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Australia & New Zealand

Canada

Europe

Germany

Japan

Latin America

U.K.

U.S.

Markets

Economy/Politics

Commentary

Sports

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### Canada's Liberals Trail Conservatives in Daily Poll (Update1)

June 7 (Bloomberg) -- Canada's Conservative Party passed the governing Liberal Party in popularity over the weekend, the latest daily election poll by Toronto-based SES Research showed.

Stephen Harper's Conservatives were the choice of 34 percent of 600 potential voters surveyed June 4-6, compared with 32 percent for the Liberals, SES said in a press release. The poll's margin of error is 4.1 percentage points.

Although a statistical tie, this has to be considered a big psychological breakthrough for the Harper-led Conservatives," SES's chief executive, Nikita Nanos, said in the release. The election is June 28. The results suggest a minority government, which would force Martin or Harper to seek the backing of another party to pass legislation.

Prime Minister Paul Martin, promising more health-care spending and a balanced budget, has been unable to convince most voters that his party deserves another term in power after the federal auditor said C\$100 million (\$74 million) in sponsorship funds was misspent on the watch of former Prime Minister Jean Chretien. Martin was Chretien's longest-serving finance minister.

Harper has pledged tax cuts, more military spending and less federal involvement in provincial affairs. He also has said he would spend more on health by establishing a national drug plan.

Martin would make the best prime minister according to 27 percent of those polled, compared with 23 percent for Harper - the narrowest margin SES has reported.

Lead Dissolved

Martin's Liberals started the campaign with a 13-point lead over the Conservatives, according to SES's first poll on May 25, two days after Martin dissolved Parliament for the race. The Conservatives have picked up 6 points from May 25, while the Liberals have fallen 9 points.

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In third place is the socialist New Democratic Party, with 20 percent support, a 2-point gain from the start of the campaign SES said. Thirteen percent of those polled picked NDP leader Jack Layton as the candidate who would be the best prime minister, while 22 percent said they weren't sure who was the best person to lead the country.

SES says it will release daily polling throughout the campaign. It started with a sample of 600 and will call 200 random voters each day of the campaign, dropping the oldest sample of 200 with each new result. The pollster says its margin of accuracy is 4.1 percentage points, 19 times of 20.

The survey was commissioned by Cable Public Affairs Channel, or CPAC.

To contact the reporter on this story:  
Kevin Carmichael in Ottawa at [kcarmichael@bloomberg.net](mailto:kcarmichael@bloomberg.net).

To contact the editor responsible for this story:  
Erik Schatzker in Toronto at [eschatzker@bloomberg.net](mailto:eschatzker@bloomberg.net).

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