



Association of Justice Counsel Association des Juristes de Justice

1545 av. Carling Ave., #406, Ottawa, ON Canada K1Z 8P9

TEL: 613-798-9900/866-218-3310

FAX: 613-564-0606

www.ajc-ajj.com

admin@ajc-ajj.com

Press Clippings for the period of September 16-22, 2011
Revue de presse pour la période du 16 au 22 septembre 2011

English Media

September 22

Tories' new crime bill not unlike U.S. model

Here's what I learned from reading the government's new crime bill: It is best to avoid a career as either a marijuana farmer or a politician.

The Conservatives are bringing in stiff new penalties for anyone caught growing weed, which will increase our prison population without doing anything to make us safer.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/news/Tories+crime+bill+unlike+model/5440328/story.html>

New crime bill fails most tests

The Conservative government's giant crime bill fails on at least three counts. First, there is no evidence the measures will actually increase public safety.

Second, the government has not revealed the significant extra costs to taxpayers, or budgeted for them.

And third, the way the legislation is being introduced violates basic principles of democracy and insults MPs of all parties.

<http://www.timescolonist.com/news/crime+bill+fails+most+tests/5441197/story.html>

Quebec reaches deal with crown prosecutors

Includes improvements to working conditions

An agreement in principle to improve the working conditions of Quebec's 450 crown attorneys "would make it easier" to recruit prosecutors for the province's permanent anti-corruption unit, Justice Minister Jean-Marc Fournier said Wednesday.

The prosecutors and more than 1,000 other government lawyers were legislated back to work in February after they went on strike for two weeks to press their demands for a 22-per-cent pay hike and the hiring of an additional 200 lawyers.

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/Quebec+reaches+deal+with+crown+prosecutors/5439452/story.html>

September 21

Back-to-work bills risky route: experts

Ottawa may be celebrating that its back-to-work legislation ratcheted up pressure on Air Canada to reach a deal with its flight attendants. But industrial relations experts Tuesday universally panned the decision to intervene in the talks, saying it not only undermines the collective-bargaining process but is bad policy for both management and the unions.

"Back-to-work legislation destroys bargaining in the future," said Robert Hebdon, a professor at the Desautels Faculty of Management at McGill University who specializes in industrial relations.

<http://www.financialpost.com/news/Back+work+bills+risky+route+experts/5433120/story.html>

Full Report: http://www.cdhowe.org/pdf/commentary_304.pdf

Unions are just doing their jobs

Don't blame the unions. And I write as someone with considerable experience in union decertification. They are just doing their jobs, getting as much money as possible for their members in return for doing as little work as possible. Instead, blame spineless politicians and an historically oblivious public, incognizant to public servants' increasing demands on their pocket books.

<http://www.financialpost.com/news/Unions+just+doing+their+jobs/5433150/story.html>

Opposition vows to fight Tories' catch-all crime bill

A sweeping omnibus crime bill tabled Tuesday that seeks to crack down on young offenders, drug dealers, sexual predators and Canadians in foreign prisons is under fire from critics - who argue it's a waste of time and money since crime rates are on the wane in Canada.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/news/Opposition+vows+fight+Tories+catch+crime+bill/5434899/story.html>

Executing mandate on crime

Canada's streets and communities are indeed safer places when murderers, sexual predators, human smugglers, terrorists and violent young offenders are incarcerated.

And if the Conservatives' omnibus crime-fighting legislation - tabled Tuesday as the Safer Streets and Communities Act by Justice Minister Rob Nicholson - targeted only criminals convicted of the most heinous acts, there might not be much opposition from the opposition.

