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## News National/World

Thu, October 27, 2005

# Grits, Tories in virtual tie, poll shows

By **ALAN FINDLAY**, Queen's Park Bureau



TORONTO -- Ontario's governing Grits have slipped into a statistical tie with the province's Opposition Tories in the eyes of voters as Premier Dalton McGuinty's own popularity dips, according to an SES Research poll obtained by Sun Media.

The provincewide survey of 501 voting-age residents found 38% of decided voters backing the Liberals and 37% backing the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party.

The New Democrats sat at 20% of decided support.

McGuinty's personal popularity as people's choice for best premier has slipped several percentage points in SES polls during the year to approximately 17%. One-quarter chose Tory as the best leader to be premier, while 15% chose NDP Leader Howard Hampton.

### AVERAGE JOB

On the question of McGuinty's performance, only 18% of those surveyed felt he was doing a good or very good job. Almost half, 46%, felt he was doing an average job while 33% felt he was doing a poor or very poor job.

SES president Nikita James Nanos said McGuinty's low personal numbers suggest even many Liberal voters aren't

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happy with the job he's done since becoming premier two years ago.

"They've really got to focus on moving those numbers," Nanos said of the Liberals.

"It's really going to be incumbent on the Liberals to put accomplishments in the window to move the performance number."

The survey's results are considered accurate to within plus or minus 4.4%, 19 times out of 20.

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