

Grits score higher but Tories continue 2-month-long positive trend



Prime Minister Stephen Harper answers a question during Question Period in the House of Commons in Ottawa on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 (THE CANADIAN PRESS/Adrian Wyld)



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The federal Conservatives maintained an incremental, positive trend on [this week's Nanos Party Power Index](#).

While it's important to note the Liberals numerically scored higher than the Tories, the Liberals don't enjoy the statistical advantage they did in the third quarter of 2014.

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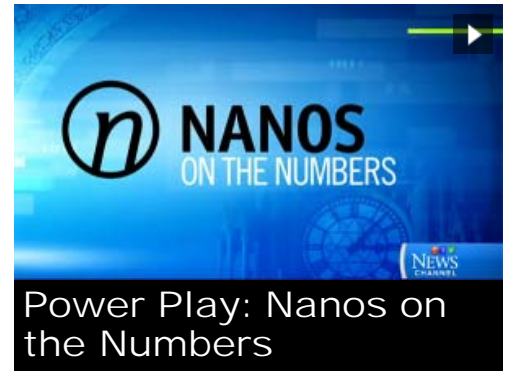
- Liberals score 57 points out 100, up a point from last week
- Conservatives score 54 points, unchanged from last week
- NDP scores 49 points, up a point from last week

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The Conservatives' positive trend is a two-month phenomenon driven by two things: public fear over terror; and fear of the economy getting worse.

This chart shows the trendlines of the two leading parties since December of last year.

Null value 

One has to recognize the Tories have shaped the public policy agenda over last few months by focusing on the budget and income splitting and security issues. They've been in the driver's seat when it comes to the agenda.

The Liberal numbers, however, are fairly consistent, so the Tory trend is not about people being turned off by Trudeau. This is more about the Tories repairing their brand from 2014. This is not a zero-sum game right now. This is more about the Tories regaining lost ground than the Liberals losing ground.

However, what could derail this positive Conservative trend is the Duffy controversy and any further negative reports about Tory senators and spending.

[Post by CTV News.](#)

PM question

Prime Minister Harper, meanwhile, remains at a 12-month high on the preferred Prime Minister front.


- 34 per cent of Canadians said Harper was their preferred choice as PM
- 31 per cent said Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau was their preferred choice for PM
- 17 per cent said NDP Leader Tom Mulcair was their preferred choice for PM

The Nanos Party Power Index methodology is comprised of a basket of political goods that includes ballot preferences, accessible voters, preferred PM views and evaluations of the leaders. It is modeled similar to a standard confidence index. It is a random telephone survey conducted with live agents, reaching out to Canadians through a land- and cell-line dual frame sample.

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