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/news/Executing+mandate+crime/5434036/story.html>

Federal government rollback of RCMP wage increases breached Charter right of Mounties to freedom of association, judge rules

A Federal Court of Canada judge has ruled that the federal government breached the freedom of association of employees under s.2(d) of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms when it unilaterally rolled back RCMP wage increases without engaging in a long-established consultation process involving a Pay Council which included representatives of RCMP officers.

http://www.lancasterhouse.com/about/headlines_sept15.asp

[Federal Court of Canada's decision](#)

Tories unveil crime bill, but not the costs

Sweeping criminal reform legislation introduced in the House of Commons on Tuesday would require renovating half of Canada's 57 federal penitentiaries and require the Correctional Service of Canada to hire about 3,000 employees to handle an influx of more than 4,000 new inmates as a result of the tougher sentencing laws.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Tories+unveil+crime+bill+costs/5434318/story.html>

Costly crime bill sure to intensify justice system's problems

The majority Conservative government unveiled sweeping new laws Tuesday to make teenage troublemakers, pot growers and assorted bad guys quiver and quake.

With the Safe Streets and Communities Act, the Tories have bundled together nine supposed crime-fighting initiatives they couldn't get passed with a minority and have vowed to ram the omnibus bill through Parliament.

Someone forgot to tell them the War on Drugs has failed.

The Canadian Bar Association slammed the anachronistic package, saying the legislation runs contrary to what is known to lead to a safer society.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/sports/Costly+crime+bill+sure+intensify+justice+system+problems/5434287/story.html>

Pension ruling orders hybrid for new hires at Air Canada

A pension decision at Air Canada could have wider-reaching implications as more companies and governments move to reduce their liabilities.

Arbitrator Kevin Burkett was tasked with resolving a dispute between the airline and its customer service agents over what type of pension new employees would get.

In a ruling issued Friday, Burkett sided with the Canadian Auto Workers union, which represents the agents, over Air Canada, choosing a hybrid pension plan — where new hires would have half their pension in a defined benefit plan and half in a defined contribution plan.

<http://www.moneyville.ca/article/1057600--pension-ruling-orders-hybrid-for-new-hires-at-air-canada>

September 20

Tories table their criminal-reform legislation

The Harper government tabled sweeping criminal-reform legislation Tuesday, which it says will make Canadian streets safer.

The omnibus crime bill, dubbed the Safe Streets and Communities Act, comprises nine individual justice bills, many of which were introduced in the previous parliamentary session but which the then-minority Tory government could not push through.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/news/Tories+table+their+criminal+reform+legislation/5430334/story.html>

Flaherty defends hiring of downsizing consultant at \$90,000 a day

The Harper government defended paying almost \$90,000 a day to a big consulting firm for advice on how to save money, saying it can't do the job properly by itself.

"The fact is that we feel we need to have outside advice," Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said Tuesday.

"It isn't good, quite frankly, for a government to just look at itself. There's a lot of expertise in Canada on the subject of public-sector productivity, for example, and we look forward to having the advice of, in this case, Deloitte's."

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/canada/breakingnews/harper-govt-hires-cuts-consultant-at-90000-a-day-to-trim-federal-spending-130178718.html>

Experts offer downsizing advice to uneasy federal managers

You wouldn't call it fear, exactly. More like a sense of foreboding. That was the mood Tuesday morning in an upstairs room of the National Arts Centre, where more than 200 federal government managers gathered to hear a marketing pitch by Ottawa-based Human Resource Systems Group — one of dozens of downsizing specialists expected to compete for government business this autumn.

Nearly 70 federal departments and agencies have been directed to produce plans by March 31 for trimming their annual budgets by five per cent and 10 per cent. The government will use this work to cut another \$4 billion per year from federal spending by fiscal 2014 (ending March 31).

Clearly, staff cuts are coming for the civil service — an organization that has known nothing but rapid growth since 1998.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/business/Experts+offer+downsizing+advice+uneasy+federal+managers/5432393/story.html>

September 19

Union leaders brace for coming cuts to public service and federal programs

As the country's civil service searches for ways to combat the billions in cuts coming to federal programs, public sector union leaders met in Moncton Monday to talk strategy.

Public Service Alliance of Canada president John Gordon said the goal of the union "summit" was to get the country's 18 public-sector unions focused on "the real agenda."



Association of Justice Counsel president Marco Mendicino after a press conference held by public sector unions in Moncton, N.B., Monday, calling for a reversal of federal plans to trim \$4 billion-a-year in program spending by 2014-15.

