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Press Clippings for the period of June 10-16, 2011 Revue de presse pour la période du 10 au 16 juin 2011

English Media

June 16

Cuts could weaken crime crackdown, Crowns warn

The union representing federal prosecutors says the federal government's budget cuts could slow down the justice system further, just as the Conservatives prepare to implement a tough-on-crime agenda.

The Association of Justice Counsel says that finding the government imposed five to 10 per cent cut in spending for the service will deplete the number of prosecutors and create additional delays in the justice system.

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/business/Cuts+could+weaken+crime+crackdown+Crowns+warn/4955121/story.html>

Fasten your seatbelt, Ottawa's causing turbulence

The federal government's decision to table back-to-work legislation just hours after the workers started picketing is outrageously premature. It sets a dangerous precedent for the rights of employees to strike. Ottawa shouldn't be interfering in labour negotiations between unions, who represent hardworking Canadians, and private sector companies.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/Fasten+your+seatbelt+Ottawa+causing+turbulence/4954921/story.html>

Ottawa moves to stop postal dispute

Calgary postal workers are hoping the union and Canada Post can iron out a collective agreement before being forced to return to the job by looming back-to-work legislation.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/Ottawa+moves+stop+postal+dispute/4954870/story.html>

Tories take a stand on strikes

For the second time in two days, the Conservative government on Wednesday announced plans to introduce back-to-work legislation to put an end to a nascent work stoppage.

<http://www.nationalpost.com/news/Tories+take+stand+strikes/4953981/story.html>

Government slashes spending at NRC by 20%

The Harper government is slashing more than 20 per cent of the National Research Council of Canada's budget.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/technology/Government+slashes+spending/4954154/story.html>

Air Canada, union reach tentative agreement

Air Canada staff are headed back to work on Friday morning after the union representing its customer service staff reached a tentative agreement with the airline.

The sticky issue of pensions is now partly resolved. Existing employees will not see a change in their benefit plan, Lewenza said, but a different plan for new hires will have to be hammered out with the help of a mediator.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/business/Canada+union+reach+tentative+agreement/4959435/story.html>

B.C.'s top judges 'gravely concerned' about court delays caused by sheriff shortage

The chief judges of B.C.'s courts are "gravely concerned" about the recent trial delays caused by a shortage of sheriffs and other court staff, a top judge said Thursday.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/sports/judges+gravely+concerned+about+court+delays+caused+sheriff+shortage/4960898/story.html>

Air Canada workers dig in heels despite back-to-work threat

The union representing striking Air Canada workers says it won't budge on contentious pension reforms being proposed by management, leaving the two sides at an impasse even as Ottawa threatens to end the walkout.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/air-canada-workers-dig-in-heels-despite-back-to-work-threat/article2061961/>

June 15

Via pension liability hits \$1.6B

Via Rail is facing a \$150-million shortfall in its pension plan, the publicly funded national passenger rail service said Tuesday as it released its annual report.

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/business/pension+liability+hits/4947965/story.html>

Ottawa vows to legislate an end to Canada Post labour dispute

The Harper government is moving ahead with back-to-work legislation to end the Canada Post strike.

Conservatives served notice Wednesday that they intend to introduce a bill ending the 12-day labour disruption at Canada's state mail carrier.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/ottawa-vows-to-legislate-an-end-to-canada-post-labour-dispute/article2062021/>

June 14

Rethinking jails and the mentally ill

Vic Toews could never be accused of being soft on crime. The Public Safety Minister is currently overseeing a \$2-billion expansion of the country's prison system, designed to accommodate 3,400 extra prisoners, a consequence of government legislation that removes credit for time spent in custody presentencing. This anticipated 20% increase in the prison population is set to happen at a time when the crime rates in Canada have been falling for a decade.

<http://www.nationalpost.com/news/Rethinking+jails+mentally/4940637/story.html>

Pensions next big issue for companies

The standoff that has pitted Air Canada against 3,800 of its sales and service agents is a sign of a broader battle in Canada in which corporations try to reduce the volatility of their pension plans and employees try to preserve their benefits.

<http://www.financialpost.com/news/Pensions+next+issue+companies/4940725/story.html>

Matt Gurney: McGuinty's false wage freeze revealed in the thaw

In its 2010 budget, the Ontario provincial government of Liberal Premier Dalton McGuinty announced a wage freeze for one million public-sector employees. After years of free spending, Mr. McGuinty had seemingly accepted that Ontario was unable to offer generous raises each time a contract came up for renewal.

<http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2011/06/14/matt-gurney-mcguintys-false-wage-freeze-revealed-in-the-thaw/>

Reducing PS by 6,000 too little to meet target, watchdog warns Attrition will only bring government a third of the way to \$4B goal in cuts, parliamentary budget officer says

There will be 6,000 fewer federal employees by 2013-14, but those cuts won't be enough to deliver the savings government hopes to realize through reducing the public service, Parliamentary Budget Officer Kevin Page said Monday.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/business/Reducing+little+meet+target+watchdog+warns/4940844/story.html>

Air Canada unions face headwind on defined pension benefits?

Unions will ultimately need to find a compromise with Air Canada's management over reforming the company's pension plan if the airline is to compete with rivals in the longer term, analysts said.

<http://www.torontosun.com/2011/06/14/air-canada-unions-face-headwind-on-defined-pension-benefits>

June 13

Cuts to public-service jobs won't get feds to \$1.8B savings goal: budget officer

The parliamentary budget officer says shrinking the bureaucracy won't be enough to meet the Harper government's savings goals.

The latest report from Kevin Page raises questions about the Conservative plan for big savings through a smaller public service.

