

Canadian Conservatives maintain poll lead

by UPI

OTTAWA -- Canada's Conservative Party, which leads a minority government, has a 35-31 percent popularity edge over opposition Liberals, a poll released Tuesday indicated.

The Angus Reid nationwide online poll of 1,002 adults last week for the Toronto Star said Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives had lost 3 percentage points since January.

Opposition leader Michael Ignatieff's Liberals gained 2 percentage points during the same time period, the report said.

The socialist New Democratic Party posted 16 percent support and the Green Party had 7 percent, the poll indicated. The balance was scattered among the separatist Bloc Quebecois or others.

The poll had a 3.1-percentage-point margin of error, the report said.

The findings are similar to a poll of 2,002 voters published by the Canwest News Service March 10, in which Conservatives led the Liberals 37-33 percent. That poll suggested Conservative support was steady, while the Liberals gained 2 percent support.

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