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Morning memo: September 18

The best photo, biggest gaffe, latest poll and most-telling quotes from the last 24 hours on the campaign trail. Plus, where the leaders are today.

Philippe Gohier | Sep 18, 2008 | 10:29 am EST

BEST PHOTO:



POLL OF THE DAY:

The Dominion Institute published a [survey](#) conducted by Innovative Research Group on Wednesday that looks into where Canadian youth (aged 18-25) are likely to throw their support in the upcoming election. A sizeable chunk remains undecided (11%), but among decided voters, there's a distinct affinity for the left side of the political spectrum:

Conservatives: 25%

Liberals: 28%

NDP: 24%

Green: 15%

Bloc Québécois: 7%

BEST QUOTES:

Stephen Harper, on his less-than-affable [leadership style](#): "Prime ministers are either accused of two things. They're being accused of being too heavy-handed or of not being in control. If I had to choose between those two things, I'd rather be accused of being in control than being not in control."

Stéphane Dion, [promising](#) not to plunge the budget back into deficit, after refusing to make the same pledge earlier in the day: "Same thing I said this morning. A Liberal government will never, never cause a deficit. If

the Conservatives plunge us into a deficit after their bad policies, well, we'll clean up the public finances with the same courage, the same determination, and the same success in 1993."

Jack Layton, on his party's pledge to spend \$1.4-billion to **create 150,000 daycare spaces** in the first year of an NDP government: "You shouldn't have to worry about whether your child is going to be safe or get good quality care, or whether you will be able to pay the bill at the end of the month."

Elizabeth May, on **her familiarity with a drug** her party said it would legalize: "I am not a fan of marijuana use. I have to confess this -- I know all politicians are asked. I've never used marijuana. I apologize."

Gilles Duceppe, on the **growing costs** associated with Canada's military mission in Afghanistan: "It could have been over in 2009 had the NDP not voted with the Conservatives."

GAFFE OF THE DAY:

The Conservatives are going to have a mighty hard time blaming **this one** on overzealous staffers. During a conference call with public servants at the height of the listeriosis outbreak, Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz apparently figured a bit of comic relief was in order. "This is like a death by a thousand cuts. Or should I say cold cuts," Ritz joked. But that wasn't the only knee-slapper in Ritz's arsenal. When told of another death in P.E.I., Ritz responded: "Please tell me it's (Liberal MP) Wayne Easter." At least Tom Lukiwski **looked kinda wasted** when he **pointed out the differences** between him and "homosexual faggots with dirt on their fingernails that transmit diseases."

WHERE THEY'RE AT TODAY:

Stephen Harper is in Quebec to attend campaign events in Trois-Rivières and Drummondville.

Stéphane Dion will begin his day in Burlington, Ont., before making his way to Toronto (aboard a GO Bus) for an announcement.

Jack Layton will share the stage with Manitoba Premier Gary Doer during an announcement in Winnipeg and will end his day at a campaign rally in Vancouver.

Elizabeth May remains in her riding of Central Nova in Nova Scotia, but plans to head to Vancouver at the end of the day.

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Gilles Duceppe is courting rural Quebec, making appearances in Carleton-Sur-Mer and Saint-Simeon.

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