



# AJC-AJJ

ASSOCIATION OF JUSTICE COUNSEL  
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Press Clippings for the period of October 14-20, 2011  
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## English Media

October 20

### **Canadian salaries poised to increase in 2012**

Canadian salaries will increase by an average of 3.2% in 2012, according to information contained in new salary guides released by Robert Half International.

<http://www.benefitscanada.com/news/canadian-salaries-poised-to-increase-in-2012-21911>

### **ACOA cuts show attrition alone won't meet Tory targets**

The Conservative government's hope that attrition will ease the pain of government-wide budget cuts is proving to be wishful thinking.

About 100 public servants at the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency were told on Wednesday morning their jobs could soon be eliminated – the latest in an ongoing trickle of cuts as departments and agencies squeeze into tighter budgets.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/acoa-cuts-show-attrition-alone-wont-meet-tory-targets/article2207248/>

### **Anti-union disclosure bill is an attack on democracy, says Alberta labour leader**

Conservative Private Member's Bill to be debated in Parliament today (Thursday) is part of an organized campaign by the Harper government to silence all those who oppose its right-wing agenda, says the leader of Alberta's largest labour organization.

"Democracy is in danger when voices are silenced - and Bill C-317 is an attempt to weaken and silence the labour movement," says Gil McGowan, president of the Alberta Federation of Labour (AFL), which represents 145,000 workers.

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/862101/anti-union-disclosure-bill-is-an-attack-on-democracy-says-alberta-labour-leader>

## **Ottawa mayor says city is bracing for cuts to the public service**

The City of Ottawa is bracing for upcoming cuts to the federal civil service, saying it is preparing to help Canadian government employees who lose their jobs.

Speaking to reporters, Mayor Jim Watson said he has also scheduled meetings with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Conservative MPs for the Ottawa area to discuss the issue.

<http://www.ipolitics.ca/2011/10/20/ottawa-mayor-says-city-is-bracing-for-cuts-to-the-public-service/>

## **Clement trumpets private sector as government cuts loom**

Treasury Board president Tony Clement painted a picture of a robust private sector in Ottawa during a speech Thursday, avoiding any discussion of what impact a deficit-fighting federal government will have on the local economy.

<http://www.obj.ca/Local/2011-10-20/article-2781941/Clement-trumpets-private-sector-as-government-cuts-loom/1>

## **Omnibus Conservative Crime Bill**

Jamie Chaffe, president of the Canadian Association of Crown Counsel, told the committee that the country's criminal justice system is currently overburdened and prosecutors often have to withdraw charges, offer plea bargains or take other measures to ease caseloads for courts.

He warned that the proposed legislation will likely mean an increased caseload because of more trials and that more money is going to be needed to support that work.

"In the absence of significant, tangible new resources to support this new workload, these changes will exacerbate what is already a dangerous situation of work overload," he said.

<http://www.cbc.ca/sports/hockey/nhl/story/2011/10/20/pol-omnibus-crime-committee.html>

## **McCallum says Tories should delay government cuts**

The Canadian government should focus on jobs and postpone spending cuts until the economy stabilizes, former revenue minister John McCallum says.

<http://www.intelligencer.ca/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3339612>

## **The real trouble with Canadian justice**

**The legal mess in this country has many sources, but the fundamental one is the Criminal Code itself, writes Dan Gardner**

It is a fact not often recognized in discussions about the Conservative government and criminal justice policy that the government is right. Not about the nature of the problems. Or about the solutions. But still, it is right.

It's right that there are problems. Big ones.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/Column+real+trouble+with+Canadian+justice/5570686/story.html>

## **Modern Legislation for Not-For-Profit Corporations**

The Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (the Act) was proclaimed on October 17, 2011. The federal legislation governing the not-for-profit sector was last updated in 1919, the same year the Treaty of Versailles was signed. After a failed attempt to modernize the legislation in the 1970s and several hiccups since then (as a result of changes in government, prorogued Parliament, and a delay in proclamation of more than two years), the new Act will provide a much-needed modernization of corporate governance for the not-for-profit sector. The Act is closely modelled on the Canada Business Corporations Act (CBCA), which provides practitioners, the government and the courts with a familiar base from which to work.

<http://www.blakes.com/english/view.asp?ID=4984>

## **Prosecutors, Quebec bar criticize proposed mandatory minimums in crime bill**

Mandatory minimum sentences send a “terrible” message to society and undermine the Canadian judicial system, leaders of the Quebec Bar Association told parliamentarians on Thursday.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/Prosecutors+Quebec+criticize+proposed+mandatory+minimums+crime+bill/5582092/story.html>

<b>October 19</b>
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## **The law of unintended consequences will prevail**

Union negotiators are puppeteers of a difficult charade. They first must whip up their members, for months, then crush their expectations when the deal is made.

