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Tories lose lead in post-vote poll

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The honeymoon with Stephen Harper's Conservatives was over before it began, an SES poll provided to Sun Media suggests.

The survey of 1,000 people, conducted Feb. 4-9, puts the Liberals at 34% with the governing Conservatives at 33%, dropping three points from the 36% support they received on election day Jan. 23.

The results leave the parties in a statistical dead heat.

The New Democrats garnered 18% of decided voter support, Quebec's Bloc stood at 9% and the Green Party had 7%. Three percent were undecided. SES notes that due to rounding, percentages don't add up to 100.

ROUGH START

"The Conservatives raised the bar on ethics and accountability very high and I think people are waiting to see them deliver on that," said SES pollster Nik Nanos.

The Tories got off to a rough start when Harper appointed an unelected Conservative to his cabinet, then put Michael Fortier in the Senate after vowing during the election campaign to only appoint elected Senators.

The rookie PM also came under fire within his own caucus when he gave Liberal turncoat David Emerson a seat at the cabinet table, passing over dozens of longtime loyal MPs.

Nanos said many Canadians looking for an agent of change saw a leader who, in his first hours in power, mirrored the old-style politics of his predecessors.

The SES survey is accurate to within 3.2%, 19 times out of 20.

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