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/canada/breakingnews/cuts-to-public-service-jobs-wont-get-feds-to-18b-savings-goal-budget-officer.html>

With 6,000 jobs on chopping block, watchdog warns of deeper cuts

The Conservative government is planning to chop at least 6,000 jobs over the next three years, even before it draws up a more aggressive plan for erasing Canada's deficit.

Parliamentary Budget Officer Kevin Page released the figure Monday in a report based on recently released data from Ottawa.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/ottawa-notebook/with-6000-jobs-on-chopping-block-budget-watchdog-warns-of-deeper-cuts/article2058469/>

Plenty of targets in Tories' deficit-fighting plan, but details are few

The Conservative government is keeping much of its deficit-fighting plan under wraps, even as details trickle out as to where the knife will fall.

Three months after the 2011 budget first stated that 12 federal organizations will cut a combined \$2.6-billion over three years, many of them told The Globe and Mail they need more time before they can explain the details publicly.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/plenty-of-targets-in-tories-deficit-fighting-plan-but-details-are-few/article2059421/>

Public service has value

Perhaps the shift in attitude within the public service found by EKOS is related to a shift in the public attitude toward them.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/opinion/Public+service+value/4935204/story.html>

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/business/Troubling+shifts+attitudes/4898031/story.html>

Companies draw line with new pensions

The standoff that has pit Air Canada against 3,800 of its sales and service agents is indicative of a broader battle in Canada in which corporations are trying to reduce the volatility of their pension plans and employees try to preserve their benefits.

<http://business.financialpost.com/2011/06/13/companies-draw-line-with-new-pensions/>

June 11

Tribunal set up four years ago handles first case

A little-known federal tribunal set up four years ago is finally handling its first case.

The Public Servants Disclosure Protection Tribunal was created to help protect public servants from retaliation if they blew the whistle on immoral or illegal activities in government.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/news/Tribunal+four+years+handles+first+case/4930522/story.html>

June 10

Cancelled trials 'a concern,' but money is tight, A-G says

Attorney-General Barry Penner said today he is concerned about trials being cancelled this week because of a lack of sheriffs, but added that there is no more money in the budget during this tight economy.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Cancelled+trials+concern+money+tight+says/4924245/story.html>

Afraid of 2012? Remember the budget of 1995

The 1995 Liberals had no choice. That's the real difference between the desperate budget of former Liberal finance minister Paul Martin and the less draconian edition due to be handed down next year by his Conservative counterpart, Jim Flaherty.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/business/Afraid+2012+Remember+budget+1995/4928912/story.html>

Médias francophones

15 juin

Mégaprocès: Fournier peine à convaincre

Le ministre de la Justice du Québec, **Jean-Marc Fournier**, s'est rendu à Ottawa hier afin de convaincre la chef du Parti vert de permettre l'adoption rapide du projet de loi fédéral sur les mégaprocès.

<http://www.droit-inc.com/article5819-Megaprocès-Fournier-peine-a-convaincre>

14 juin

Équité salariale dans la fonction publique Françoise Boivin interpelle Clement

La députée néo-démocrate de Gatineau, Françoise Boivin, accuse le gouvernement Harper de ne plus reconnaître - depuis 2009 - le droit à l'équité salariale aux femmes travaillant dans la fonction publique fédérale.

<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/le-droit/actualites/fonction-publique/201106/13/01-4408880-francoise-boivin-interpelle-clement.php>

Réductions budgétaires - Dégraisser l'État ne suffira pas à atteindre les objectifs, dit Page

Ottawa — La réduction de la taille de l'État fédéral ne suffira pas à atteindre les objectifs de réductions budgétaires du gouvernement Harper, a estimé hier le directeur parlementaire du budget.

<http://www.ledevoir.com/politique/canada/325394/reductions-budgetaires-degraisser-l-etat-ne-suffira-pas-a-atteindre-les-objectifs-dit-page>

Superprocès: Elizabeth May s'opposera à l'adoption rapide du projet de loi

Le gouvernement Harper et les principaux partis de l'opposition comptaient adopter à toute vapeur un projet de loi pour simplifier et accélérer la tenue des superprocès après l'avortement du procès de 31 membres ou sympathisants des Hells Angels, il y a deux semaines.

http://www.cyberpresse.ca/actualites/quebec-canada/politique-canadienne/201106/13/01-4408860-superproces-elizabeth-may-sopposera-a-ladoption-rapide-du-projet-de-loi.php?utm_categorieinterne=traffiddrivers&utm_contenuinterne=cyberpresse_lire_aussi_4408771_article_POS1

13 juin

Loi sur l'équité salariale dans la fonction publique fédérale Toujours pas en vigueur, deux ans après

Deux ans après son adoption, la controversée Loi sur l'équité salariale de la fonction publique fédérale n'est toujours pas en vigueur. Selon diverses sources, la loi serait si « complexe » qu'il serait encore trop difficile de trouver la manière de l'appliquer.

<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/le-droit/actualites/fonction-publique/201106/12/01-4408542-toujours-pas-en-vigueur-deux-ans-apres.php>

Ottawa veut accélérer la tenue des superprocès

Le gouvernement conservateur veut mettre en place une nouvelle loi d'ici la fin du mois de juin afin d'accélérer la tenue des superprocès.

http://www.cyberpresse.ca/actualites/quebec-canada/justice-et-faits-divers/201106/13/01-4408771-ottawa-veut-acceler-la-tenue-des-superproces.php?utm_categorieinterne=traffiddrivers&utm_contenuinterne=cyberpresse_B4_manchettes_231_accueil_POS4