During negotiations, unions incite their members into a near fury against management, fanning the flames of entitlement. If they do less, they won't get the unanimity in their strike vote that they need to be taken seriously. If management gets even a hint employees won't strike or might accept a minimal offer, the union's bargaining power is destroyed.

<http://www.financialpost.com/news/unintended+consequences+will+prevail/5571399/story.html>

## **Op Ed: Mandatory minimums are a big lie Tory crime bill proves it**

The standard argument in favour of mandatory minimum sentences is that they deliver certainty. "If you do X, the minimum punishment you will receive is Y." It's simple, clear and predictable. And that makes mandatory minimum sentences a powerful deterrent against crime.

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/news/Mandatory+minimums/5571804/story.html>

## **Conservatives advised to adopt 'cloud' workers in public service sector**

The global director of research for the consulting giant advising the Conservatives on how to save money is calling for a public service of 'cloud' workers, free agents who don't work for departments and roam from project to project.

William Eggers, the global director for sector research at Deloitte, said a FedCloud workforce, modeled after cloud computing, could be years away but it's the kind of fundamental rethinking or "rebooting" of the public service that technology offers. Instead of information, the cloud would house people.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Conservatives+advised+adopt+cloud+workers+public+service+sector/5576846/story.html>

## **Conservative crime bill takes a 'flawed approach,' critics say**

Critics and proponents of the controversial omnibus Conservative crime bill traded barbs in the House of Commons Tuesday as the Tories sought to again fast-track debate on the proposed legislation that seeks, among other things, mandatory minimum sentences for child sex offences and drug trafficking and an end to pardons for serious violent and repeat offenders.

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2011/10/19/conservative-crime-bill-takes-a-flawed-approach-critics-say/>

## **Jack Harris becomes NDP justice critic**

Member of Parliament for St. John's East, Jack Harris, has been appointed Justice critic for the official opposition.

<http://www.thetelegram.com/News/Local/2011-10-19/article-2781133/Jack-Harris-becomes-NDP-justice-critic/1>

## **Don't repeat our criminal justice mistakes, U.S. policy experts warn Canada**

American criminal justice experts keeping a close eye on Canada warn that a tougher sentencing regime will prove costly to tax dollars, lives affected and public safety.

“We’d hate to see another country make the mistakes we had made 20 years ago with the mandatory minimum sentences, the harsher penalties for youth,” Tracy Velazquez, executive director of the Justice Policy Institute, told iPolitics in an interview from Washington, D.C. “We’ve seen the damage it has done to our country here, in terms of people’s lives and the money that was wasted. We thought it would be a neighbourly gesture to convey our concerns about the direction this bill will take Canada.”

<http://www.ipolitics.ca/2011/10/19/dont-repeat-our-criminal-justice-mistakes-u-s-policy-experts-warn/>

<b>October 18</b>
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## **Canada firm on budget cuts despite global risks**

Canada will press ahead with billions of dollars in cuts to wipe out its budget deficit, despite an uncertain world economic outlook, and may even reduce spending more deeply than already promised, the federal minister in charge of the program said Monday.

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/business/Canada+firm+budget+cuts+despite+global+risks/5565428/story.html>

## **Should Canada rethink its tough-on-crime stance?**

Politicians and justice experts in Texas say the Canadian government's tough-on-crime plan won't work, and that building more prisons won't bring down the crime rate.

Policy makers found that sending people to prison was costing 10 times as much as putting them on probation, on parole, or in treatment.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/yourcommunity/2011/10/should-canada-rethink-its-tough-on-crime-stance.html>

## **Mandatory minimum sentences are just plain wrong**

There are many reasons why people object to minimum sentences: they do nothing for victims, they do not deter offenders, they cost too much money and they displace power from judges, who give their reasons in open court, to Crown prosecutors, who make their decisions behind closed doors.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Mandatory+minimum+sentences+just+plain+wrong/5559444/story.html>

## **Crime bill splits witnesses at Commons committee**

A parliamentary committee studying the Conservative government's controversial omnibus crime bill heard conflicting testimony Tuesday about whether it will do more harm than good.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/story/2011/10/18/pol-crime-bill-committee.html>

## **B.C. Judges Guilty of Attempting to Gouge Taxpayers**

B.C. judges suing taxpayers for another massive pay raise should be ruled out of order.

