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Celebrity cat fight



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Carole Taylor

The lady in waiting

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Gordon Campbell



Mike de Jong



Christy Clark



Colin Hansen



Rich Coleman



Kevin Falcon

up front

24 HOURS • MAY 18, 2006

Taylor tops as potential B.C. leader

British Columbians think a woman should be the next leader of the B.C. Liberals.

That's the result of a poll conducted by Strategic Communications for 24 hours, which suggests more British Columbians think Finance Minister Carole Taylor and her famous red pumps would be the best Liberal to replace Premier Gordon Campbell and his loafers.

"I'm sure Carole Taylor, if she has her eyes on the job, will be encouraged to see she's standing at the head of the class, even as a relative newcomer to politics," said Stratcom president Bob Penner.

The poll found about 18 per cent of people in B.C. think Taylor is the "best choice" to take over Campbell's leadership, if he retires. A former city councillor, Taylor was most popular in Vancouver, where she was chosen by one-quarter of those polled.

Some observers believe Campbell will not seek re-election in 2009. The poll results may be a

good "first indication" of what voters want, says Penner.

"Campbell had a well-documented weakness with women voters," Penner said. "Maybe this compensates for that. [The Liberals] certainly have had a reputation of being lacking in compassion."

UBC political science professor

Fred Cutler said Taylor might help the Liberals pull in "some of the centrist voters" that may have abandoned the party through Campbell's cost-cutting first term in office.

"I do think Taylor would soften the image of the Liberals," Cutler said.

"Campbell's seen as a little bit of a harder line on fiscal matters, government spending, and relations with unions."

Former cabinet minister Christy Clark proved to be a popular choice as well, even though she's retired from provincial politics.

Interestingly, Clark did not fare well in the City of Vancouver, where she came up short last year in a bid to become mayor, scoring only 4.4 per cent compared to her 9.5 per cent overall average.

The survey polled 604 British Columbians from May 8-14, and is considered accurate to within plus or minus 4 per cent, 19 times out of 20.

Next Preem?

If Premier Gordon Campbell were to leave politics tomorrow, who do you think would be the best choice to take his place as leader of the provincial Liberals?

- Carole Taylor17.8%
- Mike de Jong9.6%
- Christy Clark9.5%
- Colin Hansen8.8%
- Rich Coleman4.4%
- Kevin Falcon3.5%
- Don't know39.4%
- Refused to answer7.1%

Source: Strategic Communications