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Press Clippings for the period of October 28 – November 3, 2011  
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### English Media

November 3

#### **Cost of settling claims against federal government rises 30 per cent**

The cost of settling claims against the federal government rose more than 30 per cent during the past year, according to documents tabled in the House of Commons Thursday.

Settling lawsuits and claims against the federal government cost Canadians \$654 million in 2010/11 and another \$22.3 million in ex gratia payments, according to 2011 Public Accounts tabled in the House of Commons Thursday.

Court judgments against the government added another \$11 million to that tab for a total of \$687.3 million.

<http://www.ipolitics.ca/2011/11/03/cost-of-settling-claims-against-the-federal-government-rises-30-per-cent/>

#### **B.C. judges in showdown over pay raises**

British Columbia's 146 provincial court judges are suing the provincial government for refusing to increase their pay and benefits in accordance with the 2010 *Judges Compensation Commission* final report.

The Provincial Court Judges Association, in an Oct. 12 petition to the Supreme Court of British Columbia, said the government's rejection of the report's recommendations was unreasonable and in bad faith.

<http://www.lawyersweekly.ca/index.php?section=article&volume=31&number=25&article=5>

## **Tories will use anti-union tactics to slash spending: union leader**

Federal employees are facing the "fight of their lives" and should brace for the Conservatives to use anti-union tactics to reach their spending reduction targets, warns the leader of one of the largest public service unions.

The Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada begins its annual meeting in Ottawa Friday with an ambitious plan to mobilize its 55,000 members against cutting public services, including a contentious resolution to ally with the labour movement and join the Canadian Labour Congress.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/Tories+will+anti+union+tactics+slash+spending+union+leader/5654257/story.html>

## **Opinion: An incoherent approach to justice**

If there's one thing from which the federal Conservatives' crime and justice agenda could benefit, it's consistency. When taken together, the omnibus crime bill and the bill to abolish the long-gun registry paint the perfect illustration of incoherence.

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/Opinion+incoherent+approach+justice/5654572/story.html>

## **Editorial: Crime bill bad news for B.C.**

The federal Conservatives have so far failed to heed warnings that their massive crime bill will cost taxpayers billions while failing to make communities safer.

Perhaps they will pay more attention to the growing concerns of provincial governments about the cost of building and running more prisons to house offenders who could have been fined, supervised in the community or sentenced to shorter terms.

<http://www.timescolonist.com/news/Editorial+Crime+bill+news/5653930/story.html>

<b>November 2</b>
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## **PIPSC braced for fiery debate over joining Canadian Labour Congress**

A federal public service union, that historically has prided itself for operating outside the labour movement, is poised for a highly-divisive vote over a proposal to join the Canadian Labour Congress, to help fight what is perceived as an attack on unions and public services by the Conservative government.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/PIPSC+braced+fiery+debate+over+joining+Canadian+Labour+Congress/5647806/story.html>

## **Coalition formed to fight federal cuts**

The mayor of Charlottetown has formed a coalition to fight against cuts to the federal civil service in the city.

As cuts to the Department of Veterans Affairs and other federal departments loom, Charlottetown Mayor Clifford Lee and key union and business players met for the first time Tuesday night at an invite-only meeting at City Hall to discuss how to convince the federal government to go easy on P.E.I. when it comes time to make cuts.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/story/2011/11/02/pei-mayor-federal-cuts-584.html>

## **Quebec, Ontario sound alarm over costs of federal crime bill**

Canada's two largest provinces appear headed for a major showdown with Stephen Harper's Conservatives over the cost and content of new federal crime legislation.

If the federal Conservatives want to pass legislation they will have to pay for it, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty said Tuesday.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/news/Quebec+Ontario+sound+alarm+over+costs+federal+crime+bill/5643487/story.html>

<b>November 1</b>
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## **Defined pension plans threatened by lower returns**

Among the casualties of the recent financial crisis and the Great Recession that followed in its wake are the retirement plans of millions of baby boomers. Most vulnerable are people nearing retirement who lack the security provided by defined

<http://www.vancouversun.com/business/Defined+pension+plans+threatened+lower+returns/5641322/story.html>

## **Canadian Foundation for Labour Rights launches new website**

The Canadian Foundation for Labour Rights (CFLR) today launched a new website to assist with its primary objective to create greater public awareness and understanding of labour rights as a key critical component of human rights.

The website – [www.labourrights.ca](http://www.labourrights.ca) – was originally built in 2006 by the National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE) as an online tool for its ongoing *Labour Rights are Human Rights* campaign. The site has been totally revamped and will now be used to promote the work of the CFLR.

<http://www.nupge.ca/content/4594/canadian-foundation-labour-rights-launches-new-website>

October 31

## **B.C. court system girds for riot-related overload**

Dozens of court cases have been abandoned in B.C. this year because of lengthy delays. Samiran Lakshman, president of the B.C. Crown Counsel Association, said adding 60 – and potentially hundreds more – cases to the docket won't help.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/british-columbia/vancouver-police-recommend-charges-against-60-alleged-rioters/article2220011/>

## **Public sector: Arbitration isn't working**

Last week an arbitrator awarded a retroactive 7.6 per cent pay increase to 230 employees of Windsor Regional Hospital. That decision will add about \$1 million to the annual payroll, which has hospital CEO David Musyj wondering where he'll find the money.