The Provincial Court Judges' Association of British Columbia, on behalf of its 146 members, are technically suing the Attorney General for refusing to increase their pay and benefits. But make no mistake about it: everyday taxpayers are the true defendants in this suit.

<http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/41422>

## **No crisis of overcrowding in Canada's prison system: Corrections head**

The head of federal penitentiaries says there is no "crisis" of overcrowding in Canada's prison system, and Conservatives' proposed massive anti-crime bill won't dramatically increase costs.

But the estimates and optimistic view presented by Correctional Service of Canada commissioner Don Head appeared at odds with ministerial estimates of the costs already presented to the Commons justice committee and at odds with many other witnesses' warnings.

<http://www.thestar.com/news/article/1072055>

## **Canadian government shows impatience with labour laws**

The Conservative government is increasingly showing impatience with federal labor laws as it seeks to prevent strikes that it says would damage the economy.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/business/Canadian+government+shows+impatience+with+labor+laws/5568254/story.html>

<b>October 17</b>
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## **Don't waste billions on 'tough-on-crime'**

On the heels of their majority victory, the Conservative government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper pledged to pass an omnibus crime bill. Said bill is just the beginning of an ambitious war on crime that will radically change significant aspects of the country's Criminal Code and justice system. While some aspects of the bill may have merit, on balance, it's the wrong approach, at the wrong time, pursued for the wrong reasons.

<http://www.nationalpost.com/news/waste+billions+tough+crime/5559556/story.html>

## **Texas conservatives reject Harper's crime plan**

**'Been there; done that; didn't work,' say Texas crime-fighters**

Conservatives in the United States' toughest crime-fighting jurisdiction — Texas — say the Harper government's crime strategy won't work.

"You will spend billions and billions and billions on locking people up," says Judge John Creuzot of the Dallas County Court. "And there will come a point in time where the public says, 'Enough!' And you'll wind up letting them out."

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/story/2011/10/17/pol-vp-milewski-texas-crime.html?cmp=googleeditorspick>

## **Judges take B.C. to court to demand more money**

B.C.'s provincial court judges are suing Victoria for what they call the government's irrational and unreasonable refusal to increase their pay and benefits.

The Provincial Court Judges' Association of B.C. says in a lawsuit filed this week it shouldn't be affected by the government's "net zero" wage mandate because judges aren't public sector employees. That claim raised eyebrows inside some of B.C.'s most prominent unions, since judges are paid in public funds.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/british-columbia/bc-politics/judges-take-bc-to-court-to-demand-more-money/article2201356/>

**October 16**

## **Worker rights in peril?**

In the wake of the Wall Street protests and the crackdown on the Air Canada strike, Wendy Mesley discusses unions, pensions and the right to strike with an academic, a small business leader and a pollster.

[http://www.cbc.ca/video/#/News/TV\\_Shows/The\\_National/1233408557/ID=2154931982](http://www.cbc.ca/video/#/News/TV_Shows/The_National/1233408557/ID=2154931982)

**October 15**

## **Underfunded legal aid system costs taxpayers a mint, group says**

Half of British Columbians express "not much confidence" or "no confidence at all" in the courts and the Canadian Bar Association this week launched a campaign to bolster legal-aid funding to address the crisis.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Underfunded+legal+system+costs+taxpayers+mint+group+says/5555448/story.html>

October 14

## **Clement to cut \$4B from deficit**

Canada will push ahead with its plan to cut spending by at least \$4 billion annually and look for ways to "transform" public services, even though the government's deficit-reduction efforts are running ahead of schedule, Treasury Board president Tony Clement said Thursday.

The Finance department reported Thursday that Canada's budget deficit was \$33.4 billion in the year ended March 31, \$2.8 billion below the forecast in the fiscal plan released in June.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/Clement+from+deficit/5547914/story.html>

## **Public sector pension reforms could save taxpayers billions**

Public-sector unions have negotiated pensions that lift their retired members far above the poverty line. Their plans have been heavily funded by Canadian taxpayers and provide a seamless level of income support for public-sector employees, spanning their careers and continuing into their retirement until death.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/business/Public+sector+pension+reforms+could+save+taxpayers+billions/5549603/story.html>

## **Veterans Affairs faces more than \$226-million in cuts**

Veterans Affairs Canada plans to cut more than \$226-million from its budget in the next two years in what's expected to be the first wave of reductions in the department, according federal documents.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/veterans-affairs-faces-more-than-226-million-in-cuts/article2201811/>