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FEATURES



SES poll - Liberal Party and Martin strong

02/02/2004



GRITS POTENTIALLY VULNERABLE ON PERFORMANCE A national survey of Canadians released by polling firm SES Canada Research Inc. indicates that the Liberal Party and Paul Martin continue to enjoy strong support but Liberal government performance is considered average by a significant number of Canadians.

Current SES polling among decided voters puts the federal Liberals at 48% (down 1%), the Conservatives at 23%, the NDP at 15% (up 3%), the Bloc Quebecois at 11% (up 1%) and the Green Party at 3%. Twenty-one percent of Canadians were undecided in the most recent wave of SES polling. Since the merger of the Canadian Alliance and the Progressive Conservative the only major party to register an increase in support was the NDP - 3% (but still within the margin of accuracy for the national poll).

One half of Canadians polled (50%) consider Paul Martin the best choice for Prime Minister, with his closest challenger being Stephen Harper at 8% nationally.

Asked to rate the Liberal government led by Paul Martin, 35% described the government as average, 30% very good/good, 13% poor/very poor and 23% of Canadians were undecided.

"Polling indicates that although Paul Martin and the Liberals remain very popular, the ruling Grits may be vulnerable on performance. After more than 10 years in power almost one of every four Canadians cannot form an opinion on their performance," stated SES President Nikita Nanos.

"The upcoming federal election will see the parties compete to define the ballot question. On the one hand the Liberals will likely focus on Paul Martin and the future, while the opposition Conservatives and New Democrats will likely focus on the Liberal record and Paul Martin's key role over the past ten years," noted Nanos.

SES's National Omnibus Survey is conducted every three months. It is based on a random telephone sample of 1,000 Canadians, 18 years of age and older and was conducted between January 26th to January 29th, 2004. The margin of accuracy for the aggregate survey results is 3.1 percentage points, plus or minus, 19 times out of 20. Within the larger sample sub-groups may have a wider margin of accuracy. Validation of the demographic profile of respondents indicates that the poll is a fair representation of the Canadian populace. The survey was registered with the Canadian Survey Research Council of which SES is a member.

Established in 1987, SES Canada Research Inc. is a full service marketing and public opinion research firm.

For a detailed review of the survey tables, please visit the SES Research website at <http://www.sesresearch.com> in the on-line polling library.

QUOTATIONS

I am invariably of the politics of the people at whose table I sit, or beneath whose roof I sleep.

George Borrow 1803-81

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RELATED LINKS

[Poll - New Conservative Party Leadership Race](#)

According to the latest Ipsos-Reid/CTV/Globe and Mail poll released today, the majority of Canadians feel they do not know enough about any of the new Conservative Party leadership hopefuls to be able to form an opinion about them.

[CBC poll reports Liberals far ahead](#)

The latest CBC/ROM poll shows some remarkable results. Liberals are leading with a commanding 58% of the voters, followed by the NDP at 18%, a United Right party at 13% and the Bloc at 9%. These results have to be tempered with the predictable bumps and valleys that are expected following a party convention or the creation of a new merged party that has not had time to define itself.

[Grits Command Canadian Political Landscape](#)

NO QUICK FIX FOR RIGHT WING PARTIES — A national survey of Canadians released by polling firm SES Canada Research Inc. indicates that Paul Martin will inherit a Liberal Party firmly in command of the national political landscape. Research on the impact of the potential creation of a single Conservative Party indicates that the current Party leaders still noticeably trail the Martin-led Liberals.

[Pragmatism rather than vision likely to be Chrétien hallmark](#)

According to a national SES poll of 1,000 Canadians completed last weekend, one of every two Canadians (51%) cannot think of anything accomplished by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien.

[Poll sees new party as Alliance takeover](#)

A new Ipsos-Reid poll reports that support for a merged Alliance PC Party has eroded to 39%, down from 46%. The majority, some 68%, see the merger as an Alliance takeover of the PC Party. Ipsos-Reid suggested the drop may be a result of a perception that Alliance is in the driver's seat. As a consequence the new party would remain stigmatized as a regional Western based party with little support in Eastern Canada.

[Merger will have no effect on Liberal win](#)

A new Ipsos Reid poll posed a question on how you would vote given a choice between a Paul Martin led Liberal Party and a new merged PC/Alliance party. A majority 51% would vote Liberal with 32% supporting the Tories.

[Opposition fails to convince](#)

SES Research released the results of a poll taken this September, the results are predictable. The Liberals lead with 46%. To understand just how commanding this lead is consider that it is equal to all three of the main oppositions parties combined.

[Ekos poll reveals PC party has a chance to become official opposition](#)

Last January when Ekos began reporting a marked decline in Alliance support Stephen Harper challenged the results as unreliable and at variance with Alliance's own data. This became the basis of a feud between Harper and Ekos' President Frank Graves. Indeed it seems that Graves' recently published conclusions on the Canadian political landscape, and particularly the fall of Alliance support, while founded with objective polling data the results are delivered with unmistakable relish.

[MacKay fails to rouse public](#)

A new poll show the PC's sitting where they have remained for some time. The recent PC party convention failed to push PC numbers into the expected "bubble" that follows the attention given to a new leader. Another view suggests the "deal" between Orchard and MacKay had no effect on the PC numbers.

[May 30 poll shows Liberals on top](#)

SES Research's new poll shows the Liberals remain on top. A quick look at Politics Canada poll log shows the Liberals have been number one in the last 25 national polls since early February 2001 when we started to capture the data.

OTHER LINKS

[Martin meets Premiers, gives provinces 2 billion dollars](#)

Premiers and PM Martin met in Ottawa for a conference to accept a 2 billion dollar payment to provincial health care programs. All Premiers are looking for a long term plan to guarantee sustainability and although none was forthcoming at this meeting all agreed that they are optimistic a plan will be worked out.

[Copps accuses PM Martin of hypocrisy](#)

Copps continues the fight to run in her own riding engaging both the Prime Minister (and Liberal party) in media scrums. Calling the PM's recent guarantee of a seat in an adjacent riding "hypocrisy" Copps questioned Martin's sincerity when first assessing her nomination problems as resolvable only by the riding association. She now struggles with how the PM can guarantee her a seat in Hamilton Mountain so easily.

[Klein says health care is not sustainable](#)

The CBC reported yesterday that Premier Klein said that Health care is not sustainable. Suggestions the Premier (of Canada's richest province) made are to implement the use of the private sector, user fees and delisting (removing from public funding) some health care services presently paid for.

Conservative party loses another MP

Rick Borotsik, Manitoba MP, has announced he will not run in the next election. Borotsik regards the Alliance PC merger as an Alliance take-over and despite a willingness to work with the Conservative caucus has indicated that he does not agree with party leadership or extremist policies.