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English Media

April 12

How will government job cuts affect Canadians?

Another round of job cuts kept tens of thousands of federal employees on their toes Thursday as Ottawa continues to shrink the civil service.

When the Tories tabled their first majority budget at the end of March, it included cuts to 19,200 jobs which would be eliminated within the next three years. About 7,200 jobs would be gone through attrition.

<http://www.globalmontreal.com/how+job+cuts+affect+canadians/6442619632/story.html>

Federal cuts gut services, unions say

Food inspection and veterans' care among areas affected by job losses

Frontline public services and government brain power are expected to take a big hit after thousands of federal civil servants were informed Wednesday that they could lose their jobs - an indication that many cuts won't be so-called back office administrative jobs.

<http://www.timescolonist.com/health/Federal+cuts+services+unions/6446438/story.html>

Public service cuts hit Ottawa hardest

Thousands of letters handed out to Ottawa workers causing bad atmosphere

More than 2,000 federal employees in the Ottawa-Gatineau region received redundancy notices Wednesday, which means their jobs could be cut.

Employees who receive letters, and whose jobs are considered "surplus" positions, have 120 days to either choose to stay for a year, take early retirement if they are 55 years old and over, take a buyout package or take a buyout package and reimbursement for educational expenses.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/story/2012/04/12/ottawa-federal-public-service-cuts.html>

Federal budget 2012: More than 7,000 federal workers receive notices of job cuts

The Conservative government is telling more than 7,000 public servants — including up to 100 food inspectors — this week their jobs are on the line as part of billions in spending cuts in the federal budget.

<http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/politics/article/1159565--federal-budget-2012-up-to-100-food-inspectors-on-chopping-block-says-union>

April 11

5,500+ federal job cut notices sent out

More than 5,500 federal service employees were notified Wednesday that their jobs are on the line, while unions are accusing the government of making the wrong choices and rushing through the cuts.

<http://updatednews.ca/2012/04/11/5500-federal-job-cut-notices-sent-out/>

Hundreds of policy jobs slashed in latest round of federal job cuts

A second round of major cuts to the public sector is slicing off the hands that serve the public and the heads that serve the federal government.

The Public Service Alliance of Canada said Wednesday that more than 5,500 civil servants have been given notice, including more than 250 who provide client services to military veterans.

Hundreds of policy analysts were also among those told that their jobs are on the block as the Conservatives seek to slash spending by \$5.2 billion over the next three years.

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/business/hundreds-of-policy-jobs-slashed-in-latest-round-of-federal-job-cuts-147012685.html>

The Supreme Court's retired, but hardly retiring, Ian Binnie

Retired Supreme Court of Canada justice Ian Binnie is leaving the cloistered world of Canada's top court to return to a profession he barely recognizes and to practise law in a shifting legal landscape where costs are spiralling and the commercial courts are in danger of being less relevant.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/the-law-page/the-supreme-courts-retired-but-hardly-retiring-ian-binnie/article2397731/>

National News: Defined-Benefit Public Sector Pension Plans: Who Wins and Who Loses? - C.D. Howe Institute

The payout formulas for defined-benefit (DB) pension plans, such as those typically provided to government employees across Canada, produce little-acknowledged yet striking inequities, according to a report from the C.D. Howe Institute. In *Winners and Losers: The Inequities within Government-Sector, Defined-Benefit Pension Plans*, Geoffrey Young shows how plan formulas can produce redistribution of retirement income among members and recommends potential reforms.

<http://www.northumberlandview.ca/index.php?module=news&func=display&sid=14366>

Full Report: http://cdhowe.org/pdf/Commentary_347.pdf

Winners and losers in civil service pensions

The C.D. Howe has just published a commentary entitled "Winners and Losers: The Inequities within Government-Sector, Defined Benefit Pension Plans." This paper, authored by Geoffrey Young, offers a little-seen perspective on public sector pension plans. It gives us an insider's look at some of the characteristics of public sector plans that result in some members (the "winners") deriving much more value from those plans than other members (the "losers").

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/business/fp/money/Winners+losers+civil+service+pensions/6443110/story.html>

April 10

Health Canada to cut 840 jobs, DND to cut 1,119 jobs, as public servants brace for more cuts

Uncertainty was rife in the federal public service last week, as thousands of workers were told they might lose their jobs in the coming months and tens of thousands more awaited news of their fate in two more rounds of announcements expected in April.

<http://www.hilltimes.com/civil-circles/2012/04/09/health-canada-to-cut-840-jobs-dnd-to-cut-1119-jobs-as-public-servants-brace-for-more/30384>

April 9

Budget leaves government lawyers 'holding our collective breath' Federal government plans \$77 million in cuts to justice system

The justice system is facing a new round of restraint as the federal government seeks to save \$77 million in that area by 2014 and Ontario holds the line on spending in the coming years.

"At this point, we're holding our collective breath," says Marco Mendicino, president of the Association of Justice Counsel that represents federal government lawyers. He notes that while the hope is the government can achieve the cuts through attrition, the reduction at the Department of Justice is substantial.

<http://www.lawtimesnews.com/201204099031/Headline-News/Budget-leaves-government-lawyers-holding-our-collective-breath>

April 7

Canadians indifferent to federal budget: poll Some like it, more don't, but majority just doesn't care

More people oppose the recent federal budget than support it, but most are just plain indifferent to the government's plan that includes annual spending reductions of \$5.2 billion and cutting 19,200 public sector jobs, according to the results of a poll released Friday.

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/news/Canadians+indifferent+federal+budget+poll/6424682/story.html>

April 6

'Efficiencies' the missing link of PS cuts

Unions believe the government is underplaying the magnitude and scope of the reductions

The Conservatives are forcing federal departments to foot the bill for any investments to modernize and streamline "back office" operations for the efficiency savings they need to hit their \$5.2-billion savings targets over the next three years.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/Efficiencies+missing+link+cuts/6419754/story.html>

Médias francophones

11 avril

Deuxième vague d'abolitions de postes en fonction publique

Des milliers de fonctionnaires fédéraux travaillant dans une dizaine de ministères et d'organismes ont maintenant reçu une lettre les informant que leur poste est touché par un réaménagement des effectifs.

<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/le-droit/actualites/fonction-publique/201204/11/01-4514489-deuxieme-vague-dabolitions-de-postes-en-fonction-publique.php>

6 avril

Offres de départ volontaire à la fonction publique

L'AFPC invite ses membres à attendre

Les fonctionnaires fédéraux qui ont reçu une lettre d'offre de départ volontaire, et qui envisagent de prendre une retraite anticipée, devraient attendre que le processus de réaménagement des effectifs suive son cours avant de s'engager dans cette voie.

<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/le-droit/actualites/fonction-publique/201204/05/01-4512996-lafpc-invite-ses-membres-a-attendre.php>