

Poll: Liberal support climbing with Bob Rae

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Buoyed by high approval ratings for interim leader Bob Rae, support for the federal Liberals is on the rise, according to a new poll.

The Forum Research survey found support for Rae's Liberals at 25 per cent, a four-point increase since the pollster's last survey in mid-December. Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives received 35 percent, Nycole Turmel's NDP had 28 per cent, while the Bloc Québécois and Green Party earned 6 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively.

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While Canadians are still more likely to vote Conservative, Forum president Lorne Bozinoff said the numbers indicate Tory support has slipped since the 2011 federal election, when the party claimed the first majority government in seven years.

Bozinoff suggested the Liberals' popularity increase may be attributed to Rae — the interim leader's net approval rating among Canadian voters was 24 points higher than Harper's, according to Forum.

Bozinoff praised Rae's leadership since taking the party reins last year.

"Bob Rae's doing a good job of raising the Liberals' profile," he said, pointing to the party's endorsement of marijuana legalization, which according to another Forum poll, released earlier this week, had 66 per cent support among Canadians.