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Press Clippings for the period of August 26 – September 1, 2011
Revue de presse pour la période du 26 août au 1^{er} septembre 2011

English Media

September 1

Get ready to pay billions for hydro pensions

Recently, there has been quite a ruckus over a number of pensions in the extended public sector. In British Columbia, it was revealed that a senior executive at BC Ferries was eligible to receive a lifetime pension valued at \$315,000 after only nine years of employment there. In Quebec, Hydro-Québec claimed that its pension costs last year were only \$21-million, but its financial reports showed that taxpayers had pumped \$646-million into the pension plan. Stay tuned - we will hear many more such horror stories as a result of decades of pension underfunding, early retirements and rich pensions of public sector workers and those in the extended public sector.

<http://www.financialpost.com/news/ready+billions+hydro+pensions/5337069/story.html>

August 31

Troubling trends showing up

The conventional wisdom about Quebec's economy is that it survived the 2009 recession quite well and that employment remains relatively healthy.

That's true, as far as it goes, but the performance masks more troubling trends that are showing up. Quebec continues to fall behind other jurisdictions on key fundamentals tied to prosperity and wealth creation.

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/business/Troubling+trends+showing/5331350/story.html>

Your 2012 raise may be less than inflation

If you are lucky you'll get a raise in the next year, but chances are the inflation rate will exceed your salary increase.

A compensation survey by consulting firm Morneau Shepell reveals that participants expect an average increase of 2.8 per cent in 2012. Meanwhile, the national inflation rate was 2.7 per cent in July, following a 3.1 per cent increase in June and a 3.7 per cent advance in May.

<http://www.moneyville.ca/blog/post/1043752--your-2012-raise-may-be-less-than-inflation>

http://www.morneaushepell.com/_private/getpdffile.asp?docId=1564

Canada Once Triumphed Over Its Growing Budget

A federal government runs a large deficit. The ratio of federal debt to Gross Domestic Product approaches 70 percent. Voters have gotten used to large federal spending programs. Does that sound like the United States? Well, yes. But it also describes Canada in 1993. Yet, just 16 years later, Canada's federal debt had fallen from almost 70 percent to only 29 percent of GDP. Moreover, every year between 1997 and 2008, Canada's federal government had a budget surplus.

<http://www.fcpp.org/publication.php/3880>

FRONTIER CENTRE FOR PUBLIC POLICY • POLICY SERIES NO. 112 • AUGUST 2011

Canada's Budget Triumph

http://www.fcpp.org/files/1/PS112_CdaBudgetTriumph_AG18F5.pdf

August 29

Discord over cuts leaves direction of Canadian military up in the air

Tension between generals and officials in the Harper government has left the future direction of Canada's military up in the air.

Senior officers at National Defence headquarters, according to sources, are opposed to the recommendations of Lieutenant-General Andrew Leslie, chief of transformation, who is calling for savings of \$1-billion annually by reorganizing the Canadian Forces and chopping up to 11,000 personnel, mostly at headquarters.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/discord-over-cuts-leaves-direction-of-canadian-military-up-in-the-air/article2146431/>

Why CFIB “Pension Tension” campaign is all wrong

The CFIB has recently launched an aggressive attack on public sector pensions. While I can agree with the opening paragraph on its “Pension Tension” website (cfib.ca/pension) concerning CPP expansion and observations concerning the gap between pension arrangements for public sector versus private sector workers, its rhetoric is unnecessarily inflammatory, and the solution of “putting new civil servants on a less costly defined contribution plan” could, in fact, be more burdensome for taxpayers.

<http://www.benefitscanada.com/pensions/governance-law/cfib-pension-tension-campaign-is-all-wrong-20008>

August 27

Canada's labour market aging Many boomers aren't interested in retirement

Retirement does not appeal to many baby boomers, according to career counsellor Marilyn Henigman, who is seeing plenty of citizens aged 45 to 65 on the hunt for work.

Statistics Canada reinforced Wednesday what we've known for years: Canada's labour force is aging rapidly. As many as one in four workers could be 55 or older by 2021, the federal agency said.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/Canada+labour+market+aging/5316231/story.html>

August 26

Mandatory retirement of Air Canada pilots at age 60 upheld by human rights tribunal

In the latest twist in a four-year legal saga, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal dismissed a complaint by two Air Canada pilots alleging that the airline's mandatory retirement policy constitutes prohibited age-based discrimination under the Canadian Human Rights Act.

<http://www.lancasterhouse.com/>

B.C.'s Clark reviving Liberal plan to cut red tape around job creation (Published on August 18)

Premier Christy Clark is reviving a ten-year-old B.C. Liberal plan to cut red tape as part of her jobs agenda for the fall.

Ms. Clark said Wednesday she has not ruled out a fall election but said she is focused on developing a jobs agenda, to be announced in September that aims to unlock private sector job creation.

Part of that agenda will be undoing the previous B.C. Liberal government actions that increased environmental regulations and slashed jobs in the civil service.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/british-columbia/bc-politics/bc-s-clark-reviving-liberal-plan-to-cut-red-tape-around-job-creation/article2133005/>

Médias francophones

31 août

Les fonctionnaires pourront s'exprimer dans l'anonymat

Au cours des cinq prochaines semaines, les fonctionnaires fédéraux pourront exprimer librement — dans l'anonymat — leur opinion sur le leadership, la gestion du personnel et leurs conditions d'emploi.

http://www.cyberpresse.ca/le-droit/actualites/fonction-publique/201108/30/01-4430232-les-fonctionnaires-pourront-s'exprimer-dans-l'anonymat.php?utm_categorieinterne=trafficdrivers&utm_contenuinterne=cyberpresse_B13b_fonction-publique_86613_section_POS1

29 août

Le NPD se range derrière l'Alliance de la Fonction publique

Cinq députés néo-démocrates des régions de l'Estrie, du Centre-du-Québec et des Bois-Francs, réunis lundi à Drummondville, se rangent derrière l'Alliance de la Fonction publique du Canada (région du Québec) pour dénoncer les « coupures dans les services à la population » annoncées par le gouvernement Harper.

<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/la-tribune/centre-du-quebec/201108/29/01-4429846-le-npd-se-rangent-derriere-l'alliance-de-la-fonction-publique.php>

26 août

Procureurs

Reprise des négociations avec le gouvernement

Les négociations ont repris entre le gouvernement Charest et l'Association des procureurs aux poursuites criminelles et pénales concernant leurs conditions de travail.

«Les parties souhaitent ainsi en arriver à une entente qui soit à la satisfaction des deux parties. Dans cet esprit, l'Association et le gouvernement ont convenu de ne pas émettre de commentaire durant les négociations», ont annoncé la présidente du Conseil du trésor, Michelle Courchesne, et le ministre de la Justice, Jean-Marc Fournier, dans bref communiqué, jeudi.

<http://lejournaldemontreal.canoe.ca/journaldemontreal/actualites/national/archives/2011/08/20110825-135539.html>