



Ottawa, May 23, 2012

Ms. Daphne Meredith
Chief Human Resources Officer
Treasury Board of Canada

Dear Ms. Meredith:

Re: WFA Information

According to recent press reports, the president of Treasury Board Mr. Tony Clement is claiming to be “handcuffed” by labour contracts and parliamentary rules which prevent him from reporting the details of cuts in the 2012 budget.

Government officials were originally going to release details of budget cuts in the annual Report on Plans and Priorities, which was tabled in the second week of May. But in February, according to the Globe and Mail, an internal Treasury Board memo ordered those details to be left out of the Report.

The Parliamentary Budget Office has requested that details be made available before early June, when Parliament will start voting on budget estimates. So far, departments seem overwhelmingly secretive and the information obtained by the PBO accounts for less than one per cent of government cuts.

The Association of Justice Counsel wishes to stress the fact that although the work force adjustment directive (WFAD) requires Bargaining Agents to be informed first, the directive does not prevent Departments from providing proper information to the PBO so that Parliamentarians can make an informed decision. In fact, the AJC fully support disclosure of this information as long as the information does not allow the identification of affected members. The information should also be shared with Bargaining Agents.

Best regards,

Lisa Blais
President

c.c. Kevin Page, PBO
Public Service Bargaining Agents