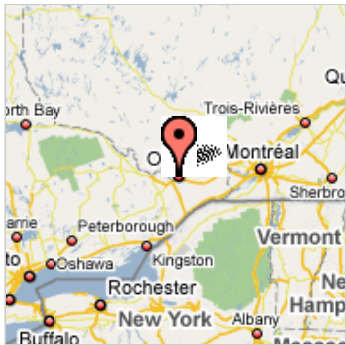




Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper



Canada's Liberals top Conservatives in post-crisis poll

1 day ago

OTTAWA (AFP) — Canada's Liberal Party has overtaken Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives in popularity, according to a poll published Saturday after a failed opposition bid last month to overturn the Harper government.

The January 3-7 Nanos poll asked how voters would choose now, with 34 percent taking Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff's side, against 33 percent for Harper.

The New Democratic Party got 19 percent support, while the Bloc Quebecois got 7.0 percent.

Earlier polls, taken right after early December's political crisis in which opposition parties tried but failed to unseat Harper over his handling of the ailing economy, gave the Conservatives the edge over the Liberals and other opposition groups.

Opposition parties conspired to replace Harper in a censure motion, which the prime minister sidestepped by suspending parliament. Harper's political survival, however, will once again be in play after the budget is presented on January 27.

The Nanos poll was conducted among 1003 adults and had a margin of error of 3.1 percent.