

## Ignatieff takes hit for tax remarks

### Poll shows Liberal loses ground over musing about paying for deficit

May 02, 2009

**LES WHITTINGTON**  
OTTAWA BUREAU

OTTAWA – Canadians are ranking the Liberals ahead of the Conservatives but favour the Tories' Stephen Harper over Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff as the best prime minister, a new poll shows.

The survey of 1,001 adult Canadians by Nanos Research for the *Star* and *La Presse* was taken this past week while controversy continued to swirl around Ignatieff's musings about the possible need to raise taxes in the future.

Asked what impression they had of a politician saying taxes might have to be increased to pay for the recession-driven government deficit, 43 per cent of respondents said it leaves them with either a "somewhat negative" or "negative" impression.

In contrast, a combined 30 per cent said such talk about taxes from a politician leaves a "positive" or "somewhat positive" impression, and 23 per cent said it left a "neutral" impression.

As for who would make the best prime minister, Harper leads with 32 per cent support nationally, followed by Ignatieff at 27 per cent, according to the survey.

The New Democrats' Jack Layton is next at 13 per cent, with Green Leader Elizabeth May and Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe each at 6 per cent.

In Ontario, Ignatieff's support as would-be prime minister in the latest poll dropped to 25 per cent from 33 per cent in March. Harper's backing rose to 41 per cent from 31 per cent among Ontarians. But Ignatieff gained in Quebec.

Among voters in Ontario, 11 per cent say Layton would make the best prime minister and 7 per cent favour May.

The Liberals lead in national popularity. Asked their party preference, 36 per cent named the Liberals, and 33 per cent the Tories.

The NDP registered 15 per cent support among decided voters and the Green party 7 per cent. The Bloc, which runs candidates only in Quebec, had 9 per cent backing.

#### **PARTY PREFERENCE**

**Liberal - 36%**  
**Conservative - 33%**  
**NDP - 15%**  
**Bloc - 9%**  
**Green - 7%**

#### **BEST PM**

**Stephen Harper - 32%**  
**Michael Ignatieff - 27%**  
**Jack Layton - 13%**  
**Gilles Duceppe - 6%**  
**Elizabeth May - 6%**

In Ontario, support for the federal Liberals stands at 43 per cent, down slightly from a Nanos poll in mid-March. But in the past month, support for the federal Conservatives in Ontario has risen to 39 per cent from 31 per cent.

The NDP has 1 per cent backing among decided voters in Ontario and the Greens, 8 per cent.

The poll is considered accurate plus or minus 3.1 percentage points, 19 times in 20. Regional results have greater margins of error.

### **Ads by Google**

#### **Stephen Harper Yes/No?**

1 Minute Poll

Is Harper doing a Good Job?

[Vote-About.com/Harper](http://Vote-About.com/Harper)

#### **What's My House Worth?**

HouseValues' free service helps you determine the value of your home.

[Housevalues.ca](http://Housevalues.ca)

#### **Are YOU conservative?**

Join the conservative movement

Join the Manning Centre!

[www.manningcentre.ca](http://www.manningcentre.ca)