

Conservatives still short of majority: poll

Reuters

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The Conservatives are still short of winning a majority government but have extended their lead over the Liberal party, according to a new poll released on Sunday.

The SES Research survey showed Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives have the support of 36% of decided voters while the Liberals have 33%. The poll, completed April 5, showed the New Democrats with 16% support and the Bloc Quebecois at 10%.

The previous poll, conducted on February 8, showed the Conservatives and Liberals tied at 33% while the NDP had 17% support and the Bloc Quebecois was unchanged at 10%.

The poll showed the Liberals lost some support on the combination of the federal budget, released March 19, as well as a poor election showing for the provincial Liberals who were reduced to a minority government in Quebec.

The Conservatives, who only have 125 of the 308 seats in Parliament and were elected in January 2006, have indicated they do not want an election soon. They need around 40% to stand any real chance of winning a majority. Minority governments typically last about 18 months.

The SES survey was taken between March 31 and April 5 and is accurate to within 3.2 percentage points.

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