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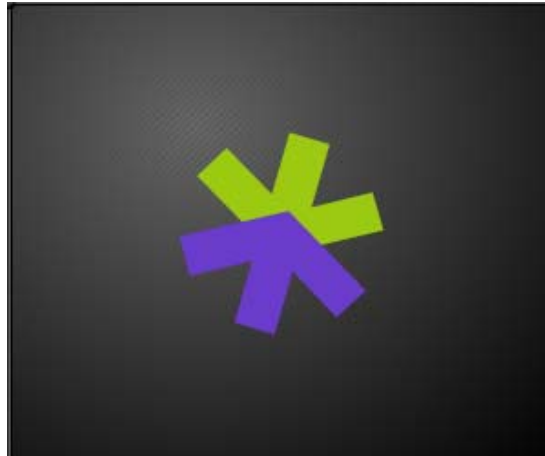


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Liberals inch ahead of Conservatives in support poll

Tuesday, May 08, 2007 - 09:18 AM
By: John Stall



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Toronto - A new poll shows the Dion Liberals are inching ahead of the minority Conservatives in national support.

The survey, by 680News and SES, suggests that polling numbers are back to levels similar to the last election, with the Liberals and Conservatives neck and neck.

This poll puts the Liberals one percentage point ahead of the Conservatives - at 33 to 32 - and the major shift took place in the key province of Quebec where the Conservatives dropped 11 percentage points while the Liberals picked up nine points.

SES pollster Nick Nanos says the numbers are mostly because Quebecers are more sensitive to the war in Afghanistan and foreign policy issues in general.

"When the Conservatives talk about cleaning up government, cutting taxes, fighting the deficit, their numbers do well, their numbers go up...once they get onto foreign policy issues, especially Afghanistan, their numbers go down," Nanos said.

One of the most significant changes evidenced by the new poll shows that for the first time in history, the Green Party has pulled ahead of the Bloc Quebecois.