

More poll results (and commentary)

NORMAN SPECTOR, OCTOBER 2, 2008 AT 3:28 PM EDT

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Further to the post below, Nik Nanos' nightly tracking numbers are now in, and they show the Conservatives continuing to enjoy an eleven point lead.

Unfortunately, The Globe and Mail didn't publish the Strategic Counsel numbers this morning — choosing instead to go with an Ipsos poll that was misread by even seasoned observers to be a survey of Quebec viewers, a key element of a Conservative majority - so it's impossible to compare the findings for Québec.

In any case, much more interesting than Nanos' numbers is his commentary:

The French debate last night featured no knock-out punches. Duceppe, not surprisingly, did well. The four-on-one format led to a natural disadvantage for Stephen Harper and it seemed his strategy was to get through the debate unscathed, which he did. Elizabeth May showed some pep and command of the facts. Dion did better than expected and I thought Layton did well also.

Nothing occurred last night, in my opinion, which would fundamentally change the shape of the race in Quebec.

Generally, I thought last night was more of a skirmish than a battle.

This evening, I would expect that Harper will don his "905 voter" mantle and to be more proactive generally. Also, I expect that Canadians will be watching Stephane Dion to see how well he performs and how well he is able to get his message out.

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