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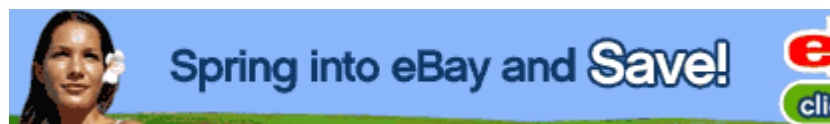
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NEWS

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Mon, June 13, 2005

Dalton's growing on us, poll suggests

By **ALAN FINDLAY**, Toronto Sun

TORONTO -- Fewer voters this year think Premier Dalton McGuinty is doing a bad job of running the province, according to a new public opinion poll obtained by the Sun.

The SES Research survey of 500 people across Ontario found that 37% felt McGuinty was doing a poor job compared to 54% who thought so in a similar poll last June.

"It's still a high number, but he's making progress on that," said John Nanos, senior vice-president for SES Canada Research.

Eighteen percent thought he was doing either a good or very good job.

McGuinty also finished in a statistical tie with Progressive Conservative Leader John Tory as the best leader, with Tory getting 25% of respondents' support, McGuinty 23% (within the survey's 4.4% margin of error) and NDP Leader Howard Hampton 15%.



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Sun Media Newspapers

On the topic of overall support for the parties, the Grits won 41% support compared to 35% for the Tories and 21% for the NDP, which is a similar result to other recent surveys.

The encouraging poll results for the premier and his Grit government come on the heels of a Liberal annual general meeting in Ottawa of 1,300 party members already counting down the days to the 2007 election.

McGuinty said he thinks his government is laying down a track record of successes as it wraps up the spring session of the legislature this week, but minimized poll numbers.

"Up one day, down another, we've got to keep our eye on the distant horizon and work as hard as we can," McGuinty told reporters over the weekend.

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