

Canadians doubt PM's sponsorship denials poll: 67% think Martin knew money was misused

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More than 67 per cent of Canadians believe that Prime Minister Paul Martin was personally aware that government sponsorship money was being misdirected, according to a new poll.

The research poll, released by political TV channel CPAC and SES Research, asked Canadians a variety of questions about the ongoing sponsorship scandal and whether they wanted to see a federal election held in the near future.

While more than 67 per cent said they believed Mr. Martin was aware sponsorship money was allegedly directed to advertising agencies and firms closely linked to the federal Liberals, only 34 per cent said they believed the prime minister was personally involved.

More than 48 per cent of those asked said they did not believe Mr. Martin was personally involved.

Results were a little different when respondents were asked whether they believed the whole Liberal party was to blame for the scandal, or whether it was the result of a few "bad apples." Overall, 58 per cent said the scandal was created by a few bad apples in the party while 30 per cent believed the scandal touches all of the federal Liberals.

But in Quebec, where the sponsorship mess seems to have hit hardest, 42 per cent of Quebecers polled believed the sponsorship scandal extended to the entire Liberal party.

The poll, released earlier this week, showed similar results to other recent survey in finding 67 per cent of those asked did not want another federal election until the Gomery inquiry has made its final report. Only 19 per cent of respondents said they wanted an election now.

The poll of 1,000 people is considered accurate within plus or minus 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

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