

# Winter 2019 Provincial Report Nova Scotia



## Introduction

MQO Research spoke with 600 residents of Nova Scotia to gauge the political temperature in the province for the Winter edition of our quarterly political poll: Atlantic Matters.

## Provincial Politics

According to the latest polling numbers, the governing Liberals maintained their slim lead in January. Among decided and leaning voters:

- Current Liberal support was relatively unchanged at 41%.
- PC Party support trended down 3 percentage points to 33%.
- NDP support edged up 4 percentage points to 19%.
- Support for the Green Party was relatively unchanged this quarter at 7%.

The undecided / no vote group held steady at 40%.

## Government Performance

The rating for the leadership of Premier Stephen McNeil edged down from a mean score of 5.0 last quarter to 4.7 in January (on a 10-point scale).

## Provincial Outlook

The outlook for the province worsened slightly in January. 35% of Nova Scotians reported their outlook for the province had worsened over the past three months (up from 29% in October), while 46% indicated their outlook had stayed the same (down from 52% three months earlier) and 15% felt things had gotten better (relatively unchanged).

The Atlantic Matters poll was conducted by telephone from January 30<sup>th</sup> to February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and included 600 randomly selected eligible voters from across the province. The margin of error for the total sample is  $\pm 4.0$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

**For more information on Atlantic Matters or MQO Research, contact:**

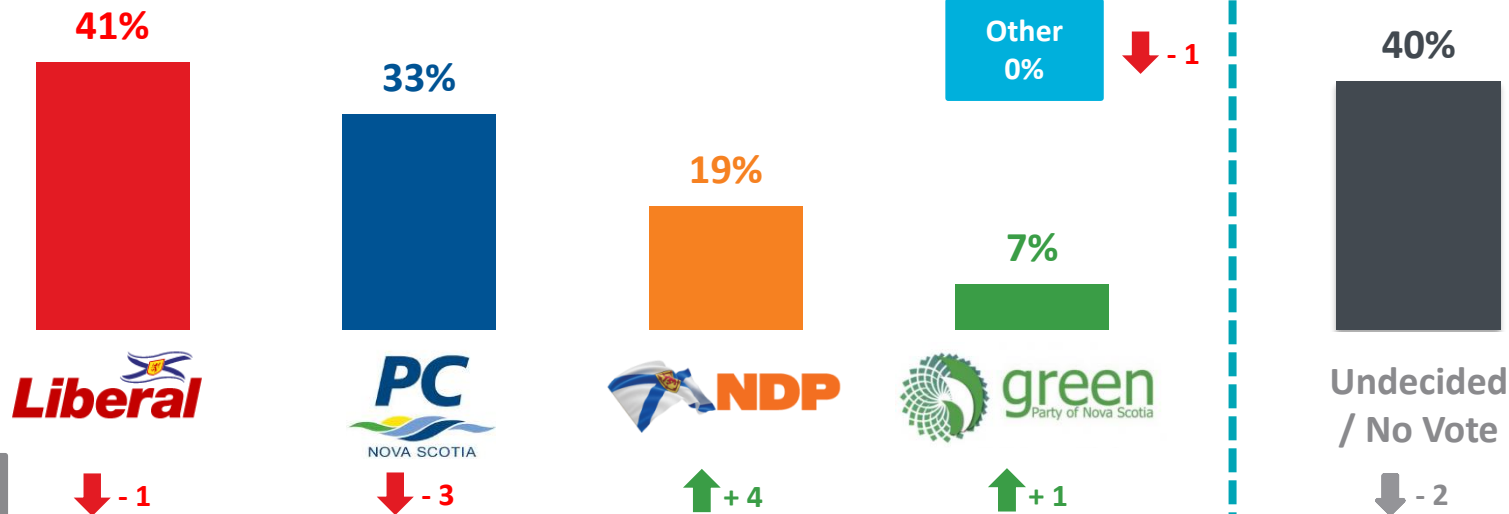
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*“If a provincial election were held today, which party would you most likely vote for?”*

