

Press Clippings for the period of December 22, 2014 to January 5th, 2015
Revue de presse pour la période du 22 décembre 2014, au 5 janvier, 2015

*Here are articles and opinion pieces that might be of interest to AJC members
Voici quelques articles et textes d'opinion qui pourraient intéresser les membres de l'AJJ*

AJC in the News – L'AJJ fait les manchettes

CBCnews

Northern Crown lawyers asked to pay back vacation travel perks

'My members received these letters ... asking for this money back just before Christmas'

CBC News Nunavut, December 23, 2014

About a dozen current and former Crown prosecutors in the North have been asked to pay back thousands of dollars in vacation travel assistance.

→ **Leonard MacKay is the president of the Association of Justice Counsel, which represents the lawyers.**

"It's bad timing, obviously," MacKay says. "My members received these letters this week and last week asking for this money back just before Christmas so it's tough. We're trying to expedite it so people have some certainty about their future finances."

The Public Prosecution Service of Canada says it provides a certain amount of money each year to cover the higher costs of working in an isolated post.

But a spokesperson says some employees were incorrectly given the travel allowance while on leave.

In all, about \$100,000 is owed, some of it dating back six years.

MacKay says the majority were women who were on maternity leave. He says they were encouraged by human resources to take advantage of the allowance.

In one case, a former staffer was asked to pay back over \$17,000, and was given several options, such as paying a lump sum, or by authorizing the federal government to take up to 10 per cent of her salary starting in February.

The letter also suggests taking less than 10 per cent of wages “where financial hardship has been determined,” and notes that this would have to be approved by a deputy head following submission and review of statement of earnings and debts.