

August 2022

# Public Opinions on Policing in NL: Summary Report

Prepared for  
**First Voice**  
Urban Indigenous Coalition



Section 1

# **SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS**



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## Region

<b>Total (N)</b>	<b>364</b>
St. John's	42%
Other East	22%
Central	14%
Corner Brook	5%
Other West	12%
Labrador	5%



Male  
48%



Female  
51%

Non-binary  
1%

## Self-identification\*\*

<b>Total (N)</b>	<b>354</b>
Indigenous	16%
Visible minority	8%
LGBTQ+ community	7%

## Age\*

<b>Total (N)</b>	<b>363</b>
18 - 24	11%
25 - 34	12%
35 - 44	15%
45 - 54	19%
55 - 64	18%
65 or older	26%

\*Prefer not to say: n=1

\*\*Prefer not to say: n=10

# APPROACH

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- Data for this poll was collected between July 25 and 31, 2022.
- The poll was conducted by telephone with residents living in all regions of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- A sample of n=400 was collected. n=364 were collected through random sampling by telephone.
  - To allow for group-level analysis, individuals who identify as Indigenous were over-sampled.
  - An additional n=36 responses were collected by telephone using a pre-existing list.
- Overall results were reported using the randomly selected sample at a margin of error of n=5.13 (19 times out of 20).

Section 2

# POLL HIGHLIGHTS



# HIGHLIGHTS

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- If an election were held today, results showed no difference in support between the Progressive Conservative Party and the Liberal Party. However, there are still a significant number of undecided voters.
- Half of the participants indicated a high confidence level that police officers in NL are held to the same standards of justice as everyone else. Confidence levels were lower among younger and LGBTQ+ Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.
- Only a minority of participants highly trust that the police in NL conduct fair and impartial investigations into alleged misconduct committed by other police officers.
- The vast majority of participants support the creation of a police oversight board in NL. Support was strong across all key demographics.

Section 3:

# SUMMARY OF RESULTS



# VOTING INTENTION

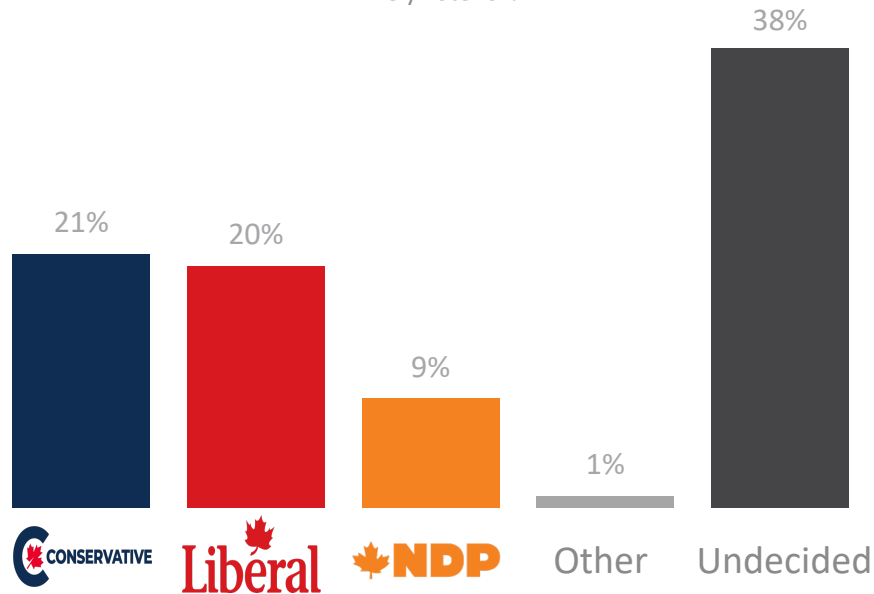
The poll asked Newfoundlanders and Labradorians which party they would vote for if provincial elections were held today.

Results showed equal support between the Conservatives (21%) and Liberals (20%), while the New Democratic Party had the support of 9% of NL voters.

Thirty-eight (38%) percent of participants were undecided.

Participants in the 18-34 age group were the least likely to say they were undecided (24%) and the most likely to vote for the NDP (25%).