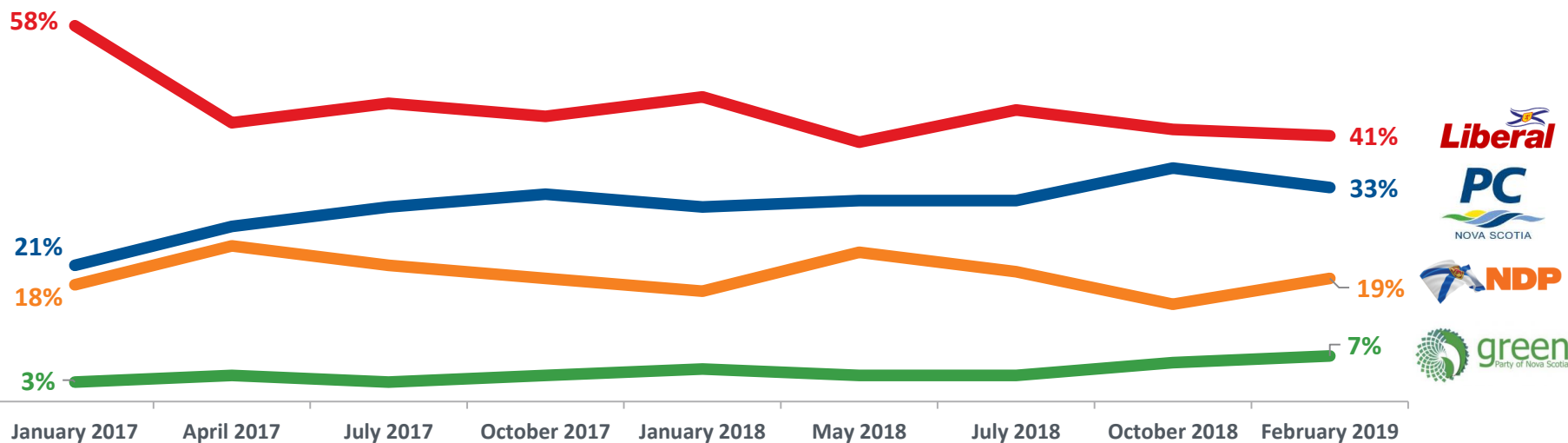
Decided and Leaning Voters



% point change vs. October 2018

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

Decided and Leaning Voters



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Decided and Leaning Voters

	January 2017	April 2017	July 2017	October 2017	January 2018	May 2018	July 2018	October 2018	February 2019
<b>Liberal</b>	58%	43%	46%	44%	47%	40%	45%	42%	41%
<b>PC</b>	21%	27%	30%	32%	30%	31%	31%	36%	33%
<b>NDP</b>	18%	24%	21%	19%	17%	23%	20%	15%	19%
<b>Green</b>	3%	4%	3%	4%	5%	4%	4%	6%	7%

*“How would you rate the overall leadership of Premier Stephen McNeil?”*



Mean Rating  
4.7

↓ - 0.3

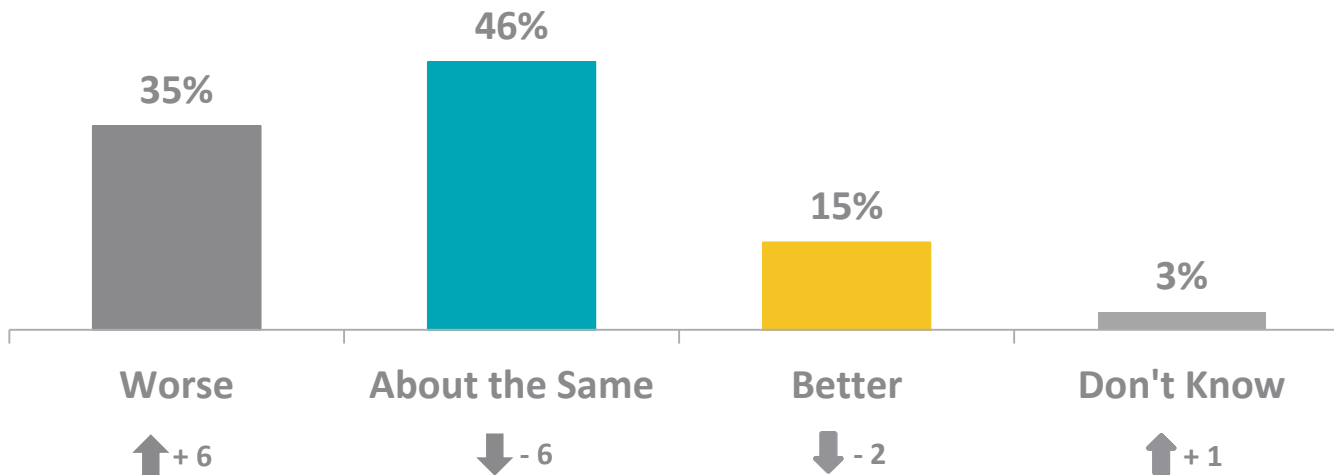
Mean rating change vs. October 2018

■ 1 to 5 ■ 6 to 7 ■ 8 to 10 (1 – very weak / 10 – very strong)



\* Don't know / refusals removed (n=530)

*“Based on your personal experiences over the past three months, would you say that the general outlook in NS has been getting...”*



% point change vs. October 2018