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## Canada's Liberals Widen Lead on Opposition, Pollster SES Says

Nov. 8 (Bloomberg) -- Canada's governing Liberal Party, which is 20 seats short of a majority in the House of Commons, widened its lead over opposition parties in a telephone poll conducted last month.

The Liberals, led by Prime Minister Paul Martin, had the backing of 41 percent of 1,000 respondents surveyed Oct. 26 to Nov. 1, according to Toronto-based pollster SES Research. That's an increase of 3 percentage points from August.

Martin, who opted not to ally with other parties to form a majority government, had to amend his legislative agenda last month to keep his opponents from rejecting the plan and triggering an election. Governments must win parliamentary approval for their agendas and budgets or resign.

Stephen Harper's Conservative Party, the biggest opposition group, had 26 percent support in the SES survey, unchanged from August. The socialist New Democratic Party's 17 percent backing also was unchanged.

The Bloc Quebecois, which wants to separate French-speaking Quebec from the rest of Canada, stands at 11 percent, down 3 points from August, according to SES. The Green Party, which never has won a seat in Parliament, had 6 percent support. SES found 14 percent of respondents undecided.

The poll results have a margin of error of 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, SES said.

Martin's Liberals won about 37 percent of the popular vote in Canada's June 28 election, taking 135 of the 308 seats in the House of Commons, according to Elections Canada. The Conservatives won 99 seats with about 30 percent of the vote.

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