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## Canadians see Martin as next PM: Sun poll

### Rates lowest in Alberta

By BILL RODGERS, OTTAWA BUREAU CHIEF

OTTAWA -- Sixty-nine percent of Canadians believe Paul Martin will lead federal Grits to a fourth consecutive victory in the next election, a SES/Sun Media poll suggests.

The national survey of 1,000 people, conducted between Aug. 24 and Sept. 2, found just 7% didn't believe the former finance minister would win.

Twenty-four percent wouldn't say or were unsure.

"Canadians generally have high expectations of Paul Martin," said Nik Nanos, president and CEO of SES Canada Research Inc., adding the poll found Martin currently "has an image as a winner and a person with a strong vision for the future who will change things in Ottawa."

His lowest approval rating came in Alberta, where only 24% thought he'd be the best man to lead the country.

In Manitoba and Saskatchewan, 39% gave Martin the thumbs up and in Atlantic Canada 47% want him to move into 24 Sussex Dr.

Martin's popularity is highest in Quebec (60%), B.C. (53%), and Ontario (52%).

Only 38% of those interviewed said Martin shares the views of average Canadians -- 35% disagreed, and 42% said Martin was somebody they could trust -- 31% disagreed.

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Martin leaves his political opponents in the dust when the SES/Sun Media poll asks Canadians who would make the best prime minister.

Forty-nine percent chose Martin as the best man for the job.

Alliance leader Stephen Harper was picked by just 10% while Tory leader Peter MacKay and Jack Layton are tied at 8%. Bloc Quebecois Leader Gilles Duceppe is hardly a blip on the national public radar at 2%, based on responses from interviews in Quebec only.

The survey is accurate to within 3.1 percentage points, plus or minus, 19 times out of 20.

- - -

#### POLL RESULTS

Who do you think would make the best prime minister?:

PAUL MARTIN: 49%

STEPHEN HARPER: 10%

PETER MACKAY: 8%

JACK LAYTON: 8%

GILLES DUCEPPE: 2%

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