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ASSOCIATION OF JUSTICE COUNSEL
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Press Clippings for the period of January 25-31, 2013
Revue de presse pour la période du 25 au 31 janvier 2013

English Media

What do 'right-to-work' laws do to a state's economy?

The most significant policy fight of the week is arguably taking place in Michigan, where Republican lawmakers are pushing through a "right-to-work" bill that would weaken labor unions in one of the country's most heavily unionized states. President Obama traveled to Michigan today and criticized the bill, which Gov. Rick Snyder (R) has yet to sign.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2012/12/10/how-right-to-work-laws-could-reshape-michigans-economy/>

Stephen Harper's Assault on Democracy

Last November, hundreds of delegates from across Canada gathered in Ottawa for the 93rd Annual General Meeting of the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada (PIPSC). Discussions focused on the government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's ongoing cuts to programs and services that continue to jeopardize the security and well-being of Canadians and cause needless anxiety among affected public service employees and their families, many of them in the National Capital Region.

<http://www.ottawalife.com/2013/01/stephen-harpers-assault-on-democracy/>

January 27, 2013

Attacks on labour nothing new

Despite MPP Randy Hillier's claim of championing human rights by freeing the poor coerced union members from having to pay dues or belong to the union, he and his regressive Conservative party's real agenda is to weaken and dismantle the unions by cutting off their source of revenue.

<http://www.windsorstar.com/business/Attacks+labour+nothing/7876225/story.html>

January 28, 2013

Opinion: It's a matter of justice

At the request of the B.C. Minister of Justice and Attorney General, last August, Geoffrey Cowper produced a report entitled A Criminal Justice System for the 21st Century.

The report stated its objective as: "to identify how the government, judiciary, legal profession, police and others can work together to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the provincial justice system".

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Opinion+matter+justice/7884916/story.html>

[Full Report](#)

January 30, 2013

Law society must end reform stalemate

The B.C. Law Society should use its mandate to represent the public and prod stakeholders into addressing the crisis in the legal system.

Over the last two years, everyone from judges and the bar to the government and the public, has agreed there are broad and deep systemic ailments that raise serious concerns about access to justice in the province.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/news/society+must+reform+stalemate/7891675/story.html>

January 31, 2013

Union membership in U.S. falls to lowest percentage in 76 years

The percentage of workers belonging to unions tumbled to 11.3 per cent in 2012, the lowest percentage in 76 years, led by dramatic declines in states where lawmakers have put organized labour in the political crosshairs, government figures showed on Jan. 23.

The total number of union members fell by nearly 400,000, or 0.5 percentage points, from 11.8 per cent of the workforce in 2011, the United States Department of Labor report on union membership said. The rate of 11.3 per cent of the workforce was the lowest since 1936, when Franklin Roosevelt was president.

<http://www.labour-reporter.com/articleview/17196-union-membership-in-us-falls-to-lowest-percentage-in-76-years>