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Thu, December 21 / 06

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News Toronto & GTA

Thu, December 21, 2006

Tory profile not a worry

By **ANTONELLA ARTUSO**

Conservative Leader John Tory says he's not worried he has a relatively low public profile going into an election year -- former Premier David Peterson was virtually unknown before the 1985 provincial election, Tory said yesterday.

The PC leader said there is no "magic way" to raise his profile, but he plans to continue meeting with people and will release policies that illustrate his priorities.

"I can't work any harder than I'm working, I can't go more places than I go," said Tory.

An SES Research poll obtained by Sun Media shows the PC leader has yet to make much of an impression overall on the province, or even in Toronto where he ran a strong second to David Miller in the 2003 mayoral race.

The same poll also found that Dalton McGuinty and NDP Leader Howard Hampton were less popular than their parties.

Tory hasn't ruled out billboards or other advertising options to raise his profile. And he said he can't say for certain if his electoral chances have been hurt by his support of the controversial 25% Christmas pay hike.

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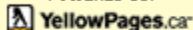
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