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English Media

March 29

Budget cuts will reduce service to the public, say unions, opposition

Budget cuts unveiled Thursday could put safety at risk and could affect service to the public, warn the unions who represent federal government workers.

<http://www.ipolitics.ca/2012/03/29/budget-cuts-will-reduce-service-to-the-public-say-unions-opposition/>

Austerity budget cuts 19,200 jobs

The federal government will wipe out the deficit by mid-decade as planned by cutting billions a year from program spending across departments and will ensure its finances remain sustainable in the long run by delaying the payment of old age security to low- and mid-income elderly.

<http://www.ipolitics.ca/2012/03/29/austerity-budget-cuts-19200-jobs-and-the-penny/>

Budget cuts 19,000 public service jobs

About a third of cuts to be in National Capital Region

The federal government said it would eliminate 19,200 jobs, about a third in the National Capital Region around Ottawa, as part of a spending review that will cut \$5.2 billion over three years from government departments and agencies.

The job cuts, announced Thursday as part of the 2012 budget, represent about 4.8 per cent of the roughly 400,000 federal public sector workers.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/story/2012/03/29/federalbudget-flaherty-public-service-cuts.html>

Budget: Public servants hit with job cuts, pension changes

About 19,200 of Canada's public servants will be wiped off the federal payroll over the next three years, in the Conservatives' "moderate" deficit reduction plan, which will cut \$5.2 billion annually from departmental spending.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/business/jobs/6380946/story.html>

Federal workers delay retirement in hopes of buyout sweeteners

The federal government heads into Thursday's budget with a backlog of public servants ready to retire but holding off in the hope of landing buyouts to sweeten their exit.

<http://www.timescolonist.com/business/Federal+workers+delay+retirement+hopes+buyout+sweeteners/6378383/story.html>

March 28

Top 5 ways to fix our justice system

It may take some time before the Harper government's omnibus crime bill is fully enacted into law. But once it is, there are still a number changes Ottawa has to make to our criminal justice system to help keep violent criminals off our streets.

<http://www.winnipegsun.com/2012/03/28/top-5-ways-to-fix-our-justice-system>

Budget will cut public service jobs: Flaherty

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty says budget cuts to be outlined on Thursday will be directed at the bureaucracy, not services to people.

The finance minister characterized his austerity program as modest compared to the Liberal deficit-slaying budget of the mid-1990s.

He said it will be directed at "the back-office," suggesting the austerity package will be felt most acutely by the public service in terms of job reductions.

<http://www.metronews.ca/toronto/canada/article/1136598--budget-will-cut-public-service-jobs-flaherty>

As Flaherty prepares to take on public service, he owes Ontario a thank-you

Ontario's austerity budget, released Tuesday, offers splendid political cover for the Harper government.

The federal Conservatives are about to take on the public-service unions. That confrontation will be long, loud and painful, with union leaders going to the wall in defence of long-standing prerogatives. But public opinion is likely to turn against them, if only because much the same confrontation will be underway in Ontario. Each government, in that sense, will be helping the other's cause.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/john-ibbitson/as-flaherty-prepares-to-take-on-public-service-he-owes-ontario-a-thank-you/article2383763/>

Ontario budget targets public sector wages, pensions

The Ontario government plans to balance its books in five years by taking a tough stand in upcoming labour talks with public sector workers and through sweeping changes to government pension plans, according to details unveiled in Tuesday's budget.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/story/2012/03/27/toronto-ontario-budget-cuts-duncan.html>

Ontario budget targets deficit

Cash-strapped Ontario is putting off tax cuts to businesses and zeroing in on public sector wages and pensions in an austerity budget designed to lift Canada's former economic powerhouse out of the red ink in five years.

<http://thechronicleherald.ca/canada/78234-ontario-budget-targets-deficit>

Public-sector unions prepared to battle McGuinty on pensions and wages

Sweeping changes to Ontario's public-sector pensions and wages outlined in Tuesday's provincial budget are expected to face strong resistance from workers, say union leaders.

"I think Dalton McGuinty's trying to pick a fight with us and it's the biggest mistake he'll ever make," says Warren Thomas, Ontario Public Service Employees Union President.

<http://www.globaltoronto.com/public-sector+unions+prepared+to+battle+mcguinty+on+pensions+and+wages/6442609895/story.html>
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Grits pledge wage freeze for PS

'This is not a choice we would make lightly,' minister says

Ontario's union friendly Liberal government is headed for war with some of its biggest public sector supporters, warning those groups in Tuesday's budget it will legislate a wage freeze if one can't be negotiated.

"This is not a choice we would make lightly," Finance Minister Dwight Duncan said Tuesday. "Compensation is our greatest single biggest cost and we can't carry out our plan to strengthen our economy and create jobs without addressing it."

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/Grits+pledge+wage+freeze/6369594/story.html>

March 27

Canadians back idea of budget cuts by Ontario and Ottawa to balance books, poll shows

Politicians getting ready to unveil spending cuts in Ottawa and at Queen's Park appear to have the public onside with their calls for belt-tightening, a new poll reveals.

