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ASSOCIATION OF JUSTICE COUNSEL  
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Press Clippings for the period of April 5-11, 2013  
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English Media

April 5, 2013

**Hudak's right-to-work would lead to labour chaos: economics expert**

The Progressive Conservatives vow to bring in U.S.-style right-to-work legislation if the party wins the next election. But an economics expert at Carleton University says that would lead to lower wages for all Ontario workers, usher in labour chaos and further damage the Ontario economy.

"It's time for Ontario to re-examine outdated workplace rules that date back to the 1940s and adapt them to the much more flexible requirements of today's employees," reads the Paths to Prosperity: Flexible Labour Markets. "We must realize that labour flexibility and more opportunities for workers are essential to retaining and attracting the very best talent to our province."

<http://emckemptville.ca/20130404/News/Hudak%27s+right-to-work+would+lead+to+labour+chaos%3A+economics+expert>

**Canada Foreign Service Job Action: Diplomats Threatened Over 'Out Of Office' Email Alerts**

The federal government has escalated a battle against its diplomats by threatening to fire any foreign service officer who engages in a so-called "e-picket," The Huffington Post has learned.

A group of 1,350 rank-and-file foreign service officers began job actions on April 2 over what they say is a pay equity issue.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2013/04/05/canada-foreign-service-job-action-diplomats\\_n\\_3022131.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2013/04/05/canada-foreign-service-job-action-diplomats_n_3022131.html)

April 6, 2013

## **Foreign service workers strike could be first battle in looming labour war with Tories**

Canada's diplomats, the first public servants to face off with the Conservative government in a strike, are facing threats of dismissal over using departmental email for job action.

The Conservatives stopped workers from striking with back-to-work legislation at Air Canada, Canada Post and CP Rail, but the prospect of an escalating labour disruption from 1,350 foreign service officers, who went on strike earlier this week, is the government's first showdown with its own employees and many will be watching to see who blinks first.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/business/Foreign+service+workers+strike+could+first+battle+looming+labour+with+Tories/8203700/story.html>

April 7, 2013

## **More federal front-line positions to be cut than once anticipated, report says**

Nearly 29,000 jobs will be wiped off the federal payroll by 2016 and the impact on services for Canadians will be much more dramatic than originally estimated, according to a report from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

The analysis of job cuts reflect the cumulative impact of the Conservative's clampdown on spending since 2010, which are still making their way through the system, and a larger proportion than expected are front-line jobs.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/business/More+federal+front+line+positions+than+once+anticipated+report+says/8208212/story.html>

April 8, 2013

## **Foreign service officers ramp up tactics in bid for new contract**

Canada's foreign service officers have stopped working overtime and responding to job-related e-mails from home, the latest escalation in tactics aimed at bringing the federal government back to the bargaining table to negotiate a new contract.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/foreign-service-officers-ramp-up-tactics-in-bid-for-new-contract/article10842024/>

## **Investissement Québec lawyers on strike**

Lawyers at Investissement Québec have begun a five-day strike after failing to finalize a collective agreement with their employer.

The 11 lawyers working for Investissement Québec, the province's investment arm, are unhappy with what they say is their employer's about-face on an agreement in principle reached with its negotiators in December 2012. The lawyers are all members of the Association des juristes de l'Etat. According to association president Sébastien Rochette, Investissement Québec is demonstrating "amateurism" in collective bargaining.

<http://www.canadianlawyermag.com/legalfeeds/1404/investissement-quebec-lawyers-on-strike.html>

<b>April 9, 2013</b>
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## **Bill 85, Saskatchewan Employment Act, Erodes Union Power, Sets New Tone For Labour Relations In Canada**

Canada's nascent public debate over union privileges and "right-to-work" laws has found an unlikely testing ground in Saskatchewan, which is about to pass sweeping legislation that could influence the dynamic of labour relations across the country.

The Saskatchewan Employment Act, also known as Bill 85, appears to contain only the least contentious changes to labour relations examined in a controversial government consultation paper that contemplated abolishing one of the labour movement's most powerful tools – mandatory payment of union dues.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2013/04/09/bill-85-saskatchewan-employment-act\\_n\\_3039850.html?utm\\_hp\\_ref=fb&src=sp&comm\\_ref=false](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2013/04/09/bill-85-saskatchewan-employment-act_n_3039850.html?utm_hp_ref=fb&src=sp&comm_ref=false)

## **Unions could soon bankrupt B.C.**

A recent study concluded the public civil service is making 15 per cent more than the private sector plus of course the benefits and security that comes with their unionized, government positions.

It used to be when you made a career decision to work for the government, you understood your wages were below the private sector. People chose those professions because of a desire to serve the common good. As compensation for accepting lower pay, the governments agreed to increase their benefit packages, give job security and incredible pension plans.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/Unions+could+soon+bankrupt/8215542/story.html>

## **Why flexibility and adaptability will become critical to the future of organized labour**

Economists and employers throughout North America have long debated the impact of organized labour on workplace productivity with many arguing unionized workplaces with service-based reward packages dampen the impetus to be productive. But determining productivity performance in unionized versus non-unionized work environments isn't quite so cut and dry.

