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Press Clippings for the period of April 12-18, 2013
Revue de presse pour la période du 12 au 18 avril 2013

English Media

April 12, 2013

Supreme Court becoming ‘Charter-averse,’ expert says

Constitutional experts are questioning whether the Supreme Court of Canada still has the stomach to guarantee fundamental rights.

Not only is the court hearing fewer Charter cases, they contend, it increasingly releases timid, confusing judgments that confound lawyers and restrict the potential of the Charter.

Of the 70 appeals the court heard last year, only 10 involved Charter claims – and the claimants succeeded in just two of them, said Jamie Cameron, a professor and constitutional expert at York University’s Osgoode Hall Law School.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/supreme-court-becoming-charter-averse-expert-says/article11177678/>

Federal spending cuts disproportionately focused on services: analysis

Despite assurances by the federal government that spending cuts would target the “back office” and avoid cuts to services, a new analysis by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives finds spending cuts have disproportionately focused on service delivery.

The analysis, by CCPA Senior Economist David Macdonald, examines over 180 departmental Reports on Plans and Priorities in order to estimate employment cuts down to the program level and determine where federal spending cuts hit the hardest.

<http://www.policyalternatives.ca/newsroom/news-releases/federal-spending-cuts-disproportionately-focused-services-analysis>

[Full Report – The Fog Finally Clears](#)

[Version Française – Le brouillard se dissipe enfin](#)

April 13, 2013

Bill forcing unions to disclose financial information runs into Senate opposition

Four months after it was passed by the House of Commons, a bill that would require labour unions to disclose detailed financial information, including how much they spend on political activities, has run into opposition in the Senate.

Bill C-377 is at second reading in the Senate and has already received a negative welcome from a Tory senator. On Tuesday, the Liberal leader in the Senate went a step further, saying the bill, with its “stunning shortcomings and its horrendous drafting,” should be defeated by the upper chamber.

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2013/04/17/bill-forcing-unions-to-disclose-financial-information-runs-into-senate-opposition/>

Public service union apologizes for ‘childish, hateful messages’ on spoof Stephen Harper photo caption website

Canada’s largest public service union has apologized after part of its anti-Harper Internet campaign went viral in a way they didn’t intend.

On Wednesday, The Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC), launched <http://www.Harper-says.ca>, a website where users could recaption publicity photographs of Stephen Harper with their own words.

The idea was that the new captions would criticize Harper’s policies in humorous ways and be shared on the Internet. However, it soon became clear that while there were a few pictures that fit into PSAC’s ideal, some of the posts were racist, sexist or otherwise offensive. Additionally, PSAC did not have the ability to moderate the pictures the way they wanted to.

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2013/04/12/psac-apologizes-for-childish-hateful-stephen-harper-photo-caption-website/>

April 14, 2013

Labour Rights conference highlights unions' role in fight for rights, democracy

Almost 200 people gathered in Toronto at the end of March to discuss the establishment and protection of labour laws in Canada and internationally as well as why unions matter in today's global economy.

"Particularly in this day and age when we're under such attack," said James Clancy, national president, NUPGE Canada.

<http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/johnbon/2013/04/labour-rights-conference-highlights-unions-role-fight-rights-democrac>

April 16, 2013

On labour and expenses, Hudak is spoiling for a fight

Tim Hudak is prepared to slash spending, contract out medical procedures and wrestle with unions over public-sector pensions.

Such muscular measures are necessary, the Progressive Conservative Leader told The Globe and Mail's editorial board, if the province is to balance its books and create the conditions for renewed economic growth.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/on-labour-and-expenses-hudak-is-spoiling-for-a-fight/article11264381/>

April 18, 2013

Labour legislation overhaul was a long time coming

Saskatchewan's labour and employment legislation has not been comprehensively reviewed for many years.

Legislation that for the most part was drafted on typewriters may not be particularly relevant to our current circumstances and workplaces. It falls far short of an insidious plot for the government to engage in some careful reconsideration of such dated legislation.

