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Liberals jump ahead over Harper Conservatives in polls

Cormac MacSweeney Apr 12, 2013 03:14:48 PM

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The Liberals are flying high in support ahead of their leadership announcement this Sunday.

A new Nanos research poll shows for the first time in four years, the Liberals are leading all political parties with 35 per cent support, while the Conservatives are at 31 per cent and the NDP has fallen to just under 24 per cent.

Federal Liberal leadership candidate Justin Trudeau speaks to party members and supporters at the national showcase in Toronto, April 6, 2013
PHOTO BY: CORMAC MACSWEENEY

However, it's not uncommon to see a party surge in support during and after a leadership race.

It's widely believed that Justin Trudeau will be the person taking the top job of the Liberals and the buzz about a return of Trudeaumania may be giving them an added boost.

But Maclean's Magazine's Ottawa bureau chief John Geddes told 680News it's not always the way it appears.

"Many people thought that Dion was going to work as leader, and more people – I would argue – thought that Ignatieff would work as leader," he said, Friday. "Lots of people thought that Jean Chretien would not work as leader. You just go through the annals of people not being able to predict how a leader would pan out."

Geddes added that it's not clear if the Liberal love-in will last.

"It's easy for them to get a balance in the polls. The question of course is sustaining it. Trudeau has two years to have to sustain that momentum," Geddes said.

Geddes said he thinks it will be very hard for the Liberals to sustain the numbers in the two years leading up to the next election, and that anything could happen.

"The normal pattern of things is that new leaders do not lift their parties into power, or even into close contention their first time out. It didn't happen for Jack Layton. It didn't happen for Stephen Harper."

The last time the Liberals were polling ahead of the governing Conservatives was 2009 when Michael Ignatieff was elected leader. Before that, it was just before the 2008 election and before that it was in 2006 after Stephane Dion became leader.

In all of those examples, the Liberals weren't been able to turn that support into stronger results at the ballot box.

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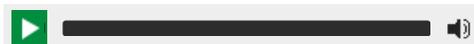
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If Trudeau is the next Prime Minister of Canada, we are screwed. He is just like his Social father Pierre. Charismatic but a major socialist. Thank god polls change like our underwear.

Apr 12, 2013 at 07:18:52 PM



Get Real

Another "poll" with questionable results. Every day I can take the same poll and get a different result and every media venue can print whichever suits their view.

Apr 12, 2013 at 05:11:46 PM



Willie

You never voted Liberal anyways. So?

Apr 12, 2013 at 04:43:22 PM



Andy

If Trudeau is the Leader they won't have my vote.

Apr 12, 2013 at 04:07:03 PM

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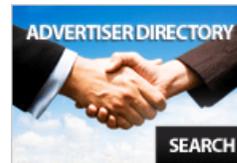
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