | 31 | 37 | 33 | 29 | 25 |

Current Provincial Vote Preference

| % | Total | Progressive Conservative | Liberal | New Democratic | Other |
|----------------|-------|--------------------------|---------|----------------|-------|
| Sample | 1042 | 281 | 348 | 231 | 67 |
| Stephen McNeil | 27 | 5 | 75 | 5 | 5 |
| Jaime Baillie | 25 | 65 | 6 | 15 | 17 |
| Gary Burrill | 17 | 5 | 3 | 56 | 6 |
| Don't know | 31 | 25 | 16 | 24 | 72 |



For more information:

Lorne Bozinoff, Ph.D.

President

Forum Research Inc.

Tel: (416) 960-9603

Fax: (416) 960-9602

E-mail: lbozinoff@forumresearch.com

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