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ASSOCIATION OF JUSTICE COUNSEL
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English Media

February 5, 2013

B.C. Bar Association floats justice reform ideas for coming provincial election

British Columbia's justice system is in crisis and the issue must be pushed to the top of the agenda for the spring election campaign, says a national organization representing the legal community.

The B.C. branch of the Canadian Bar Association released a campaign platform document Tuesday, saying the governing Liberals and the Opposition New Democrats must consider changes before voters head to the polls in May.

<http://www.globaltvc.com/bc+bar+association+floats+justice+reform+ideas+for+coming+provincial+election/6442802901/story.html>

[An Agenda for Justice \(Full document\)](#)

Employers must accommodate staff's child-care requests, federal court rules

Employers who once believed family matters have no business in the workplace will have to start rethinking their position if they hope to stay on the right side of Canada's evolving employment laws, experts suggested Tuesday.

A landmark federal court decision that states workplaces are obliged to accommodate reasonable childcare-related requests from their employees signals significant changes ahead for the country's employment law landscape, lawyers said.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/life/Employers+must+accommodate+staff+child+care+requests+federal+court+rules/7920878/story.html>

Ottawa reveals tough-on-crime agenda

New measures are short on details, recycle old crime and punishment agenda, critics say

Tough new penalties for child sex offences and a bill of rights for victims are among the latest tough-on-crime measures the federal government is poised to roll out over the coming year, Justice Minister Rob Nicholson revealed Monday in an announcement the opposition argued was short on detail and long on rhetoric.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/news/Ottawa+reveals+tough+crime+agenda/7918799/story.html>

Unions ignore the Rand formula

Some people would have time to practise what they preach, if they did not spend every waking hour preaching, as The Dallas Morning News wrote in 1891.

Such is the case when union leaders preach, but don't practise, the so-called "Rand formula." Its namesake, Justice Ivan Rand, crafted it in his arbitration of the 1946 Ford Motors strike in Windsor. It imposes compulsory union dues on all employees in a unionized workplace, which labour leaders have turned into a \$4-billion-a-year industry.

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/02/05/unions-ignore-the-rand-formula/>

February 6, 2013

The economic cost of mental illness

Only a decade ago, to suggest mental health was a critical issue for Canadian businesses would have seemed ludicrous. That sentiment seems to be rapidly waning. With its announcement earlier this month of a national standard to help businesses put in place policies that improve employees' psychological health, Ottawa highlighted what many had long suspected: There are far too many Canadians with mental illness for the business community to ignore them.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/economic+cost+mental+illness/7924839/story.html>

February 7, 2013

SFL staffer blames union politics

Accusing her union of failing to represent her in a harassment complaint against the president of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour, Cara Banks says she felt caught in the middle of union politics.

Testifying Wednesday before a Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board hearing, Banks, executive assistant to SFL president Larry Hubich, said when she realized her union wouldn't pursue her harassment complaint, "I said, oh my God, CUPE national is going to throw me under the bus." CUPE is the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the bargaining agent for the SFL's employees.

<http://www.leaderpost.com/news/staffer+blames+union+politics/7929910/story.html>

Why union survival isn't just about the money

Union coverage has dwindled in Canada over the past two decades and the wage benefits of belonging to a union diminished -- but unionized workers still tend to earn a good deal more than ones who aren't.

People who are covered by a collective agreement earn higher wages than employees who aren't, a Conference Board of Canada report out Thursday says. It finds that unionized workers still make almost 8 per cent, on average, more than people who don't belong to a union (after adjusting for factors like occupation and education).

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/economy/economy-lab/why-union-survival-isnt-just-about-the-money/article8335831/>

Tired of being the butt of jokes, Ontario lawyers plan image overhaul

What do you call 18,000 determined lawyers with a generous war chest?

Answer: the Ontario Bar Association, which, fed up with being the butt of negative jokes about their profession, is launching a public-relations campaign on Thursday. The object: to persuade people that, far from their time-worn image as greedy and over-aggressive manipulators, lawyers are actually problem-solvers, pillars of their communities and an indispensable cog in a healthy democracy.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/ontario-ad-campaign-makes-a-case-for-why-you-should-love-your-lawyer/article8321520/?cmpid=rss1>

Médias francophones

4 février 2013

Ordre public: Ottawa poursuit sur sa lancée

Accélérer le processus d'extradition, sévir davantage contre les pédophiles, adopter une «charte des droits des victimes», etc. Le ministre de la Justice, Rob Nicholson, a présenté à Toronto lundi les grandes lignes des priorités du gouvernement Harper en matière de justice criminelle pour l'année 2013.

<http://www.lapresse.ca/actualites/quebec-canada/politique-canadienne/201302/04/01-4618117-ordre-public-ottawa-poursuit-sur-sa-lancee.php>

Crimes sexuels sur des enfants: une loi sera déposée pour durcir les peines

Le gouvernement Harper promet de présenter une loi pour durcir davantage les peines contre les prédateurs sexuels, a fait savoir lundi le ministre de la Justice, Rob Nicholson, en présentant les prochaines étapes de son plan pour réduire la criminalité au pays.

<http://www.ledevoir.com/politique/canada/370022/une-loi-sera-deposee-pour-durcir-les-peines-des-crimes-sexuels-sur-des-enfants>

7 février 2013

Le SCFP s'organise pour protéger les droits des travailleurs

Quelque 1000 délégués du Syndicat canadien de la fonction publique (SCFP) de partout au pays sont réunis cette semaine, à Ottawa, pour combattre ce qu'ils considèrent comme des attaques gouvernementales contre les mouvements syndicaux.

<http://www.radio-canada.ca/regions/ottawa/2013/02/07/005-scfp-conference-droits.shtml>