

By **CHRISTINA SPENCER**

Canadians continue to see Stephen Harper as, by far, the most competent, trustworthy and visionary federal leader, a new poll shows.

The prime minister's commanding lead on these three measures of personal popularity still comes with a warning, as the number of Canadians unsure or cynical about all party bosses surges.

In the Nanos Research poll conducted in early May for Sun Media and CPAC, Harper was seen as the most trustworthy leader by 31% of respondents. Liberal Leader Stephane Dion was considered most trustworthy by 14%, tied with NDP leader Jack Layton.

Harper was also seen as most competent by 39%, compared to 12% who felt this way about Dion and 11% who gave Layton top marks.

Fully 31% of those surveyed believed Harper had the best vision for Canada. Dion and Layton dallied at 14% each.

While the numbers appear to be good news for the Conservative leader, pollster Nik Nanos warned that broad enthusiasm for all three men is waning. Thirty-three percent of people polled answered "none of them/undecided" when asked who was most trustworthy, 32% were undecided about who was most competent, and 35% were either undecided or felt no leader had the best vision for the country overall.

"An increasing number of voters are 'parking,' " Nanos said. "They're not thrilled with any of the party leaders and they don't see a lot of positive politics to attract them.

"If I were Stephen Harper, I'd be cautiously optimistic, but one in every three voters could quickly shift into the other columns," Nanos warned. "It's an issue of 'I have the advantage, how can I incrementally improve that advantage?'"

For the opposition parties, he said, the message is: "We're way behind, what are we going to do to jump-start our image and start grabbing some of those voters who are 'parking' right now?"

The poll of 1,002 Canadians was conducted May 1-6. The results are considered accurate to within plus or minus 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.