

Nanos nails it

ANDREW STEELE, NOVEMBER 20, 2008 AT 12:16 PM EST

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The new numbers from Nanos are a little surprising at first:

32% Conservative (down 6% since the election)
30% Liberal (up 4%)
20% NDP (up 2%)
10% Green (up 3%)
9% BQ (down 1%)

There is a significant tightening in support between the Conservatives and the Liberals, which is the opposite of the honeymoon that parties often get immediately following an election or re-election.

There are a few explanations, one of which Nik Nanos nails right off the top. "The Dion resignation may have made the Liberals a temporary parking spot for disaffected Conservatives."

Government's enjoy honeymoons when they are elected and then coast for a while on the afterglow of their election, churning out good news and continuing to raise expectations.

But the Harper government has had to shift out of the election to an immediate squelching of expectations on the economy, deficits and jobs.

At the same time, the leaderless (at least nominally) Liberals are less polarizing.

But expect the Liberals to actually decline in support immediately after the election as the new leader puts a face to the party, and the Conservatives attempt to cast a spotlight on any warts.

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