



AJC-AJJ
ASSOCIATION OF JUSTICE COUNSEL
ASSOCIATION DES JURISTES DE JUSTICE

Press Clippings for the period of May 4-10, 2012
Revue de presse pour la période du 4 au 10 mai 2012

English Media

May 10

Private member's bills cut corners on lawmaking, say critics

The federal Conservative government is shifting the way lawmaking is done. Private member's bills — which get less legislative analysis or parliamentary debate than government bills — are the new black.

Since Sunday, four private member's bills that make changes to criminal and corrections law have been publicly backed by the government as good additions to its tough-on-crime agenda.

<http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/politics/article/1176615--private-member-s-bills-cut-corners-on-lawmaking-say-critics>

May 9

Feds, budget officer differ over releasing budget cut details

The Conservative government says it cannot release details of budget cuts, but a new report by the Parliamentary Budget Office aims to blow up that claim.

Tony Clement, president of Treasury Board, says he is “handcuffed” by labour contracts and parliamentary rules, so he cannot report the details of cuts in the 2012 budget.

<http://thechronicleherald.ca/canada/94628-feds-budget-officer-differ-over-releasing-budget-cut-details>

PBO gets few answers on budgetary effects

The parliamentary budget officer is getting stonewalled by the Harper government on the implications of budget cuts on federal departments and public services.

On April 12, the PBO - the federal agency that provides independent analysis to parliamentarians on the state of the nation's finances - requested information from all federal organizations on how budget cuts would affect department programs, federal jobs and service levels.

The response so far: dismal.

<http://www.canada.com/gets+answers+budgetary+effects/6595157/story.html>

Temp workers shouldn't be public service crutch

Canadian senator worries about emergence of temporary staff after layoffs

The layoff of thousands of federal public servants has raised concerns about whether more work in Ottawa will be taken over by temporary staff.

Many temporary help agencies already provide workers to government departments in areas such as professional services, IT and communications.

A Public Service Commission study of temporary workers in the federal public service published in 2009 found that spending on temporary services tripled from 1999-00 to 2008-09. But the study also pointed out that about one in five temporary contracts were for longer than 52 weeks, raising the question over whether the jobs should be considered temporary.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/story/2012/05/08/ottawa-public-service-temporary-workers.html>

May 8

PSAC's convention

Hostile environment facilitates civil meeting.

Every three years, the Public Service Alliance of Canada holds its Convention — the supreme governing body of the PSAC. I've attended ten of them, once as an observer, six as a delegate/officer, and three as a guest. They can be brutal occasions, as any extended accountability session tends to be.

At Convention, the top leadership of the Alliance is placed under a microscope. Candidates for National President and National Executive Vice-President in the next three-year cycle live a

tense few days. The budget for that cycle, having been through more than a week of committee scrutiny, can take a lot of Convention time as well, especially if there is a proposed dues increase. I chaired the Finance Committee twice, and in 2000 I spent two and a half days on the podium under the hot lights — literally and figuratively.

<http://www.straightgoods.ca/2012/ViewArticle.cfm?Ref=411>

Aboriginal justice program gets more funding Federal government announces \$12.5M for one year

The Aboriginal Justice Strategy will be funded for another year.

The federal government announced it will give \$12.5 million to the strategy, which helps to support community justice programs across Canada.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/story/2012/05/08/north-aboriginal-justice-funding-renewed.html>

May 7

Tories propose public sector wage freeze

The Progressive Conservatives plan to introduce legislation to impose an immediate two-year wage freeze on over one million public sector workers in Ontario.

Opposition Leader Tim Hudak says the Liberal government's attempts to negotiate a voluntary wage freeze with teachers, nurses, doctors and other public servants simply isn't working.

http://www.cp24.com/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20120507/120507_wage_freeze/20120507/?hub=CP24Home