

Ontario voters unimpressed with all three party leaders

By SUN MEDIA

The 31-day election battle left Ontario voters largely unimpressed by the party leaders, an SES Research-Sun Media poll indicates.

Heading into today's election, 29 per cent of the 500 voting-age Ontarians surveyed think Progressive Conservative Leader John Tory would make the best premier, 27 per cent Liberal Premier Dalton McGuinty and 15 per cent NDP Leader Howard Hampton.

"I think what it shows is for this election, on a personal basis, neither John Tory nor Dalton McGuinty has come out a winner," said pollster Nik Nanos of SES Research.

A frequently negative campaign, sidetracked by Tory's religious schools funding promise, damaged all the leaders and the two front-runners in particular, Nanos said.

"On the one hand, the Conservative attack ads on McGuinty's broken promises did their job," Nanos said. "On the other hand, this whole faith-based school funding issue has been an albatross around John Tory and his personal image."

Results of the SES random phone survey, conducted Oct. 4 to 6, are considered accurate to within within 4.4 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

Get the detailed results at www.sesresearch.com