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Sat, September 13, 2003

**Layton drives NDP to 15% in new poll****By Bill Rodgers**

OTTAWA -- The popularity of the federal New Democrats has jumped five points over the past three months and the Liberals are down 6%, a national SES/Sun Media poll suggests. Support for the NDP under new leader Jack Layton shows growth in every area of the country except Alberta and Quebec. The poll of 1,000 Canadians taken from Aug. 24 to Sept. 2 shows the Liberals continue to enjoy a commanding lead with 46% of committed voter support. The Tories trail with 19%, followed by the NDP with 15%, the Canadian Alliance with 13% and the Bloc Quebecois at 8%.

"The switching of voters from Liberals to the NDP may be a precursor of a future trend as Liberal voters perceive Paul Martin to be taking the party more to the right," said Nik Nanos, president and CEO of SES/Canada Research Inc.



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