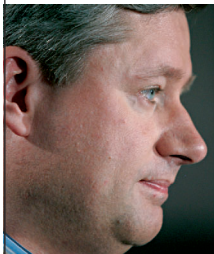


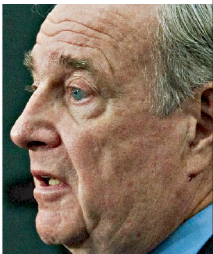
Conservatives ahead in Canadian polls

The Conservative Party appears to be on course to end 13 years of Liberal Party rule in federal elections on Monday. Prime Minister Paul Martin's government lost a no-confidence vote in November over a kickbacks scandal and has slipped steadily behind the Conservatives ever since



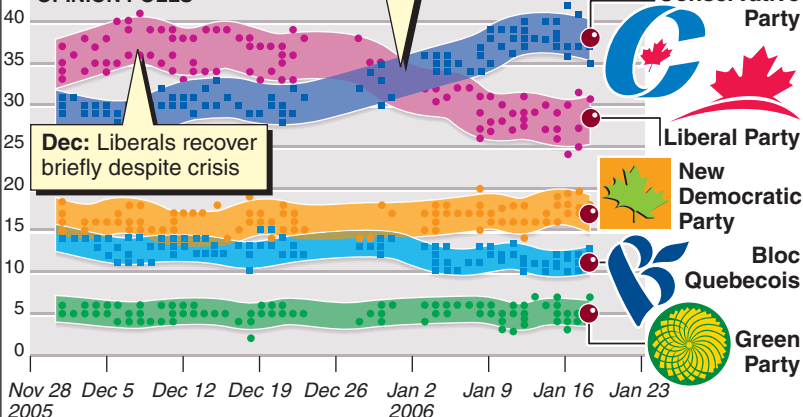
Stephen Harper: Accuses Liberals of corruption and broken promises. Against gay marriage and Kyoto Protocol

Paul Martin: Portrays Harper as closet right-winger who would recast traditionally liberal Canada in mould of U.S.



Dec 28: Police launch criminal probe into alleged illegal leak from Finance Minister's office

OPINION POLLS



Sources: Poll firms, including Ipsos-Reid

Pictures: Associated Press

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