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## Election 2008

**Poll finds Manitobans in no mood for change**

**Little difference predicted compared to '06 election**

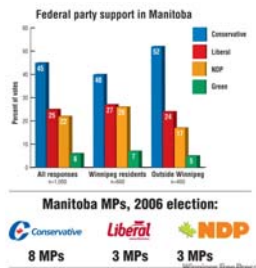
By: Mia Rabson

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OTTAWA -- Stephen Harper's majority government won't be won or lost in Manitoba, suggests a new *Free Press*/Probe Research poll.

Chris Adams, senior research director for Probe, said the poll results show very little change from how Manitobans voted in 2006, indicating there won't be much of a shake-up in the political make-up of Manitoba's 14 ridings after Oct. 14.



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"I think if the Conservatives are going to move into majority territory it's not going to do it Manitoba," said Adams.

The poll showed Harper's Conservative Party is the choice of 45 per cent of Manitobans, up slightly from 42.8 per cent who voted Conservative in 2006. But the rise in Tory fortunes is within a margin of error of 3.1 per cent.

The Conservatives are the No. 1 choice among both men and women, across all age groups, education levels and in all economic groups but those earning less than \$30,000 a year. The Liberals are down four points from 2006 support to 22 per cent, which Adams said is slightly higher than the margin of error but not likely to impact many of the races.

"I'm not sure it's enough (of a drop) to make a difference in any of the swing ridings," said Adams.

The NDP retained its 25 per cent support, exactly what it earned in 2006. But with the Liberals down to 22, the NDP are now in second place in the province.



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Rod Bruinooge (Winnipeg Free Press File Photos )

The Green Party have six per cent, up from four per cent in 2006.

Manitobans elected eight Conservatives in the last election, with three Liberals and three New Democrats.

The poll was conducted by phone with 1,000 randomly selected Manitobans between Sept. 15 and Oct. 6. It is considered to be accurate within 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

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