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Press Clippings for the period of January 20-26, 2012 Revue de presse pour la période du 20 au 26 janvier 2012

English Media

January 26

Budget axe could cut deeper and hit sooner, Tories warn

The Conservative government is confirming what it's been hinting at for weeks: Spending cuts in the upcoming federal budget could be twice as deep as Ottawa's original target.

Rather than aiming for a 5 per cent cut overall and permanent savings of \$4-billion a year – as outlined in the 2011 budget – the government is now clearly describing the 5 per cent cut as the low end of a targeted range.

http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/budget-axe-could-cut-deeper-and-hit-sooner-tories-warn/article2315934/

Clement signals tough stance with public service unions

Treasury Board President Tony Clement served notice Thursday that he won't allow federal public service unions to get in the way of the government carrying out its multibillion-dollar deficit reduction action plan.

http://www.ipolitics.ca/2012/01/26/clement-signals-tough-stance-with-public-service-unions/

'They're worried, they're waiting for Cabinet and they're waiting for the budget'

Expect more cuts to the public service in the coming weeks, says Gary Corbett, president of the Public Institute of the Public Service of Canada, as his union gears up for what they believe to be heavy job losses coming down the line in the 2012 budget.

"There are more cuts coming, I can tell you that," said Mr. Corbett. "I'm expecting something in the next days to weeks."

http://www.hilltimes.com/news/2012/01/23/%E2%80%98they-worried-they%E2%80%99re-waiting-for-cabinet-and-they%E2%80%99re-waiting-for-the-budget%E2%80%99/29364

Harper signals transformations in immigration, pensions and R&D

Ottawa will transform the country's pension system to curtail government costs, but details won't come until the budget, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said Thursday.

Ted Menzies, parliamentary secretary to Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, said everything is on the table in examining both the public and private retirement systems.

"We're looking at the whole thing as a package and there will be some recommendations," Menzies said in an interview.

He added that the "overall, long-term sustainability of all our retirement systems ... has to be primary."

http://www.ipolitics.ca/2012/01/26/harper-signals-transformations-in-immigration-pensions-and-rd/

Unions must change quickly to survive, says secret report by CEP/CAW

Unions must overhaul themselves dramatically — and fast — or face a slow death, says a secret report by the two groups contemplating the biggest merger in Canadian labour history.

In a surprisingly blunt assessment of organized labour's current difficulties, the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) and the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers (CEP) union say in a discussion paper that they must become a lot more relevant to working people, not only in contract bargaining, but for social change.

http://www.thestar.com/article/1121505--unions-must-change-quickly-to-survive-says-secret-report-by-cep-caw

January 25

Federal crime bill discussed at justice minister meeting

The federal government's new crime bill was on everyone's mind for the second day of the justice ministers' meeting Wednesday in Charlottetown.

Federal Justice Minister Rob Nicholson and RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson joined 17 provincial justice and public safety ministers at their meeting.

http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/story/2012/01/25/pei-justice-minister-meeting.html

January 24

Overhaul MPs' pensions, watchdog urges 'Treat them like everyone else'

The Parliamentary pension plan has been good to Windsor-Essex MPs past and present, but that could all change if the Canadian Taxpayers Federation gets its way.

http://www.windsorstar.com/business/Overhaul+pensions+watchdog+urges/6041145/story.ht ml

Public sector cuts will be costly in long run: Leslie

The federal government shouldn't be cutting public sector jobs in their quest to reduce costs, according to Megan Leslie.

At the conclusion of an NDP Atlantic Caucus meeting yesterday, the Halifax MP said cutting public sector positions will be more costly in the long run.

http://www.metronews.ca/halifax/local/article/1078851--public-sector-cuts-will-be-costly-in-long-run-leslie

January 23

Federal cutbacks will cost more than 60,000 jobs and slash services

In its 2010 and 2011 budgets, the federal government announced cuts totalling \$7.82 billion. A new CCPA study explores the impact of these cutbacks and finds between 60,100 and 68,300 jobs will be lost as a result.

The study, The Cuts Behind the Curtain: How federal cutbacks will slash services and increase unemployment, identifies areas that are already seeing cuts and may see more of the same, including: programs for Aboriginal on-reserve housing, training and primary health care; support for low-income families, seniors, and the unemployed; environmental programs; workplace and food safety inspectors; and Canada's international profile.

