



**AJC-AJJ**  
ASSOCIATION OF JUSTICE COUNSEL  
ASSOCIATION DES JURISTES DE JUSTICE

Press Clippings for the period of January 1-10, 2013  
Revue de presse pour la période du 1 au 10 janvier 2013

## English Media

January 11, 2013

### **Finger-pointing over downward union trend**

Many Canadians on the left and right agree big is bad when it comes to business. So shouldn't we be equally concerned that bloated labour unions will give the business to the working people who are their members?

What, then, to make of the upcoming merger of the Canadian Auto Workers and the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada?

<http://www.theprovince.com/business/Finger+pointing+over+downward+union+trend/7805538/story.html>

January 15, 2013

### **B.C. judge strikes down Canada's human smuggling law**

The justice found that the law was too broad and ruled it violated section 7 of Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The decision leaves all those who have been charged with human smuggling in legal limbo.

<http://www.digitaljournal.com/article/341340>

### **Guest column: Public-sector unions should lose right to strike**

Rotating strikes by Ontario teachers is only the latest example of what a terrible mistake we made in the 1960s and 1970s when the decision was made by various governments to grant public-sector workers the right to strike.

<http://www.theprovince.com/business/Guest+column+Public+sector+unions+should+lose+right+strike/7820396/story.html>

January 16, 2013

## **Judge raps Justice officials for treatment of whistle-blower**

Ottawa is crafting legislation that risks running afoul of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms without informing Parliament, a federal lawyer charges.

In a highly unusual case, Department of Justice lawyer Edgar Schmidt is challenging his own department in Federal Court and revealing details about the internal guidelines used by federal lawyers. The department accuses Mr. Schmidt of violating his duties as a lawyer and public servant and has suspended him without pay.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/judge-raps-justice-officials-for-treatment-of-whistle-blower/article7394559/>

## **Whistleblower prompts call for more debate on whether bills violate Charter**

Legal experts say it's time for MPs and ministers to start having a much more public debate about whether new bills violate the Charter, in light of revelations from a senior Justice Canada lawyer.

The opaque world of the Department of Justice was laid bare in open court this week as senior lawyer Edgar Schmidt, 60, said he and his colleagues have been receiving "illegal" instructions from superiors for years.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/whistleblower-prompts-call-for-more-debate-on-whether-bills-violate-charter/article7449909/>

## **Justice Department Whistleblower**

Edgar Schmidt is a senior lawyer with Department of Justice. One of his duties was to review bills that might violate our Charter rights. But when he filed a court case claiming the Department itself was breaking the law with regards to the Charter -- he was promptly suspended without pay.

[CBC "As it Happens" Interview](#)

## **Neil Wilson: The Ontario justice system is ‘a cattle call of lawyers’**

“Access to justice” has been a perennial concern for the legal profession, the government and the public for many years. While there is no single solution for the general unaffordability of lawyers, one long-overdue step in the right direction is the modernization of the administration of our civil courts.

The acute accessibility problems in civil courts have been remarked upon in the highest ranks of our judiciary. Canada’s Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin recently described the situation as a threat to the rule of law. The Canadian Bar Association has long warned of a “crisis.”

<http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2013/01/16/neil-wilson-the-ontario-justice-system-is-a-cattle-call-of-lawyers/>

## **Summit to examine solutions to rising costs**

The federal government has an important role to play in reining in the rising cost of policing, Public Safety Minister Vic Toews said Tuesday, adding it's more a matter of finding "efficiencies" than throwing money at problems.

From tiered-policing to the privatization of certain functions, just what those efficiencies might be, he said, is the sort of thing law enforcement officials from across the country and beyond will discuss when they gather in Ottawa starting Wednesday for a two-day summit on the "economics of policing" - now a \$12-billion industry in Canada according to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/Summit+examine+solutions+rising+costs/7826082/story.html>

## **Mental health standard gets strong employer support**

Mental health problems and illnesses have a \$50-billion impact on Canada’s economy each year, and 30% of short term and long term disability claims are associated with mental health issues. It’s hoped that Wednesday morning’s release of the long-awaited National Standard of Canada *Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace* will start to help improve those numbers.

<http://www.benefitscanada.com/benefits/health-wellness/employers-show-strong-support-for-mental-health-standard-35715>

January 17, 2013

## **Secrecy on federal job cuts hurting Ottawa's economy: mayor**

Secrecy surrounding the federal government's plans to cut jobs is fuelling uncertainty and hurting Ottawa's economy, said Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson.

While Ottawa is still doing better than the national average, unemployment has nudged up and public servants nervous about losing their jobs are thinking twice about making big purchases.

<http://www.ipolitics.ca/2013/01/17/secrecy-on-federal-job-cuts-hurting-ottawas-economy-mayor/>

# Médias francophones

11 janvier 2013

## **Hausse des cotisations au fédéral**

Les fonctionnaires fédéraux paient plus cher pour leur régime de retraite, depuis le 1er janvier, en raison des changements annoncés dans le dernier budget du gouvernement Harper.

Ainsi, un fonctionnaire fédéral gagnant 50000\$ versera 132\$ par période de paye de deux semaines pour son régime de retraite, ce qui représente une hausse de 13\$ par rapport à ce qu'il aurait versé l'an dernier. Selon nos calculs, sur une base annuelle, un employé gagnant 50000\$ versera ainsi 3432\$ en 2013 pour son régime de retraite. Avec un salaire de 70000\$, les cotisations seront de 5087\$ par an ou 196\$ par deux semaines.

<http://www.lapresse.ca/le-droit/politique/fonction-publique/201301/08/01-4609257-hausse-des-cotisations-au-federal.php>