As the Conservatives prepare to introduce an omnibus crime bill covering a host of measures they couldn't get through the House as a minority government, Association of Justice Counsel president Marco Mendicino said cuts influencing his membership point to an inconsistency in the government's tough-on-crime rhetoric.

"We're asking federal prosecutors, federal government workers, to do more," Mendicino said. "How do we do that if, at the same time, we're taking away resources?"

<http://www.ipolitics.ca/2011/09/19/union-leaders-meet-to-brace-for-coming-cuts/>

Public sector unions launch lobby effort

Eighteen federal public service unions have signed a "partnership with Canadians", asking government to reverse plans to cut public services and jobs.

The unions, representing hundreds of thousands of public sector employees, met in Moncton, New Brunswick, as part of their National Joint Council summit.

<http://ca.news.yahoo.com/public-sector-unions-launch-lobby-effort-210829642.html>

Federal unions present united front

Leaders of 18 unions representing hundreds of thousands of Canada's public-sector employees are calling on the federal government to reverse plans to cut public services and jobs Canadians depend on across the country.

<http://www.canadaeast.com/rss/article/1441297>

September 16

Charges laid in assault of B.C. Crown prosecutor

Just 24 hours after a Crown prosecutor was punched in the face outside the Prince George courthouse, five charges have been laid against his alleged attacker.

The B.C. criminal justice branch announced Friday that a special prosecutor has approved charges against Adrien Real Bergeron.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/british-columbia/charges-laid-in-assault-of-bc-crown-prosecutor/article2168922/>

Courthouse assault was preventable, union says

A vicious attack on a Crown prosecutor could have been prevented if the province had installed search gates at major B.C. courthouses, the union representing sheriffs says.

A veteran Crown lawyer was heading into the Prince George law courts Thursday morning when he was suddenly punched in the face. The prosecutor crumpled to the ground and was transported to hospital. His alleged assailant was taken into custody on charges including aggravated assault.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/british-columbia/courthouse-assault-was-preventable-union-says/article2167335/>

Survey released on Labour Day reveals how Canadians view unions

The survey, completed in July, found a majority of Canadians oppose union dues funding political attack ads. A majority also wants more financial transparency of union funds.

<http://www.digitaljournal.com/article/311146>

Full report: http://www.labourwatch.com/docs/research/Nanos-State_of_the_Unions_2011.pdf

Médias francophones

22 septembre

Projet de centralisation des services informatiques fédéraux

Gary Corbett est « atterré » par les contradictions

Le gouvernement fédéral a annoncé en août dernier un projet visant à regrouper tous les services de technologie de l'information au sein d'une même agence, appelée Services partagés, sans avoir complété de plan d'activités, de ressources humaines et même un budget, déplore un syndicat de fonctionnaires fédéraux.

<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/le-droit/actualites/fonction-publique/201109/21/01-4450012-gary-corbett-est-atterre-par-les-contradictions.php>

Justice à l'aveugle

Porte-voix du gouvernement fédéral, le sénateur Pierre-Hugues Boisvenu annonçait cette semaine «une réforme du Code criminel». Dissipons un malentendu. Intitulé «Loi sur la sécurité des rues et des communautés», le projet de loi n'a rien d'une authentique réforme, c'est-à-dire une révision en profondeur des règles du jeu. Il s'agit plutôt d'un bricolage hétéroclite de mesures répressives.

<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/place-publique/opinions/201109/22/01-4450244-justice-a-laveugle.php>

Compressions fédérales - Bar ouvert

La pratique du «bar ouvert» au secteur privé donne dans l'in vraisemblable, alors que le gouvernement Harper verse 20 millions à la firme de consultation financière Deloitte pour qu'il lui dicte son mode de compressions, le tout, au mépris total de la fonction publique.

<http://www.ledevoir.com/politique/canada/331921/compressions-federales-bar-ouvert>

21 septembre

En retard d'une révolution

Ce gouvernement veut nous faire croire qu'on aidera les victimes en emprisonnant les voleurs de bicyclettes.

