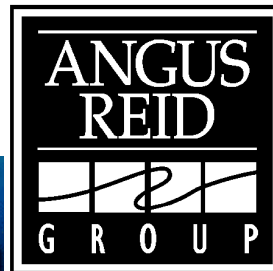

HEALTHCARE IS THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE IN THE NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL ELECTION

**EDUCATION/SCHOOLS AND JOBS/UNEMPLOYMENT ARE ALSO
KEY ISSUES**



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Public Release Date: Tuesday, March 10 1998
at 6:00PM EST

This First Edition, The CBC News/Angus Reid Poll was conducted by telephone between March 6th and 8th 1998 among a representative cross-section of 800 Nova Scotia adults.

These data were statistically weighted to ensure the sample's regional and age/sex composition reflects that of the actual Nova Scotia population according to the 1996 Census data.

With a province-wide sample of 800, one can say with 95 percent certainty that the results are within +/-3.5 percentage points of what they would have been had the entire adult Nova Scotian population been polled. The margin of error will be larger within regions and for other sub-groupings of the survey population.

HEALTHCARE IS THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE IN THE NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL ELECTION

EDUCATION/SCHOOLS AND JOBS/UNEMPLOYMENT ARE ALSO KEY ISSUES

Healthcare (mentioned by 68%) is the number one issue in the Nova Scotia provincial election

(Table 1)

Nova Scotians were asked to indicate what issues they consider to be the most important in the current provincial election campaign (because respondents were able to offer up to two responses, totals exceed 100%). The most often mentioned response was health care (68%). Next in line, education/schools was named by 40%, jobs/unemployment was mentioned by 38% and taxes/tax reform/HST were cited by 20%. These results are quite consistent across most regional and socio-demographic groups. The one notable exception is that in Cape Breton, healthcare and jobs/unemployment are in a virtual tie for first place (mentioned by 65% and 63% of the population respectively).

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Table 1

To begin with, what, for you, is the most important issue in this election campaign?

What other issues do you think are important for this election campaign?

Issue	Region			
	Total	Halifax	Cape Breton	Rest of Nova Scotia
Base: all respondents unweighted	800	300	250	250
Weighted	800	298	105	397
	%	%	%	%
(net) Economic	53	51	71	49
Fisheries	*	*	1	*
Budget	6	7	7	4
Deficit/Government Spending	9	10	4	9
Economy	5	6	8	3
Jobs/Unemployment	38	32	63	37
(net) Policy	85	83	77	88
Education/Schools	40	38	33	44
Government/Bad/Leaders/Politics/Scandals	2	3	*	3
Healthcare/Medicare	68	64	65	72
Taxes/Tax reform/HST – general	20	24	13	19
Social services – pensions/daycare/housing	3	3	2	3
(net) Social	4	3	6	5
Environment/Pollution	3	1	5	3
Poverty/the poor/welfare/homeless	1	1	1	1
Other	20	20	19	20
Don't know	6	8	7	4

Totals exceed 100% because respondents were able to provide more than one response