

Little Appetite For Election Over EI

Thunder Bay, ON -- Election talk from Ottawa has cooled a little bit in recent days. Part of the reason could be that the polls are showing a certain degree of volatility for voters. The Liberals are gaining a small lead over the Conservatives. Nik Nanos, of Nanos Research states, "Our most recent national poll indicates support for the federal Liberals continues to incrementally trend upwards".

The latest Nanos National Poll shows the Liberals with 37.2% support nationally, followed by the Conservatives at 31.8% and the New Democrats at 15.7%. The Green Party is sitting at 7.4%.

In Ontario, the Liberals are down one percent since the last poll, and the Conservatives are also down but by 5%. The NDP have gained two percentage points. However the margin of error in the Ontario numbers is plus or minus 6.1%.

The Quebec figures may be the biggest indication that an election is not likely this summer, as the Liberals and Bloc are in a virtual tie at 36% and 37% respectively.

"Considering the economy is in the midst of a significant downturn, the Conservatives have generally done well in maintaining their overall support. While they continue to trail the Liberals it's not realistic for an incumbent government to expect their polling numbers to improve in this economy. The reality is that the Conservatives are still strong in the West and are generally competitive in Ontario. The greatest erosion of Conservative support has occurred in the province of Quebec," adds Nanos.

"Although the numbers in Quebec for the Conservatives are currently low, one should be cautious because voter volatility in Quebec has historically been much higher than in other parts of the country. A look at Ontario indicates that the Liberals currently have an eight point lead. We know from our research that Ontarians tend to be more concerned about the economy compared to other Canadians and the widening margin could be indicative of increased grumpiness among voters in Ontario".

The Nanos polling suggests that EI is not an "election worthy" issue and shouldn't trigger an election. In a minority situation, there is an expectation that none of the parties will get everything they demand in regards to EI reform.

On the specific area of whether EI reform is an issue for Canadians, across Canada 60% of those surveyed say it is not important enough an issue to go to the polls over.

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