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Liberals in comfortable place -poll

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Ontario's Liberals have failed to attract more support during the past year, according to a new Nanos Research poll, but that's not all bad when you're cruising about 10 per cent higher than your closest rival.

The poll, conducted in early August, shows Premier Dalton McGuinty and the ruling Liberals are maintaining a 10-point lead over the second-place Progressive Conservatives -- similar to the results of last fall's provincial election.

The NDP have managed to improve support in the last two months, but there's been no significant change in support for (party leader) John Tory's Conservatives since the last election," said Nanos Research President Nik Nanos.

The results show the Grits with 41 per cent support among decided voters and the Progressive Conservatives with 31 per cent. The NDP came in at 17 per cent, followed by the Green Party, who sit at 11 per cent.

The latest round of ballot tracking shows the provincial Tories are doing well with voters over the age of 60, but they trail considerably in other age groups.

For voters under the age of 30, the Green Party has gained trust and is now statistically tied with the Conservatives.


For the Liberals, this just means

they can stay the course and coast in the current environment. It's quite an easy time to be an Ontario Liberal," Nanos said.

The Liberals have a natural advantage because both (opposition) parties are going through transitional periods -- John Tory is not sitting at Queen's Park and the NDP don't have a leader because Howard Hampton stepped down," Nanos said.

The telephone survey, conducted Aug. 6 to 9, questioned 500 Ontario residents 18 years and older. It is considered accurate within 4.4 per cent, 19 times out of 20.

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