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Small Canada Poll Shows Conservatives' Lead Drops



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Fri Jun 11, 1:20 PM ET

OTTAWA (Reuters) - Canada's ruling Liberals are catching up with the opposition Conservative Party in the run-up to the June 28 election, according to a small daily tracking poll released on Friday.

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The SES Canada Research poll of 600 people is considered to be accurate to within 4.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. Larger surveys of at least 1,000 people are usually accurate to within 2 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

SES found that support for the Conservatives had dropped three points from Thursday to 34 percent while backing for the Liberals rose one point to 33 percent.

The left-leaning New Democrats rose one point to 18 percent.

An Ipsos-Reid poll of 2,117 people put the Conservatives at 34 percent with the Liberals at 30 percent on Friday.

SES also said 56 percent of Canadians felt it was time for a change in government.

The poll showed 31 percent felt Liberal Prime Minister Paul Martin would make the best leader of the country. Conservative leader Stephen Harper was favored by 22 percent.

Current polling numbers would not give either of the big parties enough seats to win a majority in Parliament and they would need support from other parties to form a government.

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