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Tue, April 27, 2004

Martin's losing it: Poll
Now only 33% of Canadians say he's our best PM, down from 50%By [MARIA MCCLINTOCK](#), OTTAWA BUREAU

A RAPIDLY declining number of Canadians believe Paul Martin would make the best prime minister and an increasing number view his government's performance as poor, an SES/Sun Media poll shows.

SPONSORSHIP SCANDAL

Martin's poor showing among the 1,000 Canadians polled between April 20 and 25 is directly related to the sponsorship scandal, according to SES president Nik Nanos.

The poll comes as the PM hosted a private dinner with his cabinet ministers at 24 Sussex Dr. last night to canvass their advice about the timing of an election. The poll numbers show 33% of Canadians think Martin would make the best PM -- a drop of 17 points since February.

Asked about Martin's overall performance, 31% said it was poor or somewhat poor, compared to 13% in February. Twenty-five per cent think the PM's performance is somewhat or very good, down from 30% two months ago.

HARPER DOUBLES TO 16%

When asked to rank Conservative Leader Stephen Harper those surveyed said he'd make the best PM -- double the chose him in February.

NDP Leader Jack Layton was the choice of only 7%, an i

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Toronto's Other Voice

One of the most significant findings shows 11% of people of the party leaders would make a good prime minister, a 31% were undecided.

"What the numbers speak to is volatility and when we see of undecided voters increase ... that's basically a bit of a reading of how volatile the situation is," Nanos said.

The poll is accurate within plus or minus 3.1%, 19 times c

Meanwhile, a separate SES/CPAC poll conducted during period shows 60% of Canadians are dissatisfied with Mar of the sponsorship scandal.

"Canadians have ... gotten a better indicator of what type performance to expect from Paul Martin, and this clearly : a problem," Nanos said.

Senior government officials told Sun Media yesterday the decided on the date for the election and told his ministers be prepared to govern on his five key priorities including l cities, if he decides to hold off calling an election.

WHO WILL MAKE THE BEST PM?

The results of a recent poll conducted by SES Canada R shows that only a third of Canadians now feel that Paul M the best prime minister:

FIRST QUARTER OF 2004

HARPER: 8%

MARTIN: 50%

LAYTON: 5%

DUCEPPE: 5%

NONE: 6%

UNDECIDED: 26%

SECOND QUARTER OF 2004

HARPER: 16%

MARTIN: 33%

LAYTON: 7%

DUCEPPE: 3%

NONE: 11%

UNDECIDED: 31%

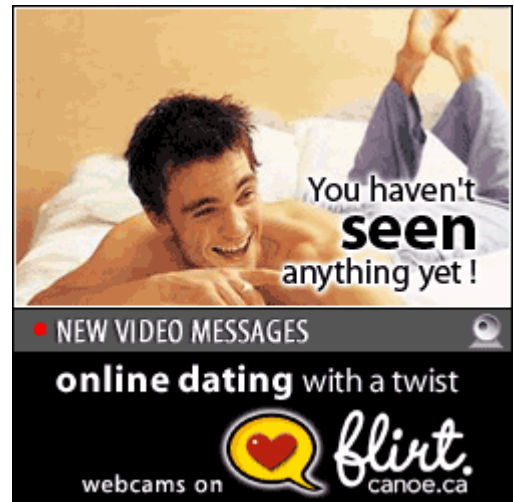
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