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Eves public's choice for next Tory leader  
Poll puts former finance minister in the lead

Wednesday, January 30, 2002

TORONTO -- The latest opinion poll suggests Ernie Eves is the popular choice in the race to replace Mike Harris as Ontario Tory leader and premier.

An SES Research poll of 500 Ontario voters last weekend found Eves, the former finance minister, has the support of 25 per cent of decided voters.

Environment Minister Elizabeth Witmer comes second at 12.6 per cent, while Health Minister Tony Clement and Finance Minister Jim Flaherty each received about four per cent support.

Labour Minister Chris Stockwell trails at 3.6 per cent, while 39 per cent remain unsure.

However, those numbers are for all Ontario residents, while only card-carrying Conservatives can cast ballots in the March 23rd leadership vote.

Meanwhile, the survey found Ontario's Liberals have the support of 51 per cent of decided voters, compared with 35.6 per cent for the governing Tories and 10.6 per cent for the NDP.

SES says the poll is accurate to within 4.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.



Former finance minister Ernie Eves