The study also raises serious concerns about the government's lack of transparency about what will be axed, and why.

http://www.policyalternatives.ca/newsroom/updates/federal-cutbacks-will-cost-more-60000-jobs

Full Report

More than 50,000 federal jobs on chopping block as Ottawa trims spending

More than 50,000 federal jobs could disappear by the time the Conservatives are finished their budget-cutting, with the resulting loss of services being felt most by aboriginals, seniors, low-income earners and other vulnerable Canadians, an Ottawa think tank predicts.

http://www.thestar.com/news/article/1119573--more-than-50-000-federal-jobs-on-chopping-block-as-ottawa-trims-spending?bn=1

Study about public sector job losses comes into question

A new report claiming the Harper government budget cuts will lead to 60,000+ public sector job losses is making the rounds today.

But can the study, released by the left-leaning Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) be believed?

 $\underline{\text{http://ca.news.yahoo.com/blogs/canada-politics/study-public-sector-job-losses-comes-} \\ \textbf{215609653.html}$

NDP to focus on budget cuts as Parliament resumes

With Parliament set to resume next week, New Democrats are poised to make the budget a top priority.

http://blogs.canada.com/2012/01/23/ndp-to-focus-on-budget-cuts-as-parliament-resumes/

January 22

Ontario may not meet target on court delays

Ontario's governing Liberals have their doubts about whether they'll be able to meet their own lofty target to cut down on court appearances that delay criminal cases.

Progress has been made to cut the average number of appearances by 30 per cent, but it "remains to be seen" whether the province will meet that target this year, Attorney General John Gerretsen told The Canadian Press.

http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/story/2012/01/22/toronto-ontario-court-delay-target.html

Pensions: an MP's just desserts or the taxpayers' burden?

Just weeks before Canadians find out where the Conservatives plan to slash billions of dollars in spending, some analysts are pointing to the "gold plated" MP pensions as a good place to start.

http://www.globalnews.ca/pensions+an+mp39s+just+desserts+or+the+taxpayers39+burden/64 42564481/story.html

January 21

MP's gold plated pensions too costly?

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is again urging MPs to scrap their lucrative pension plan in favour of a more modest system.

The federation says MPs are beneficiaries of the best-funded plan in the world, with taxpayers footing most of the bill.

http://www.castanet.net/news/Poll/70011/MP-s-gold-plated-pensions-too-costly

January 20

Federal civil servants on edge over possible pension changes

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty wants to be clear. The commitment he made in 2010 that the Conservative government wouldn't touch federal pensions didn't mean they would never be reviewed again.

http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/Federal+civil+servants+edge+over+possible+pension+c hanges/6024858/story.html

We need a new plan Why Canada's public pension format is patently unfair

Imagine if you and I each put our money in the stock market on the same day. We might choose different companies or funds, but let's say for the moment that we both picked relatively safe investments and were looking for long-term results.

http://www.ottawacitizen.com/business/need+plan/6023897/story.html

Public sector pensions out of control, business federation says

Public sector pensions in Canada are a ticking time bomb that needs to be defused or we could end up in the same mess as Greece, says the chief executive officer of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business.

http://www.therecord.com/news/business/article/658498--public-sector-pensions-out-of-control-business-federation-says

Médias francophones

23 Janvier

Les compressions du gouvernement fédéral entraîneront la perte de plus de 60 000 emplois selon une étude.

Les compressions au niveau fédéral annoncées dans les budgets de 2010 et 2011 auront comme conséquence des pertes de plus de 60 000 emplois selon une étude publiée aujourd'hui par le Centre canadien des politiques alternatives (CCPA). Toutes compressions additionnelles dans le prochain budget entraîneront des pertes d'emplois supplémentaires.

http://www.policyalternatives.ca/newsroom/news-releases/les-compressions-dugouvernement-f%C3%A9d%C3%A9ral-entra%C3%AEneront-la-perte-de-plus-de-60-

Rapport Complet

Compressions fédérales : plus de 60 000 postes seraient abolis

Les compressions budgétaires du gouvernement fédéral pourraient se traduire par l'abolition de 60 000 à 68 000 postes de la fonction publique au cours des prochaines années, estime un rapport d'un centre de recherches de gauche.

http://www.radio-canada.ca/nouvelles/Politique/2012/01/23/001-compressions-budget-ottawa-abolition-postes-fonction-publique.shtml