<http://www.windsorstar.com/business/Public+sector/5631700/story.html>

## **Public sector wage freeze a challenge**

Public sector unions banking that a minority government will cave to demands for wage increases have a zero chance of success, a senior government official says.

“None of the three parties ran on funding increases,” the official said. “The government will take the position that’s consistent with the policy to date.”

In other words, the Liberals will stick to their public sector wage freeze, even if arbitrators have made awards above zero.

<http://cnews.canoe.ca/CNEWS/Politics/2011/10/30/18904486.html>

October 29

## **Pension envy grows as boomers retire**

There were several signs this week that pension envy - or pension apartheid - is alive and well in Canada and likely to intensify as Baby Boomers start retiring, or try to retire.

The great divide is between the lucky 20% in cushy public-sector defined-benefit pensions and the rest hoping to retire on fluctuating RRSPs or defined-contribution pensions.

<http://www.timescolonist.com/business/Pension+grows+boomers+retire/5627580/story.html>

## **Lawyers plan rallies over cuts in legal aid**

B.C. defence lawyers will protest cuts to legal aid at rallies throughout the province next month.

"After 20 years of severe cutbacks and underfunding, legal aid lawyers are saying 'No more' and screaming 'Restore,' " Bentley Doyle, communications director for the Trial Lawyers Association of B.C., said this week. "The government must fund legal aid properly to provide legal support to citizens in need of assistance."

<http://www.timescolonist.com/Lawyers+plan+rallies+over+cuts+legal/5627542/story.html>

<b>October 28</b>
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## **Public-sector pensions in big trouble — and taxpayers are on the hook**

Canada's underfunded public-sector employee pension funds have taken an estimated \$73 billion hit this year thanks to continuing stock market declines. Add this to the stock market meltdown of 2008 and a consensus of opinion that investment returns will never compare to those in the 1980s and 1990s and you have a pension-deficit tsunami that is now breaking on our shores.

Should you care? If you work in the public sector and are relying on your pension payments in the future the answer is yes. Government debt relief in European countries shows us that government-sponsored pensions are one of the first targets in austerity programs.

<http://www.thespec.com/opinion/columns/article/616482--public-sector-pensions-in-big-trouble-and-taxpayers-are-on-the-hook>

## **Battle rages over Ohio's union-limiting law**

On Nov. 8, voters in the Rust-Belt state will decide whether to keep a new law passed by the Republican-dominated legislature that all but eliminates collective bargaining in the public sector.

Facing an \$8-billion (U.S.) budget deficit and as much as \$166-billion in unfunded liabilities for public pension and health-care benefits, Ohio went even farther than Wisconsin this year in rolling back hard-won gains for the state's 360,000 unionized public-sector workers – including teachers, firefighters and police officers.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/battle-rages-over-ohios-union-limiting-law/article2218168/>

## **Canada urged to end 'pension apartheid'**

Every Canadian needs \$2-million in RRSP contribution room to achieve parity with public-sector defined benefit pension plans, the C.D. Howe Institute says.

As things stand, the system punishes those with defined-contribution pensions in the private sector and those who rely on what little RRSP room is granted them, says James Pierlot, principal with Toronto-based Pierlot Pension Law.

<http://business.financialpost.com/2011/10/28/canada-urged-to-end-pension-apartheid/>

## **Hiring students amid job cuts hypocritical: public service union**

Public service union members were shocked after federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty summoned university students to public service amid cuts to government spending likely to create waves of layoffs.

[http://centretownnewsonline.ca/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=2653&Itemid=94](http://centretownnewsonline.ca/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2653&Itemid=94)

## **Tax Rules Prevent Many Canadians from Saving Enough for Retirement**

Federal tax rules are preventing many Canadians – especially in the private sector – from saving enough for retirement, according to a report released today by the C.D. Howe Institute. Workers relying on RRSPs cannot accumulate even half the retirement wealth of career members of defined-benefit (DB) pension plans, says the report, “Legal for Life: Why Canadians Need a Lifetime Retirement Saving Limit,” by James Pierlot with Faisal Siddiqi.

<http://www.cdhowe.org/tax-rules-prevent-many-canadians-from-saving-enough-for-retirement-c-d-howe-institute/15220>

Full Report: [http://www.cdhowe.org/pdf/commentary\\_336.pdf](http://www.cdhowe.org/pdf/commentary_336.pdf)

# Médias francophones

31 Octobre

## **Le droit de grève des fonctionnaires remis en cause**

Réputé sacré, le droit de grève des employés de la fonction publique est relativement récent dans l'histoire des relations de travail. Des États américains ont commencé à s'y attaquer, confrontés à d'énormes déficits. Une remise en question similaire pourrait se produire au Québec, selon un expert.

<http://www.canoe.com/cgi-bin/imprimer.cgi?id=1055342>