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Canada's Liberals cling to lead in poll

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TORONTO (Reuters) - Canada's minority-ruling Liberals are still suffering from the fallout of a kickback scandal, but the party retains a lead over the opposition Conservatives, a new poll showed on Wednesday.

An SES Research poll, conducted for Sun Media, showed that support for the Liberals stands at 34 percent, down from 40 percent on October 27, just days before a report into the scandal was released.

The Conservatives remained at 28 percent, while the New Democrats climbed five points to 20 percent.

On November 1, Justice John Gomery concluded an official inquiry that found the Liberals had run a kickback scheme in Quebec to illegally fund election campaigns, but that Prime Minister Paul Martin was not guilty.

The poll of 1,003 Canadians conducted between November 10 to November 13 is considered accurate within 3.1 percent, 19 times out of 20.

A Pollara poll provided to Reuters taken November 7-13 and released on Tuesday, put the Liberals at 36 percent, the Conservatives at 28 percent and the New Democrats at 20 percent.

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