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Liberals down in Quebec: Survey

Bloc leads by 12 points at 44%

Scare tactic 'hasn't worked': Pollster

GRAHAM FRASER

NATIONAL AFFAIRS WRITER

MONTREAL—[Paul Martin](#)'s Liberals continue to struggle in Quebec, according to a new poll focused on that province.

The Liberals trail the Bloc Québécois by 12 points, and by 23 points among French-speaking voters, says a survey by the CROP public opinion firm conducted for La Presse, Le Soleil and the Star.

The survey found that 44 per cent of those surveyed said they would vote for the Bloc if the vote were held today, while 32 per cent said they would vote for the Liberals, 14 per cent for the Conservatives and 8 per cent for the NDP.

"The Liberal strategy hasn't worked," Claude Gauthier of CROP said in an interview, calling the results "dramatic."

The poll is based on a telephone survey of 600 Quebecers of voting age — 275 in the Montreal area, 60 in the Quebec city area and 265 elsewhere in the province — conducted June 3 to June 9. The poll is considered to have a margin of error of four points, 19 times out of 20.

It shows a decline of two points for the Liberals since the last CROP poll in May, and a corresponding increase of two points of support for the Bloc.

Conservative support also increased to 14 per cent from 10 per cent while support for the NDP dropped to 8 per cent from 15 per cent.

A Toronto Star EKOS poll released yesterday, which surveyed Quebecers within a national sample, showed the Bloc with 54 per cent support and the Liberals with 22 per cent.

During the period the CROP poll was conducted, the Liberals sharpened their attack on the Bloc Québécois in Quebec.

"They have been trying to scare people, and it hasn't worked," Gauthier said, pointing to the Liberal approach of first saying that a vote for the Bloc was useless because it would never be in government, and then saying it was dangerous because it would lead to the election of the Conservatives.

Gauthier pointed out that 65 per cent of those polled thought the existence of the Bloc was justified.

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