

DATE: September 17, 1999

RE: McIntyre & Mustel Research Public Opinion Poll Results

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The following are highlights from the September 1999 McIntyre & Mustel Research public opinion poll.

#### Most Important Issues Facing British Columbia Today

The recent spate of arrivals on BC's shores of ships carrying Chinese immigrants has registered strongly across the province. 'Illegal immigration' (16%) now registers neck-and-neck with 'the economy' (17%) at the top of residents' lists of most important issues currently facing British Columbia. These top concerns are followed by 'unemployment' (11%), 'the government' (8%), 'taxes' (6%), 'health' (5%) and 'government spending' (5%).

#### Voter Intention

The BC Liberal party continues to enjoy the strongest level of support among decided voters – 53% - although this level has decreased from an all-time high of 60% recorded in August of this year.

Glen Clark's resignation as premier appears to have bolstered his party's waning fortunes, with 19% of decided voters indicating that they would vote for the NDP if a provincial election were held tomorrow, up from the 14% recorded in early August. Presumably, this increase in support for the NDP has resulted primarily at the expense of support for the BC Liberal party.

Support for the BC Reform Party remains stable at 16%. Currently, 27% of BC residents are undecided about their voting intentions.

#### Methodology

A public opinion poll of 506 adult (18 years of age and older) residents of British Columbia was conducted between September 9<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 1999 by McIntyre & Mustel Research. The margin of error for a sample of 506 is  $\pm 4.4\%$  at the 95% confidence level (i.e. 19 times out of 20).

Further results from this poll will be released on Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 1999.

Contact Barbara Justason at (604)-742-2242 or toll-free 1-866-745-2242 with your questions or for comment.

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The following are continued highlights from the September 1999 McIntyre & Mustel Research public opinion poll. The first set of highlights were released on Friday, September 17, 1999.

#### CONSIDERATION OF VOTING FOR THE NDP

When asked if they would consider voting NDP in the next provincial election given that Glen Clark has resigned as premier and assuming that they approve of the new leader, the majority (61%) of BC residents indicate that they would not consider it, including 49% who 'definitely would not consider it'. In keeping with voter intention results (released on Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup>), 18% indicate that they would consider voting NDP in the next provincial election, although only 6% would 'definitely consider it'. 14% of residents suggest that they may or may not consider voting NDP.

#### DESIRE FOR AN IMMEDIATE PROVINCIAL ELECTION

An organised effort to force the provincial NDP party to call an election right away would meet with widespread public support. About two-thirds (64%) of BC residents feel that the party should call an election right away, despite the fact that they have almost two years left in their mandate. Just over one-quarter (28%) feel that the NDP should wait until its mandate is almost over in the summer of 2001 before calling an election, while 8% of residents are unable to form an opinion on this matter.

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