<http://business.financialpost.com/2013/04/09/why-flexibility-and-adaptability-will-become-critical-to-the-future-of-organized-labour/>

**April 11, 2013**

## **Many justice cuts repealed after judges, lawyers file appeals**

The Newfoundland and Labrador government is reversing some of the controversial cuts made to its justice department.

At a news conference on Thursday afternoon, Justice Minister Darin King said he takes full responsibility for the budget cuts — and added compelling information that came in after the March 26 provincial budget led to the reversal.

Some of that information came directly from the three chief justices in the province who warned that planned cuts in the justice system would pose problems, including less security in the courts.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/story/2013/04/11/nl-justice-system-cuts-meeting-411.html>

## **CRA to eliminate 600 jobs in capital region**

The Canada Revenue Agency expects to eliminate 600 jobs in the nation's capital as the tax agency implements the Conservative's latest budget cuts to save \$60.6 million on internal operations by 2015.

The first wave of the cuts were announced this week, hitting more than 300 positions at headquarters or at Ontario regional operations in Ottawa, and employees are braced for another round by the fall, said a union representing the largest number of employees affected. There are about 10,000 CRA employees in 29 locations across the National Capital Region.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/business/eliminate+jobs+capital+region/8230496/story.html>

## **B.C. chief justice calls on legal profession to be proactive in face of change**

B.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Bauman has urged the legal profession to be more proactive in the face of looming change and an "unfortunately incredulous and misinformed public."

In a rare statement that he also posted on the court's website, Justice Bauman said the crisis in the legal system has reached the point that politicians and people are turning away from the courts.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/news/chief+justice+calls+legal+profession+proactive+face+change/8226279/story.html>

## **Union apologizes, takes down anti-Harper website**

### **PSAC's online campaign to protest cuts marred by racist, personal attacks**

A website created by PSAC as part of its ongoing campaign to protest cuts to the public service quickly backfired when it devolved into a vehicle for attacks against the prime minister that were racist, sexist and deeply personal.

As part of its "Harper Hates Me" campaign, PSAC, the Public Service Alliance of Canada, launched a "Harper Says" website on Thursday, which allows users to imagine Stephen Harper's secret thoughts and attach them to a photograph of the prime minister.

But the site, which had about 250 entries, was taken down after only a few hours due to what PSAC claimed was an inability to moderate the comments efficiently.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/technology/Union+apologizes+takes+down+anti+Harper+website/8229934/story.html>

# Médias francophones

5 avril 2013

## **Les chiffres ne reflètent pas la réalité de 2013, selon l'ACEP**

Les employés des secteurs publics canadiens avaient une rémunération globale 12% plus élevée que dans le secteur privé en 2011, selon une étude du Fraser Institute de Vancouver.

L'étude du Fraser Institute base ses conclusions sur les données d'avril 2011 de Statistique Canada. Ainsi, les employés du secteur public profitent de meilleurs salaires avec un écart de 12 pour cent comparativement à ceux du secteur privé ; 88 % des employés du secteur public avaient un régime de pension agréé contre 26 % dans le secteur privé ; les employés du secteur public ont pris leur retraite deux années et demie plus tôt que dans le privé entre 2007 et 2011 ; 0,6 pour cent des employés du secteur public ont perdu leur emploi en 2011 comparativement à 3,8 pour cent dans le privé.

7 avril 2013

## **Les juristes d'Investissement Québec en grève**

Les onze juristes d'Investissement Québec entament lundi une grève de cinq jours pour dénoncer le processus de négociation de leur convention collective, qui n'en vient pas d'aboutir.

[http://www.lapresse.ca/actualites/201304/07/01-4638410-les-juristes-dinvestissement-quebec-en-greve.php?utm\\_categorieinterne=trafficdrivers&utm\\_contenuinterne=cyberpresse\\_meme\\_auteur\\_4639943\\_article\\_POS3](http://www.lapresse.ca/actualites/201304/07/01-4638410-les-juristes-dinvestissement-quebec-en-greve.php?utm_categorieinterne=trafficdrivers&utm_contenuinterne=cyberpresse_meme_auteur_4639943_article_POS3)

11 avril 2013

## **Les syndicats se préparent à une grève des diplomates**

Franchir ou non une ligne de piquetage? Le déclenchement possible d'une grève de 1500 diplomates canadiens incite les syndicats du secteur public fédéral à conseiller leurs membres.

<http://www.lapresse.ca/le-droit/politique/fonction-publique/201304/11/01-4639903-les-syndicats-se-preparent-a-une-greve-des-diplomates.php>