<http://www.thestarphoenix.com/business/Labour+legislation+overhaul+long+time+coming/8264571/story.html>

CUPE Ontario president defends contract arbitration

The president of CUPE Ontario is defending the province's system of contract arbitration, saying it is a fair way to resolve disputes between employers and employees.

In a wide-ranging interview with The Star's editorial board Thursday, Fred Hahn said the union has analyzed more than 20 years of data and found that arbitrated wage settlements "are not markedly different than negotiated settlements in either the public or private sector."

<http://blogs.windsorstar.com/2013/04/18/fred-hahn-cupe/>

Former Human Rights Tribunal boss Shirish Chotalia 'harassed, abused' staff: Report

During her time as chairperson of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, Shirish Chotalia created a "poisoned atmosphere" in the workplace, says Public Sector Integrity Commissioner Mario Dion. When a magnitude-five earthquake rumbled through Ottawa on June 23, 2010, employers everywhere ordered staff to leave the building. Everywhere, that is, but at the 11th-floor offices of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal on Elgin Street.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/business/Human+Rights+Tribunal+boss+Shirish+Chotalia+harassed+abused/8260577/story.html>

[Full Report](#)

Superunion constitution moves ahead without partisan NDP declaration

The merger of the Canadian Auto Workers and the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada is another step closer to reality after their executive boards approved a draft constitution.

"We had a good discussion and at the end approved it unanimously," said Gaétan Ménard, the national secretary-treasurer of the CEP.

Ménard said the CAW and CEP constitutions were 98 per cent aligned, but the proposed new union will make two significant departures: people not affiliated with a union will be able to join as associate members, and the number of delegates who can attend conventions has been reduced for most locals.

<http://www.ipolitics.ca/2013/04/19/superunion-constitution-moves-ahead-without-partisan-alignment/>

Around the world, Canadian foreign service officers continue work to rule

Union wants 'equal pay for equal work,' says members underpaid compared to other public servants in similar posts.

<http://www.hilltimes.com/news/news/2013/04/15/around-the-world-canadian-foreign-service-officers-continue-work-to-rule/34325>

Médias francophones

13 avril 2013

Échanges de postes: les syndicats obtiennent gain de cause

La Commission des relations de travail dans la fonction publique (CRTFP) vient de donner raison aux syndicats, dans le dossier de l'échange de postes prévu dans le cadre du réaménagement des effectifs qui résulte des compressions budgétaires.

Dans une décision rendue cette semaine, la Commission donne raison à l'Alliance de la fonction publique du Canada (AFPC) et à l'Institut professionnel de la fonction publique du Canada (IPFPC), qui avaient déposé conjointement, en juin 2012, un grief de principe contre le Conseil du Trésor pour non-respect des mesures prévues dans l'Appendice du réaménagement des effectifs.

Les deux syndicats dénonçaient notamment le fait que le Conseil du Trésor n'avait pas établi de système qui faciliterait l'application de ces dispositions dans tous les ministères.

<http://www.lapresse.ca/le-droit/politique/fonction-publique/201304/13/01-4640678-echanges-de-postes-les-syndicats-obtiennent-gain-de-cause.php>

18 avril 2013

Comportement abusif de l'ex-présidente du Tribunal canadien des droits de la personne

La présidente d'un tribunal canadien chargé de sévir contre de la discrimination a elle-même harcelé et insulté des employés de manière répétée, allant jusqu'à formuler des remarques discriminatoires à l'égard de subalternes.

C'est ce que conclut le Commissariat à l'intégrité du secteur public dans un rapport rendu public jeudi matin.

<http://www.lapresse.ca/actualites/quebec-canada/justice/actualites-judiciaires/201304/18/01-4642231-comportement-abusif-de-lex-presidente-du-tribunal-canadien-des-droits-de-la-personne.php>

[Rapport complet](#)