



**Deals Today**  
The latest Reuters articles on M&A, IPOs, hedge funds and more  
[Subscribe Now](#)



You are here: [Home](#) > [News](#) > [Special Coverage](#) > [Article](#)

DJIA : **10325.4** ▼ | Nasdaq : **1947.39** ▼

- [HOME](#)
- [BUSINESS & FINANCE](#)
- [NEWS](#)
- [U.S.](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [International](#)
- [Technology](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Lifestyle](#)
- [Oddly Enough](#)
- [Environment](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Science](#)
- [Special Coverage](#)
- [Video](#)
- [Pictures](#)
- [You Witness](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- [Reader Feedback](#)

# Canadian Liberals, once dominant, now in big trouble

Mon Sep 29, 2008 10:11am EDT

[Email](#) | [Print](#) | [Share](#) | [Reprints](#) | [Single Page](#) | [Recommend \(-\)](#)



By David Ljunggren - Analysis

OTTAWA (Reuters) - The once dominant Liberal Party, which has ruled Canada longer than any other, is now in such trouble that it faces both a big defeat in the October 14 election and questions about its long-term future.

The prospect is humiliating for a party once dubbed the Red Machine for its organizational skills, strong brand and a message that the Liberals were best placed both to run Canada and to fend off the threat of Quebec separatists.

But the party now seems to have more problems than strengths, with issues stemming from a patronage scandal in French-speaking Quebec which brought down their government in early 2006 after more than 12 years in power and which still crimps their support in the province.

The party compounded its fate by electing former academic Stephane Dion as its leader, bringing in a Quebecer who is both unpopular in his home province and hard to understand outside it because of his heavily accented English.

To make matters worse the party is short of money, and poorly organized in key parts of the country. Leading party figures grumble ever more indiscreetly about Dion, who is focusing on a call for a carbon tax at a time when many people are worried about the U.S. financial crisis.

That translates into opinion polls which give the Liberals around 25 percent public support, their lowest for more than a century. The Conservatives poll around 38 percent.

"It could be quite possible that Stephane Dion is hitting a negative tipping point in Liberal support," said Nik Nanos of polling firm Nanos Research.

"It is the brand that has sustained their numbers (in the past)... What we're seeing now is that they're moving into territory where it's a brand problem." [Continued...](#)

[View article on single page](#) Previous Page [1](#) | [2](#) | [3](#) [Next Page](#)

SHARE: [Del.icio.us](#) | [Digg](#) | [Mixx](#) | [My Web](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Newsvine](#)

## MORE REUTERS EDGE

- [Europe shows limits in credit crisis response](#)
- [Tighter credit threatens Asia CO2 credit pipeline](#)
- [Europe's summit no cure for bank crisis](#)
- [Rabbi in Vatican says wartime pope let Jews down](#)
- [More Reuters Edge News...](#)

## RELATED BLOG POSTS

- [Stephane Dion, Liberals Losing Ground To NDP-Grits Taking a Beating on Campaign Trail Crooked in Canada](#)
- [Liberal Leader Stephane Dion tells party members to ignore critics, elitists don't worry about it](#)

EDITOR'S CHOICE [Pictures](#) [Video](#) [Articles](#)




A selection of our best photos from the past 24 hours.  
[View Slideshow](#)



## MOST POPULAR ON REUTERS

[Articles](#) [Video](#) [Recommended](#)

1. **Obama doesn't weed out illegal cash, GOP says** 
2. [Governments act to stem crisis, markets shaken](#) | [Video](#)
3. [McCain-Obama tie possible in presidential race](#)
4. [British commander says war in Afghanistan cannot be won](#)
5. [Global stocks plunge, yen leaps as crisis escalates](#) | [Video](#)
6. [Fed moves to broker deal for Wachovia: sources](#) | [Video](#)
7. [Hollywood goes political as election nears](#)
8. [UPDATE 10-Fed moves to broker deal for Wachovia - sources](#)
9. [Spermicide Coke, stale chips research wins Ig Nobels](#)
10. [RPT-GLOBAL MARKETS-Stocks plunge, yen surges as crisis spirals](#)



## Do More With Reuters

- [RSS](#) 
- [Widgets](#)
- [Mobile](#)
- [Podcasts](#)
- [Newsletters](#)
- [You Witness News](#)
- [Make Reuters My Homepage](#)

## Partner Services

- [CareerBuilder](#)
- [Affiliate Network](#)

## Professional Products

- [Support \(Customer Zone\)](#)
- [Reuters Media](#)
- [Financial Products](#)

## About Thomson Reuters