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Darrell Bricker, Ipsos-Reid

Polls confirm federal election a horserace

CTV.ca News Staff

Two new polls show that the election campaign is still in flux and that Liberal prospects remain poor in Quebec.

A survey by Toronto-based SES Research found the Liberals and Conservatives are essentially tied.

The Conservatives have 34 per cent support while the Liberals have 33 per cent. The NDP have 18 per cent, the Bloc Quebecois 11 per cent nationally and the Green Party five per cent.

The poll shows the Liberals down eight points from 41 per cent on May 25 -- two days after the campaign's start.

The Conservatives are up six points from 28 per cent, the Greens up two points while the NDP and Bloc.

However, Conservative support dropped three points from earlier in the week while the Liberals showed a slight jump.

The SES Research poll, conducted for the CPAC Parliamentary channel, is a nightly 600-person poll. It is considered accurate within 4.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

In Quebec, a Compas poll found the Liberals have 32 per cent support in Quebec compared to the Bloc's 50 per cent.

Darrell Bricker -- president of Ipsos-Reid, which does polling for CTV and The Globe and Mail -- was asked by Newsnet if polls influenced voters.

"There's been a lot of research done on that, and there's never really been a direct correlation drawn between what happens in the polls and what voters do.

"What it does do it is has an impact on how campaigns get covered. For example, if this looked like a Liberal majority, we would all be celebrating the fact that Paul

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Martin had handled his transition very well and was going to be the leader of a new, popular government of Canada," he said.




"But what the polls do is it really drives how the campaign is covered. That's not the case, so they're really covering the competitive elements that you see right now."

Bricker said he wasn't surprised by the competitive nature of this campaign.

"Right from the very beginning, we always were saying based on our polling data it was very problematic for the Liberals to go into this election. I never really knew why they did it, but now they're reaping the whirlwind," he said.

Election day is June 28.

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