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FEATURES



SES Poll - Harper preferred leadership candidate, one third unsure

05/02/2004



A national survey of Canadians released by polling firm SES Canada Research Inc. indicates that Stephen Harper leads both Belinda Stronach and Tony Clement as the preferred candidate to lead the new Conservative Party of Canada. SES tested the support of the candidates by two means. First, it measured support based on their respective candidate profile (without names).

Then support was measured prompting Canadians with the names of the respective candidates. In both cases Stephen Harper was the first ranked preference. Profile testing without names allows one to minimize bias resulting from differing levels of name recognition

Polling indicates that on the ballot question with the candidate names, Stronach ranks as the second choice (20%) ahead of Clement (13%). However, testing on the candidate profiles without names indicates that Clement would be the second choice among Canadians (Clement 26%, Stronach 20%).

"Polling indicates that support for Tony Clement could ramp up if he could increase his profile," according to SES President Nikita Nanos. "In either scenario, however, Harper is currently the first choice among Canadians. The fact that more than one of every three Canadians (36%) are unsure is indicative of the fact that the leadership process is still at an early phase and many opinions of the contender are unformed."

Readers should note that SES polled eligible voters across Canada and the survey should not be considered an indicator of the opinions of members of the Conservative Party of Canada but of Canadians at large.

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.

RELATED LINKS

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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Canadians Are Divided On Big Federal Issues

Only a very slim majority (52%) agree that Paul Martin should scrap the Federal gun registry. Matched up against four in ten (43%) who do not believe it should be dismantled. Similarly, when asked whether the Federal government should amend marriage laws to allow same sex marriage, half agree (47%) that we should, while the other half (48%) say that we should not.

SES poll - Liberal Party and Martin strong

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.

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.

OTHER LINKS

Larry Spencer expelled from Conservative caucus

The Conservative caucus voted to expel Larry Spencer from caucus. Spencer who declared during an interview that homosexuality should be outlawed, will now sit as an independent. Spencer's publicly revealed sentiments occurred while he was a MP for the Alliance party. Stephen Harper fired Spencer as "family issues" critic and suspended him from the party.

Martin battered during question period on CSL

Opposition MP's relentlessly hammered PM Martin on discrepancies between what business the government reported was done with Canada Steamship Lines (CSL), a company Martin controlled. Originally the government reported that \$137,000 of business was conducted with CSL, where it is now known that 161 million dollars of business was actually contracted.

Opposition forces attack Martin

Opposition forces were quick to attack Martin's vision for 2004. Martin responded, taking the high road, defending a platform of program spending tempered by the country's ability to pay for them. Despite Martin incorporating many of the top conservative platform items CPC Leader Grant Hill called the Martin plan "legacy leftovers and puffy promises." Hill embarked on a history of past Liberal errors and failed promises left in the haze that was Chrétien's era.

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