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HARPER GOVERNMENT PAYS PRICE FOR ACCORD STAND IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR AND NOVA SCOTIA

HALIFAX: Satisfaction with the performance of the federal government led by Prime Minister Stephen Harper has declined significantly in Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia over the past three months, according to the most recent survey conducted by **Corporate Research Associates Inc.** This decline is most dramatic in Newfoundland and Labrador with the percentage of residents completely or mostly satisfied with the federal government dropping from 47 percent in February to only 17 percent in May of this year. Conversely, dissatisfaction has risen dramatically, with 78 percent of Newfoundland and Labrador residents completely or mostly dissatisfied with the performance of the federal government (up from 47% three months ago). In Nova Scotia, satisfaction with the performance of the federal government declined from 50 percent in February to 37 percent in May, while dissatisfaction rose from 41 percent to 56 percent. In contrast, satisfaction levels in New Brunswick have experienced a very small decline in the past three months (49%, compared with 52%), although dissatisfaction has increased more so (44%, up from 37%). PEI has remained largely divided with 46 percent satisfied (unchanged) and 46 percent dissatisfied (up 3 points).

“The ongoing dispute between the federal government and the provincial governments of Nova Scotia and especially Newfoundland and Labrador has had a significant impact on the public’s overall satisfaction with the federal government” states Don Mills, President and CEO of Corporate Research Associates Inc. “Danny Williams has made good on his promise to hurt the cause of the federal Conservatives in his province, at least in the short term.”

This decline in satisfaction also corresponds to a dramatic decline in support for the federal Conservatives among Newfoundland and Labrador residents, although not among Nova Scotia residents. Currently, less than two in ten (17%) Newfoundland and Labrador residents support the Conservatives, down from one-half (49%) of residents in February 2007. Both the Liberals (53%, up from 37%) and the NDP (27%, up from 13% in February 2007) have benefited notably from the decline in support for the Tories in Newfoundland and Labrador. In Nova Scotia, support for the Conservatives is only down two percentage points (30%, compared with 32% three months ago). In New Brunswick, support for the Conservatives remains unchanged at 40 percent, while in PEI support for the Conservatives stands at 35 percent (down from 38%).

Personal popularity of Conservative leader Stephen Harper has also declined dramatically in Newfoundland and Labrador, but only slightly in Nova Scotia. Just over one in ten (13%) Newfoundland and Labrador residents prefer Stephen Harper as Prime Minister, down from four in ten (40%) three months ago. Backing for Jack Layton has almost doubled and currently stands at 30 percent (up from 16%). Preference for Stéphane Dion has also increased and currently stands at 34 percent (up from 27%). In Nova Scotia, one-quarter (26%) of residents back Stephen Harper, down only slightly from 30 percent three months ago. In New Brunswick and PEI, support for Stephen Harper has changed little and stands at 36 and 32 percent, respectively.

These results are part of the **CRA Atlantic Quarterly**, an independent survey of Atlantic Canadians, and are based on a sample of 1,509 Atlantic Canadians (404 NL, 401 NS, 401 NB and 303 PEI) adult residents, conducted from May 9 to May 31, 2007. Results are accurate to within ± 2.5 percentage points, with provincial results accurate to within ± 4.9 percentage points for NL, NS, and NB and ± 5.7 percentage points for PEI, 95 out of 100 times.

For more information, please contact: Don Mills, President and CEO at (902) 722-3100.

CRA Atlantic Quarterly – Spring 2007

Atlantic Canada Federal Political Results

Sample: 1,509 Atlantic Canadians (18 years plus) (404 NL, 401 NS, 401 NB, 303 PEI)

Interview Dates: May 9 to May 31, 2007

Margin of Sampling Error: ±2.5 percentage points Atlantic Canada; ±4.9 percentage points NL, NS, and NB; ±5.7 percentage points PEI (95% confidence level)

Generally speaking, how satisfied are you with the overall performance of the Federal Government led by Prime Minister Stephen Harper?										
	Atlantic Canada		Newfoundland and Labrador		Nova Scotia		New Brunswick		Prince Edward Island	
	Feb 07	May 07	Feb 07	May 07	Feb 07	May 07	Feb 07	May 07	Feb 07	May 07
Completely satisfied	4	4	3	1	4	5	4	6	3	3
Mostly satisfied	46	32	44	16	46	32	48	43	43	43
Mostly dissatisfied	31	35	35	41	30	38	27	29	32	33
Completely dissatisfied	11	21	12	37	11	18	10	15	11	13
Don't know/No answer/Neither/Too soon to tell	9	7	5	4	8	7	10	8	11	7

If a federal election were held today, for which party would you vote?										
Party	Atlantic Canada		Newfoundland and Labrador		Nova Scotia		New Brunswick		Prince Edward Island	
	Feb 07	May 07	Feb 07	May 07	Feb 07	May 07	Feb 07	May 07	Feb 07	May 07
Liberal Party	36	42	37	53	35	32	36	43	45	51
Conservative Party	39	30	49	17	32	30	40	40	38	35
New Democratic Party	20	22	13	27	27	30	18	13	10	8
Green Party	4	5	1	3	6	8	4	3	7	7
Bloc Quebecois	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0
TOTAL DECIDED VOTE	99	99	100	101	100	101	100	99	100	101
Undecided/No answer/Do not plan to vote	40	38	36	31	39	40	42	41	43	31

Which <u>one</u> of the following party leaders would you most prefer as Prime Minister of Canada?										
Leader	Atlantic Canada		Newfoundland and Labrador		Nova Scotia		New Brunswick		Prince Edward Island	
	Feb 07	May 07	Feb 07	May 07	Feb 07	May 07	Feb 07	May 07	Feb 07	May 07
Stephen Harper	33	27	40	13	30	26	34	36	30	32
Stéphane Dion	23	26	27	34	21	23	21	24	26	33
Jack Layton	19	21	16	30	25	22	16	14	14	11
Elizabeth May	0	5	0	3	0	8	0	4	1	5
Gilles Duceppe	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
None of the above/Other	7	6	6	8	7	5	8	6	6	3
Don't know/No answer	17	14	11	10	16	16	21	16	23	17

