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## THE VANCOUVER SUN

### Leaders fall short of knockout, poll says: NDP's James tops post-debate survey

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NDP leader Carole James appeared to gain the most from Tuesday night's leaders' debate, but it wasn't a knockout win, according to a post-debate poll conducted by Ipsos-Reid for BCTV News on Global.

In an online poll of 652 respondents who watched the debate, 31 per cent said James won, 23 per cent said Liberal leader Gordon Campbell won, and 12 per cent said Green Party leader Adriane Carr won.

Thirty-three per cent of viewers said nobody won.

On the significance of the results, vice-president Kyle Braid of Ipsos-Reid said, "If her [James's] expectations were to give the NDP a legitimate chance to win the next election, she has helped them in that cause, but definitely hasn't gotten them there yet.

"If their objective was to win a substantial number of seats in opposition, she has performed extremely well and it's probably solidified that."

Fifty-two per cent of respondents said their impression of Carr had improved, while 42 per cent said their impression of James had improved and 17 per cent of respondents said their impression of Campbell had improved.

As for who would make the best premier, 44 per cent said Campbell, 38 per cent said James and 12 per cent said Carr.

"The bad news for Campbell is that Carole James clearly established herself as a credible leader," Braid said.

On the significance of the debate, only 15 per cent of respondents said the debate had influenced who they would vote for, suggesting that the majority of voters were already firm in their voting choice.

Braid said other polling data showed that only a third of people would make their decisions on the leaders alone.

Respondents were asked to log on to a website to answer the poll questions, with 652 people responding. The final result was weighted to reflect the characteristics of the population in age, sex, region and vote preferences, Braid said.

The poll had a margin of error of 3.8 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

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