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Press Clippings for the period of June 3-9, 2011 Revue de presse pour la période du 3 au 9 juin 2011

English Media

June 9

Why unions are in for a long, hot summer

Tensions are rising at the bargaining table.

The sluggish economy, globalization, and pension shortfalls have put pressure on employers to cut costs, which will likely cause lasting problems for unions around the world as they fight for job security and better deals.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/economy/economy-lab/daily-mix/why-unions-are-in-for-a-long-hot-summer/article2053686/>

June 8

Treasury Board president gives 'sneak peek' of federal operating review

"We will put some \$80 billion in direct program spending under the microscope, with the goal of finding at least \$4 billion in permanent annual savings by 2014-15," he said. Departments have been asked to develop two scenarios — one for savings of five per cent, and the other for 10 per cent.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/Treasury+Board+president+gives+sneak+peak+federal+operating+review/4914521/story.html>

Canadian Treasury Board head calls for user fees to cut deficit

Head of Canada's Treasury Board, Tony Clement, is urging various federal departments to consider a "transformative" change to reduce costs in bureaucracies, including the option of imposing user fees.

<http://www.digitaljournal.com/article/307755>

Tough-on-crime legislation takes aim at civil liberties Some proposals hinder privacy rights

The Conservative government's omnibus "tough-on-crime" legislation should be redubbed "tough-on-civil-liberties" if it embraces all the last Parliament's law-and-order leftovers.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Tough+crime+legislation+takes+civil+liberties/4910482/story.html>

June 7

Heavy attrition cuts at PS are not the answer: officials

As the Harper government gears up for deep spending cuts, officials at the Public Service Commission are warning that it can't simply stop replacing public servants when they leave.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/business/Heavy+attrition+cuts+answer+officials/4903272/story.html>

Thousands of government workers to get the axe?

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty is planning to swing a Paul Bunyan-sized axe through the public service that would leave stacks of government workers piled on the sidewalk.

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives - a left-leaning think tank - says in order for Flaherty to balance the books by 2014-15, federal departments would have to chop 40,000 workers from a bureaucracy that has bulged by the same number under Prime Minister Stephen Harper's watch.

Those workers would be in addition to 40,000 others who are expected to sail off into retirement in the next few years or through others forms of attrition.

<http://www.lfpres.com/news/canada/2011/06/07/18251201.html>

Canada's public sector needs a trimming

Despite promises to cut costs, the 2011 federal budget reintroduced yesterday by Finance Minister Jim Flaherty will still swamp Ottawa with red ink for several years. More alarmingly, the federal government won't balance the books until mid-decade, even if its optimistic revenue projections prove accurate.

This approach is too timid. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) recently reviewed the finances of several advanced economies and concluded that Canada must reduce the share of GDP devoted to government expenditures from 43% to 38% over the next decade. Failure to meet this target will mean either higher taxes or the expansion of a dangerous debt load.

<http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2011/06/07/ben-eisen-canadas-public-sector-needs-a-trimming/>

Public Administration Wage Growth Comparing Wage Growth in Industries Across the Canadian Economy (1998-2009)

http://www.fcpp.org/files/1/FB089_PSWageGrowth_F3.pdf

June 6

Budget promises smaller government

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's promise to balance the books in three years counts on \$11 billion in projected savings that puts the public service in the crosshairs but is silent on specific program and job cuts.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/business/Budget+promises+smaller+government/4901715/story.html>

Budget on the table, public service on the chopping block

The Conservative government is launching the most aggressive period of government restraint since the mid-1990s as it attempts to deliver on a central campaign pledge to speed up the deficit fight.

Departments are already handing out pink slips and entire programs are headed for the chopping block as the public service faces some of the pain that spread throughout the private sector during the recession.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/budget-on-the-table-public-service-on-the-chopping-block/article2049664/>

Articling crisis set to grow

A spike in applicants fighting it out for a static pool of articling positions has created a crisis in the province. Robert Shawyer recently hired an articling student after discovering he needed only three years of experience to become a principal.

And Law Society of Upper Canada Treasurer Laurie Pawlitza has decided to act, announcing to Convocation on May 26 that she'll establish a working group to look into the issue of articling.

<http://www.lawtimesnews.com/201106068480/Headline-News/Articling-crisis-set-to-grow>

June 4

Flaherty looked to Liberals for lessons on spending cuts

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty asked for a review of the Liberal government's ambitious spending cuts to programs of the 1990s a full year before there was any hint the Conservatives might do the same thing, according to documents obtained by CBC News.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/story/2011/06/03/pol-budget-cuts.html>

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/57062101/ATI-documents-Program-Review>

June 3

Funding justice must be made a priority

Attorney General Barry Penner deserves credit, perhaps, for candour on the mounting problems in the justice system.

He has acknowledged that a lack of funding for courts means people accused of serious crimes are regularly freed because of excessive delays.

<http://www.canada.com/Funding+justice+must+made+priority/4892993/story.html>

Médias francophones

8 juin

Mégaprocès: Ottawa veut légiférer rapidement

Le gouvernement fédéral promet de l'action rapide pour simplifier les mégaprocès après la commotion créée par l'abandon des procédures criminelles contre 31 motards arrêtés dans le cadre de l'opération SharQc au Québec.

<http://www.ledevoir.com/societe/justice/325020/megaproces-ottawa-veut-legiferer-rapidement>

7 juin

Un mauvais choix au mauvais moment, pour l'AFPC

À peine le budget déposé, hier, les présidents des deux plus importants syndicats de fonctionnaires fédéraux ont uni leur voix pour défendre les services publics et les emplois menacés en dénonçant les compressions de 11 milliards \$ sur quatre ans.

<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/le-droit/dossiers/budget-federal-2011/201106/06/01-4406630-un-mauvais-choix-au-mauvais-moment-pour-lafpc.php>

6 juin

Fonctionnaires au seuil du salaire minimum

Le gouvernement fédéral est en train de se transformer en « exploitateur » qui a de plus en plus recours à du cheap labour au sein de sa fonction publique, selon le représentant national des agences de placement de personnel temporaire.

<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/le-droit/actualites/fonction-publique/201106/05/01-4406266-fonctionnaires-au-seuil-du-salaire-minimum.php>

Fonction publique: les compressions maintenues

L'épée de Damoclès suspendue au-dessus de la tête des fonctionnaires fédéraux lors du budget de mars dernier le restera pour les prochaines années.

<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/le-droit/dossiers/budget-federal-2011/201106/06/01-4406547-fonction-publique-les-compressions-maintenues.php>

3 juin

SharQc était belle, trop pour la justice

Avril 2009: coup de filet extraordinaire de la police fédérale, provinciale et locale. Même jour, même heure, 155 membres des Hells Angels sont arrêtés, soupçonnés de divers crimes liés au trafic de drogues.

<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/la-voix-de-lest/opinions/collaborateurs/201106/02/01-4405464-sharqc-etait-belle-trop-pour-la-justice.php>