Si la loi présentée hier est adoptée, un juge ne pourrait plus accorder de peine avec sursis pour un vol dans un cabanon, quelles que soient les circonstances.

http://www.cyberpresse.ca/chroniqueurs/yves-boisvert/201109/21/01-4449721-en-retard-dune-revolution.php?utm_categorieinterne=traffidriviers&utm_contenuinterne=cyberpresse_B40_chroniqueurs_373561_accueil_POS1

Québec et les procureurs de la Couronne ont conclu un accord de principe

Les procureurs de la Couronne et le gouvernement du Québec enterrent la hache de guerre. Les deux parties ont en effet conclu aujourd'hui une entente de principe pour un nouveau contrat de travail.

Elles étaient retournées à la table de négociation à la fin du mois d'août après plusieurs tentatives avortées au printemps.

L'Association des procureurs aux poursuites criminelles et pénales n'a pas fourni de détails sur l'accord, mais elle a confié qu'il proposait des solutions «concrètes et innovatrices» aux problèmes identifiés par ses membres.

<http://www.ledevoir.com/politique/quebec/331865/quebec-et-les-procureurs-de-la-couronne-ont-conclu-un-accord-de-principe>

Québec s'entend avec les procureurs de la Couronne

Le gouvernement du Québec a conclu une entente de principe avec les 450 procureurs de la Couronne mercredi.

L'Association des procureurs aux poursuites criminelles et pénales (APPCP) rencontrera ses membres d'ici le 1er octobre et leur recommandera d'accepter l'offre proposée par Québec.

<http://tvanouvelles.ca/lcn/infos/national/archives/2011/09/20110921-121955.html>

20 septembre

Les consultants coûtent 90 000 \$ par jour aux contribuables

Le gouvernement Harper verse quotidiennement 90 000 \$ à une firme de consultants afin de se faire suggérer des façons d'économiser de l'argent.

Un contrat d'une valeur de 20 millions de dollars a ainsi été octroyé à la firme Deloitte pour que ses employés puissent aider les hauts fonctionnaires à trouver des façon d'atteindre l'équilibre budgétaire d'ici 2014.

http://www.cyberpresse.ca/actualites/quebec-canada/politique-quebecoise/201109/20/01-4449408-les-consultants-coutent-90-000-par-jour-aux-contribuables.php?utm_categorieinterne=traffidriviers&utm_contenuinterne=cyberpresse_B4_manchettes_231_accueil_POS4

Les syndicats s'unissent contre les compressions

Les syndicats de la fonction publique fédérale ont confirmé, hier, la mise sur pied d'un front commun sans précédent pour lutter contre la volonté du gouvernement Harper, qui entend sabrer 11 milliards \$ dans les budgets des ministères au cours des quatre prochaines années, dans le cadre d'un examen stratégique et fonctionnel.

<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/le-droit/actualites/fonction-publique/201109/19/01-4449275-les-syndicats-sunissent-contre-les-compressions.php>

19 septembre

Les fonctionnaires fédéraux dénoncent les compressions budgétaires

Les syndicats des employés de la fonction publique fédérale, réunis à Moncton lundi, lancent une campagne pour convaincre Ottawa de renoncer à sabrer leurs rangs.

Le gouvernement fédéral compte réduire ses dépenses de 4 milliards de dollars et les syndicats sont très inquiets des effets de cette mesure sur la fonction publique.

<http://www.radio-canada.ca/regions/atlantique/2011/09/19/005-campagne-syndicats-fonction-publique.shtml>

Régimes de retraite chez Air Canada: un arbitre pourrait avoir pavé la voie

La décision rendue récemment par un arbitre fédéral a peut-être ouvert la voie à une entente relativement à la question du régime de retraite chez Air Canada, mais elle ne représente pas nécessairement une solution pour d'autres compagnies canadiennes, a affirmé lundi un représentant syndical.

<http://lapresseaffaires.cyberpresse.ca/economie/transports/201109/19/01-4449223-regimes-de-retraite-chez-air-canada-un-arbitre-pourrait-avoir-pave-la-voie.php>