Canadians and Ontario residents in particular seem willing to accept the idea of reduced spending on government services if the goal is to balance the books, according to an Angus Reid poll in partnership with the Toronto Star.

<http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/politics/article/1152278--canadians-back-idea-of-budget-cuts-by-ontario-and-ottawa-to-balance-books-poll-shows>

[Full Report](#)

Justice system doomed to fail without more money: report

The B.C. government's planned overhaul of a "justice system in crisis" will fail without new money to restore the system to 2001 levels, says a report released Monday by the B.C. Civil Liberties Association and the union representing corrections workers.

The report, titled Justice Denied: The Causes of B.C.'s Criminal Justice System Crisis, said budget cuts to the courts and criminal justice system since 2001, when the Liberals came into power, have caused overcrowded prisons, courtroom shortages, longer delays before trial, shrinking legal aid resources and fewer community programs for parolees.

<http://www.timescolonist.com/business/Justice+system+doomed+fail+without+more+money+report/6364770/story.html>

Report Blames Government Cutbacks for Criminal Justice System Crisis

A new report identifies causes for the crisis in the criminal justice system, and calls for the provincial government to restore funding. Justice Denied is the title of the report written by the BC Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA). The Report draws attention to an increase in case loads, delays in the court system, and overcrowded prisons. It finds a lack of resources and infrastructure to support these increases. It calls on the provincial government to reverse cuts and restore funding to 2001 levels. Additionally, the Report calls for a fully funded legal aid program, and investments into mental health and other rehabilitative programs. These are part of a series of measures it believes would strategically address current strains on the criminal justice system.

<http://bchannelnews.tv/?p=13591>

[Full Report](#)

Pricey pensions under fire End huge perk, watchdog urges

Deputy ministers, the top bureaucrats who run federal government departments and agencies, can earn an inflation-protected annual pension of up to 90 per cent of their best five salary years. That's 20 percentage points higher than the maximum amount earned by ordinary public servants who have worked for a minimum of 35 years in government. MPs in most cases earn a maximum of 75 per cent of their top earning years, though they'd need to serve 25 years in Parliament to reach that.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/business/Pricey+pensions+under+fire/6364377/story.html>

Smithson: Advice to unions: Think smaller

John Allemang wrote an article in the Globe and Mail this past weekend in which he examined a widespread loss of faith in trade unions.

Allemang wrote: "Even union leaders are losing faith in the power of their unions."

<http://www.kelownacapnews.com/business/144297075.html>

CFIB says small business will be pleased with 2012 Ontario budget

After years of consistent lobbying, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) is pleased that the government has acknowledged the main challenge facing Ontario's budget is salaries, pensions and the size of the broader public service.

“The government should be credited with presenting a tough plan to cap program spending increases at one per cent and limit the spiraling costs of public sector pensions,” said Plamen Petkov, CFIB’s Ontario director. “However, much of this plan depends on public sector unions putting water in their wine and accepting restraint in wages, positions and pensions,” Petkov noted. “We’ve seen no evidence that unions will agree to any change regardless of how dire the state of Ontario’s finances.”

<http://www.baytoday.ca/content/news/details.asp?c=46462>

BUDGET: Liberals target public sector wages and pensions

Ontario will freeze wages for 1.2 million public servants in an austerity budget that could trigger an election as early as May.

In a major policy shift, Premier Dalton McGuinty’s minority Liberal government used Tuesday’s Ontario budget to warn the two-year salary edict would be legislated if necessary.

<http://www.thespec.com/news/article/694603--liberals-target-public-sector-wages-and-pensions>

Ontario budget puts Liberals on collision course with public-sector unions

Ontario’s Liberal government set the stage Tuesday for a pitched battle with its public-sector workforce, unveiling a budget that built much of its deficit-taming plan on freezing salaries — and threatened legislation if contract talks fail to achieve the desired result.

The financial blueprint predicted \$6-billion in savings over the next three years by halting pay increases for teachers, civil servants and other public employees, making pension plans less generous, and ending several years of robust fee hikes for doctors.

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2012/03/27/ontario-budget-2012/>

Public-sector union kept out of budget lockup for first time

The Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada, which represents more than 60,000 scientists and other professionals working in federal departments and agencies, is — for the first time ever — not being allowed into the federal budget lockup of stakeholder groups, and is demanding answers as to why.

<http://blogs.canada.com/2012/03/27/public-sector-union-barred-from-budget-lockup-for-first-time/>

Deep federal department-level cuts expected in budget

House of Commons spending, MPs' pensions and department budgets are in the crosshairs as the Conservative government prepares to table a budget Thursday that is expected to contain billions of dollars in spending cuts.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/business/Deep+federal+department+level+cuts+expected+budget/6362031/story.html>

Cuts? What cuts?

In its updated 2011 budget tabled after the last election, the federal government announced a strategic and operating review of its spending, the results of which will be unveiled when Finance Minister Jim Flaherty delivers his next budget on March 29.

