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FEATURES



SES Poll - Perceptions of spending

30/03/2005



Last week Canadians were surveyed by SES Research on which level of government (federal, provincial and municipal) spends tax dollars most fairly. The challenge for the federal government is that, although the Liberals focus on their responsible fiscal track record, only a minority of Canadians choose the federal government compared to provincial and municipal levels of government.

Provincial and municipal governments, those levels of government closest to delivering services and with whom Canadians have more direct interaction, were noticeably more likely to be positively viewed by Canadians as spending tax dollars fairly.

Although still ahead of their federal counterparts, the McGuinty Liberal government received the lowest comparative provincial government score. Conversely, Quebecers, Albertans and Atlantic Canadians were the most likely to choose their provincial government ahead of municipalities and the federal government.

Random telephone survey of 2,000 Canadians conducted by SES Research between March 17 and March 22, 2005 (MoE $\pm 2.2\%$, 19 times out of 20).

Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Question - If you had to choose which government would spend your tax dollars most fairly, would you choose [rotate] your federal government, your provincial government or your local government?

33% Provincial government (43% Quebec, 40% Alberta, 39% Atlantic, 22% Ontario)
32% Municipal government (38% BC, 37% Ontario)
17% Federal government
10% No difference
8% Unsure

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[SES Research Poll - Canada's Defence Relationship with the US](#)

The SES Research Poll completed last week indicates that Canadians are evenly divided between staying the course, getting closer and being further away from the United States on defence issues. However, from a tactical perspective, the Liberal position plays well against the opposition parties.

[Martin's Liberals showing modest rebound says Ekos poll](#)

The Conservative Party of Canada (CPC), on the other hand, seems to be losing touch with centre/core (vis-à-vis the last election). The political landscape is, however, is still best characterized as stable, perhaps listless. There are a number of fractious issues; none of which appear capable of propelling any party to clear victory at this time.

[Poll on leaders following last week's Gomery testimony](#)



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site of the week

A new Compas poll is showing all leaders struggling with public perception following last week's testimony from both former PM Chr tien and PM Martin. Using a 100 point report card rating Martin scored 44 points, Chr tien 42 and opposition leader Stephen Harper 38 points. Compas suggests that Harper's poor showing is due to uncertainty of the character of his leadership.

Liberals continue to lead in voter support

At the national level, Canadians' support for political parties has held steady over past few months, with the Liberals holding onto a clear lead in voter preference over the opposition Conservatives and NDP, according to a recent survey by the Environics Research Group conducted December 14, 2004 to January 5, 2005.

Poll - Liberal popularity rising in Quebec and Ontario

SES Research has released a poll taken in late October which reports Liberal popularity rising from 38% to 41% in the fourth quarter. Conservatives held their own at 26%, as did the NDP at 17%. The Bloc slipped to 11%, while the Green Party rose to 6%. Regional differences show the Liberals steady in Atlantic Canada (51%), growing in Quebec (31%) and Ontario (54%), while declining slightly in the West from 34% to 33%). Undecided voters remain steady at 14%.

Poll shows Liberal support up, Conservatives and Bloc down

A just released Ipsos-Reid/CTV poll reports that the Liberal support has moved to 40%, the highest since the election and close to majority status if an election is called. Just prior to the election Liberal support sunk to 29% as opposition parties pummelled the government over the sponsorship program. In the last two weeks of the election Martin pulled support up to 37%.

Conservative support dips

Regionally, the Liberals continue to dominate in Atlantic Canada and Ontario. Current polling puts the Liberals at 51% in Atlantic Canada and 49% in Ontario among decided voters. However, Quebec continues to be an Achilles heel for Paul Martin and the Liberals, as the Bloc Quebecois continues to hold a commanding lead at 53% of decided voters compared to 28% for the Liberals.

Martin image down but leads as best Prime Minister by 20 points

Although Paul Martin currently has a comfortable lead as best PM, a new national survey conducted by polling firm SES Research indicates that his personal image has waned as a result of the federal campaign. "Our polling shows that Paul Martin has expended some personal capital during the recent election," explained Nik Nanos, President and CEO of SES Research.

Ekos predicts Liberal minority win

On behalf of the Star and La Presse, Ekos conducted a poll based on a sample of more than 5200 telephone interviews, the largest done during the campaign. Ekos now predicts that the Liberals will win a minority government by 8 seats. Given the size of the sample Ekos appear confident in their seat projections, Liberals 117, Conservatives 109, Bloc 55, NDP 27.

Dead heat: Liberals and Conservatives statistically tied

A COMPAS poll for the National Post, Global TV, and CNS reports the Liberals led by incumbent Prime Minister Paul Martin and the newly formed Conservatives led by former Alliance leader Stephen Harper are in a statistical tie at the end of a gruelling campaign.

OTHER LINKS

SES Research Poll - Canada's Defence Relationship with the US

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Conservatives pressured by Nfld. and NS to not force an election

All parties boldly speak of protecting the environment painting mental images of babbling brooks, lush forests and green valley meadows. By necessity these same parties temper environmental strategies against the potential for long lines of unemployed workers. The Liberal government avoided the "Kyoto" word in the budget but are preparing their environmental plan nevertheless.

Martin appoints nine new Senators

Despite agreeing that the Senate should be more democratic Martin appointed nine new Senators. They include retired General Romeo Dallaire and Art Eggleton one time mayor of Toronto. Of the nine six are Liberals, two are Progressive Conservatives and one NDP.

PM Martin, Fox and President Bush in Texas

PM Martin met with President Bush and President Vincente Fox in Waco Texas forging an economic and security co-operation agreement. The leaders sought to integrate border and infrastructure security and have charged their Ministers with implementing a plan within 90 days. In addition Martin and Fox will meet with President Bush at his Texas ranch. Each will have a 20 minute meeting to discuss country specific issues.