Newfoundland and Labrador
Fall 2017 Report
October Highlights - NL

Introduction

MQO Research spoke with 600 residents of Newfoundland and Labrador to gauge the political temperature in the province for the October edition of our quarterly political poll: Atlantic Matters.

Provincial Politics

According to the latest polling numbers, support for the Liberals jumped significantly in October at the expense of the PC Party. Among decided and leaning voters:
  o Current Liberal support in the province jumped 17 percentage points to 52%.
  o PC Party support dropped significantly to 31% (down 17 percentage points).
  o NDP support held steady at 15%.
  o The undecided / no vote group was down significantly to 36% (down 6 percentage points from July).

Government Performance

Ratings for the leadership of Premier Dwight Ball increased from 4.0 in July to 4.6 this quarter.

Provincial Outlook

Newfoundland and Labrador residents’ were less pessimistic about the economic outlook for the province in October. 45% said the general outlook in Newfoundland and Labrador has been getting worse over the past three months which was down from 56% in July.

Federal Politics

Federally, the Liberals widened their lead in Newfoundland and Labrador. Among decided and leaning voters:
  o Liberal support jumped 6 percentage points to 70%.
  o Conservative support held steady at 21%.
  o NDP support dropped 6 percentage points to 8%.
  o Support for the Green Party exhibited little change at 0%.
  o Ratings of government performance under Justin Trudeau held relatively steady with a mean score of 6.1 this quarter.

The Atlantic Matters poll was conducted by telephone from Oct. 12 to Oct. 19, 2017 and included 600 randomly selected eligible voters from across the province. The margin of error for the total sample is ± 4.0 percentage points 19 times out of 20. Among decided and leaning voters, the margin of error for the survey is ± 5.1 percentage points 19 times out of 20.

For more information on Atlantic Matters or MQO Research, contact: Tracey Stephenson
E: tsstephenson@m5.ca / T: 506-852-7281 / C: 506-850-8077
Provincial Politics - NL

“If a provincial election were held today, which party would you most likely vote for?”

Decided and Leaning Voters

- Liberal: 52% (+17)
- PC: 31% (-17)
- NDP: 15% (-1)
- Undecided / No Vote: 36% (-6)

October 2017 (n=375): Margin of error is ± 5.1 percentage points at 95% CI

% point change vs. July 2017
Provincial Politics - NL

“If a provincial election were held today, which party would you most likely vote for?”

Decided and Leaning Voters

October 2017 (n=375): Margin of error is ± 5.1 percentage points at 95% CI
Provincial Government Performance - NL

“How would you rate the overall leadership of Premier Dwight Ball?”

Mean Rating 4.6

Mean rating change vs. July 2017 + 0.6

1 to 5 6 to 7 8 to 10

66% 23% 11%

*Don’t know / refusals removed (n=562)
“Based on your personal experiences over the past three months, would you say that the general outlook in NL has been getting...”

- Worse: 45% (\(-11\) point change vs. July 2017)
- About the Same: 43% (\(+9\) point change vs. July 2017)
- Better: 11% (\(+3\) point change vs. July 2017)
- Don't Know: 1%
Federal Politics - NL

“If a federal election were held today, which party would you most likely vote for?”

Decided and Leaning Voters

- Liberal: 70% (+6 from April 2017)
- Conservative Party of Canada: 21% (+1 from April 2017)
- NDP: 8% (-6 from April 2017)
- Green Party of Canada: 0% (-1 from April 2017)
- Undecided / No Vote: 29% (-2 from April 2017)

October 2017 (n=428): Margin of error is ±4.7 percentage points at 95% CI
Federal Politics - NL

“If a federal election were held today, which party would you most likely vote for?”

Decided and Leaning Voters

October 2017 (n=428): Margin of error is ±4.7 percentage points at 95% CI
Federal Government Performance - NL

“Thinking about the past three months, how would you rate the performance of the Government of Canada, led by Justin Trudeau?”

Mean Rating 6.1

Mean rating change vs. April 2017 + 0.2

1 to 5: 39%
6 to 7: 33%
8 to 10: 28%

* Don’t know / refusals removed (n=578)