Q1: If a provincial election were held today, which party would you most likely vote for?\*





# CONFIDENCE LEVEL IN JUSTICE STANDARDS

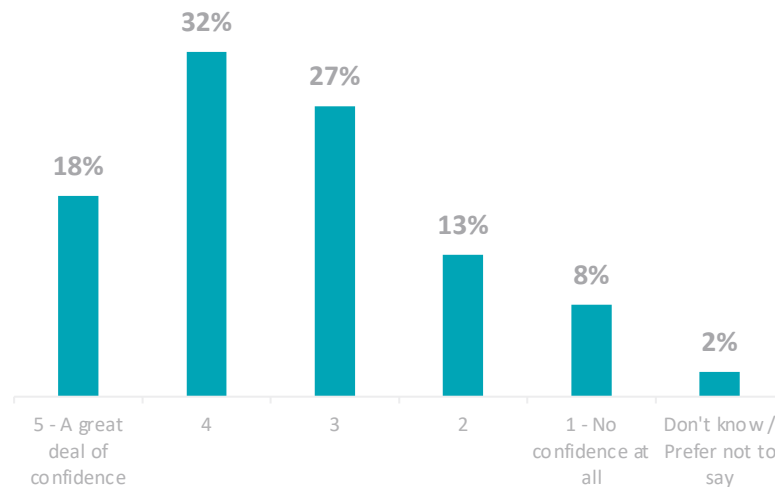
Next, the poll asked about participants' confidence level that police officers in Newfoundland and Labrador are held to the same standards of justice as everyone else, where 1 meant *no confidence at all* and 5 meant *a great deal of confidence*.

One-half (50%) of the respondents indicated a high level of confidence (4-5) that police officers in NL are held to the same standards of justice as everyone else. Twenty-one percent (21%) indicated a low confidence level (1-2).

Again, participants in the 18-34 age group (38%) were the least likely to indicate a high confidence level compared to participants in the 35-54 (55%) and 55+ (52%) age groups.

Among Newfoundlanders and Labradorians belonging to a minority group, LGBTQ+ (12%) participants were the least likely to indicate a high confidence level, followed by racialized groups (36%) and Indigenous (46%) respondents.\*

Q2: How confident are you that police officers in Newfoundland and Labrador are held to the same standards of justice as everyone else?



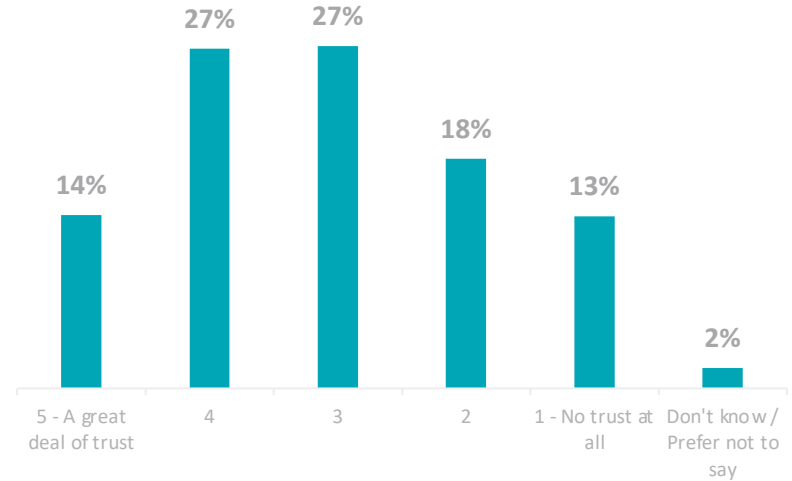
# TRUST LEVEL IN FAIR INVESTIGATIONS

Participants were then asked about their level of trust that police in NL conduct fair and impartial investigations into alleged misconduct committed by other police officers.

Four-in-ten (40%) Newfoundlanders and Labradorians have a high level of trust (4-5) that the police in NL conduct fair and impartial investigations into alleged misconduct committed by other police officers. Three-in-ten (31%) have a low level of trust (1-2).

LGBTQ+ (69%) participants were the most likely to indicate a low level of trust, followed by racialized groups (52%) and Indigenous (39%) respondents.\*

Q3: To what extent do you trust police in Newfoundland and Labrador to conduct fair and impartial investigations into alleged misconduct committed by other police officers?



# POLICE OVERSIGHT & GOVERNANCE

Finally, participants were asked about their level of support for the creation of a police oversight board in NL.

Overall, nearly nine-in-ten (88%) supported the creation of a police oversight board, with 52% saying they *strongly support* it and 36% saying they *support it*. Only 7% didn't support the creation of the board, with 4% saying they *oppose it* and 3% saying they *strongly oppose it*.

Support for the idea was strong across all age groups, regions, and voting intentions.

Similarly, support was strong across all surveyed minority demographics. Ninety-two percent (92%) of LGBTQ+ supported the creation of the board, followed by racialized groups (85%) and Indigenous (84%) respondents.\*

Q4: [...]There is currently no such police oversight board in Newfoundland and Labrador. To what extent do you support or oppose the creation of such a board?

