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# Poll boost for federal NDP

Special to The Free Press

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OTTAWA -- The popularity of the federal New Democrats has jumped five points over the past three months and the Liberals are down six per cent, a national SES/Sun Media poll suggests. Support for the NDP under its new leader, Jack Layton, shows growth in every area of the country except Alberta and Quebec.

The poll of 1000 Canadians from Aug. 24 to Sept. 2 shows the Liberals continue to enjoy a commanding lead with 46 per cent of committed voter support. The Tories trail with 19 per cent, followed by the NDP with 15, the Alliance with 13 and the Bloc at eight.

The biggest spurt in growth for the NDP comes in British Columbia, where the party now has 26 per cent of committed voter support. the party continues to enjoy its highest popularity in its Saskat-chewan-Manitoba base.

"The switching of voters from Liberals to the NDP may be a precursor of a future trend as Liberal voters perceive Paul Martin to be taking the party more to the right," said pollster Nik Nanos.

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