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Canada

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Public has high opinion of Paul Martin: poll

CTV.ca News Staff

Liberal leadership front-runner Paul Martin's image with the public is looking very good, according to a new poll released Sunday.

The poll, conducted by SES Research for Sun Media Corp., found the following:

- 69 per cent of Canadians feel he will win the next election
- 58 per cent thinks he has a strong vision for the future
- 50 per cent believe things will change under him
- 48 per cent consider him a man of the people

His weakest numbers were in the areas of trust (42 per cent do trust him; 30 per cent don't) and whether he had similar views to their own (39 per cent agreed he did, 25 per cent disagreed).

The questions were asked as part of SES's quarterly omnibus survey. One thousand people were questioned. The aggregate results are considered accurate with 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

Nikita Nanos, president of SES, said in a press release the numbers show very high expectations for Martin, and that his key challenge should he replace Jean Chretien as prime minister will be managing those expectations.

Decision time is drawing near.

- The nomination deadline for convention delegates expired just before midnight on Sept. 13.

Delegate selection meetings will take place between Sept. 19 and 21. The convention itself takes place Nov. 12 to 15

- Besides Martin, there is only one major other candidate vying for the Liberal Party's leadership: Heritage Minister Sheila Copps. Finance Minister John Manley gave up his quest in late July.

Of the two, Martin is considered to have a wide lead in delegate support

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going into the selection meetings.

There is a late entrant for the party's leadership. Madonna-Megara Holloway, said she was going to join the race, primarily to oppose same-sex marriages. It couldn't be confirmed whether she had indeed filed her papers on time.

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