During a recent demonstration against the expected cuts, a Public Service Alliance of Canada spokesperson claimed that the government is planning to “destroy public services in Canada.” But is it realistic to expect that reductions in federal spending and government workforce will be as drastic as this critic suggests?

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/03/26/cuts-what-cuts/>

Interactive Graphic: How Ottawa spends

With the Conservative government's first majority budget coming up on Thursday, Global News decided to take a closer look at how Ottawa currently spends your tax dollars.

The biggest ticket item? Old Age Security payments.

Using Budgetary Expenditures data from the last Main Estimates document and Statements of Revenues from the Public Accounts of Canada, Global News created a graphic showing how Ottawa makes and spends its money.

<http://www.globaltv Edmonton.com/how+ottawa+spends/6442608365/story.html>

Cut deficits, boost productivity, business tells Ottawa

Ottawa may have more wiggle room than it thought to stimulate economic growth in this Thursday's annual budget, a report by RBC Economics says.

Government revenues are rising and expenditures are falling faster than forecast last fall, chief economist Craig Wright wrote in a note to clients Monday.

That means the federal government may not have to cut as deep or as fast as previously expected.

<http://www.thestar.com/business/article/1152185--cut-deficits-boost-productivity-business-tells-ottawa>

Paradoxical that Canadian unions healthiest in public sector

The year 2012 will be remembered as one of labour unrest.

Metro Transit, Dalhousie University (twice), Labatt Breweries, Maritime Paper, Air Canada and The Chronicle Herald have all been involved in tough labour negotiations.

What is the common variable across this labour unrest? Money is at the root of many of these negotiations, but it's usually deeper.

<http://thechronicleherald.ca/bcw/77537-paradoxical-canadian-unions-healthiest-public-sector>

March 24

The sorry state of our unions

So it has come to this: Even union leaders are losing faith in the power of their unions.

"There used to be a time when we had great respect from the public," says Ken Georgetti, president of the Canadian Labour Congress. "But we've lost that. There's this notion that unions are just out for themselves and not for society. You get that label hung on you, and you have to work to get rid of it."

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/the-sorry-state-of-our-unions/article2380055/>

Médias francophones

29 Mars

Les compressions

Réduction des dépenses de 5,2 milliards par année à l'horizon 2016-2017, ce qui se traduit par 19 200 postes abolis dans la fonction publique.

Les dépenses de programme du gouvernement qui font l'objet d'un examen depuis un an (75,3 milliards de dollars) seront finalement amputées de 6,9 % au cours des trois prochaines années budgétaires.

http://www.radio-canada.ca/nouvelles/budget/federal2012/les_faits_saillants/compressions.shtml

Flaherty annonce des compressions de 5,2 milliards

Le ministre des Finances Jim Flaherty annonce une réduction des dépenses de 5,2 milliards de dollars par année d'ici trois ans et la suppression de 19 200 postes dans la fonction publique pour rétablir l'équilibre budgétaire à 2014-2015, donc avant les prochaines élections fédérales.

http://lapresseaffaires.cyberpresse.ca/dossiers/budget-ottawa-2012/201203/29/01-4510689-flaherty-annonce-des-compressions-de-52-milliards.php?utm_categorieinterne=traffidriviers&utm_contenuinterne=cyberpresse_B13b_politique-canadienne_560_section_POS2

Ottawa abolira 19 200 postes dans la fonction publique

On prédisait des compressions de 4 à 8 milliards de dollars dans les dépenses du gouvernement et des pertes d'emplois allant jusqu'à 60 000 fonctionnaires. Ces coupes se chiffreront finalement à 5,2 milliards par année dans trois ans et à 19 200 postes, surtout dans la région de la capitale canadienne. Le gouvernement Harper a présenté l'exercice comme un effort «modeste».

http://lapresseaffaires.cyberpresse.ca/dossiers/budget-ottawa-2012/201203/29/01-4510695-ottawa-abolira-19-200-postes-dans-la-fonction-publique.php?utm_categorieinterne=traffidriviers&utm_contenuinterne=cyberpresse_B13b_politique-canadienne_560_section_POS3

Budget Flaherty: départ de plus de 19 000 fonctionnaires fédéraux

Les fonctionnaires fédéraux devront dire adieu à plus de 19 000 de leurs collègues et aussi à bon nombre de leurs avantages sociaux à la suite du budget 2012, qui annonce une réduction des dépenses du gouvernement de l'ordre de 5,2 milliards.

<http://www.ledevoir.com/politique/canada/346193/budget-le-depart-de-plus-de-19-000-fonctionnaires-federaux>

28 Mars

Les jeunes fonctionnaires devraient échapper aux compressions

Les jeunes fonctionnaires peuvent dormir tranquilles. La plupart d'entre eux devraient pouvoir se tirer indemnes de la vague de compressions budgétaires sur le point de s'abattre sur la capitale.

<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/le-droit/actualites/sur-la-colline-parlementaire/201203/27/01-4509968-les-jeunes-fonctionnaires-devraient-echapper-aux-compressions.php>