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Press Clippings for the period of April 1-7, 2011
Revue de presse pour la période du 1^{er} au 7 avril 2011

English Media

April 7

Matt Gurney: N.B. Crown prosecutor soft on crime, hard on veterans

Last year, a young man torched the Royal Canadian Legion Hall in the small New Brunswick town of Oromocto. Wayne Heighton, 18, pleaded guilty last week to a reduced charge of mischief. In exchange, the Crown prosecutor withdrew charges of arson. He'll face sentencing in June.

<http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2011/04/07/matt-gurney-n-b-crown-prosecutor-soft-on-crime-hard-on-veterans/>

NDP pledge aims to stamp out gang-related crime at its source

NDP Leader Jack Layton takes umbrage at Conservative suggestions that his approach to justice is soft on crime.

The problem with the Conservative approach is that it seems to have only one dimension to it – “which is to build more and more prisons,” Mr. Layton said. “Mr. Harper seems to think preventing crime is being soft on crime. That’s ridiculous.”

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/ottawa-notebook/ndp-pledge-aims-to-stamp-out-gang-related-crime-at-its-source/article1974770/>

Ottawa court interpreters looking to unionize

Freelance court interpreters in the Ottawa area, many of whom are currently boycotting new assignments to voice their displeasure over wages that have stagnated over the past decade, are

in the midst of holding discussions with the oldest and one of the largest media unions in Canada in a bid to strengthen their hand in negotiations with the Ontario government.

<http://www.lawyersweekly.ca/index.php?section=article&volume=30&number=45&article=1>

April 6

Crime & Punishment

Crime has been a significant issue in this federal election. But many people who work in the justice system say that the political parties aren't talking about the most pressing issues facing the justice system. Judges, prosecutors and defence attorneys alike often say that the system is becoming dysfunctional because of under-funding and that the political focus on prisons and sentencing isn't doing anything to address the larger problems. We talk to to Beverley McLachlin, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada.

<http://www.cbc.ca/thecurrent/episode/2011/04/06/crime-punishment/>

Crime & Punishment - Politicians

In our last half hour, we heard from people directly involved in Canada's justice system ... and they had a lot to say about how to make it run better. So now it's time to hear from the people who would like to be in charge of doing that after the election. Rob Nicholson was Canada's Minister of Justice when the election was called. He's running for re-election as a Conservative candidate and he was in his riding of Niagara Falls this morning. Dominic LeBlanc has been the Liberal Party's Justice Critic. He's running for re-election in Beauséjour and he was in Moncton. And Joe Comartin was the NDP's Justice Critic. He's running for re-election in the Windsor-Tecumseh riding.

<http://www.cbc.ca/thecurrent/episode/2011/04/06/crime-punishment-pt-2/index.html>

Changes to misguided prostitution law are long overdue

The Supreme Court of Canada will reconsider our archaic prostitution laws a decade after Robert Pickton's murders underscored the vulnerability of street-sex workers.

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/news/Changes+misguided+prostitution+long+overdue/4566527/story.html>

Where does Ignatieff stand on crime? Everywhere

As recently as two weeks ago, leading Liberals were sneering that the Tories' quartet of tough-on-crime bills were, in fact, "dumb on crime."

Punishing young and adult offenders with longer sentences and tougher parole conditions would do nothing, the Libs scoffed, to make Canadian streets safer.

<http://www.nationalpost.com/news/Where+does+Ignatieff+stand+crime+Everywhere/4565606/story.html>

April 5

Canada soft on crime? Don't believe it We lock up killers longer than any other industrialized country

Now that an election is upon us, prepare to hear politicians trot out the two great myths about the Canadian justice system: One, the system is soft on serious crime, and two, Canadians, perhaps as a result of embracing the first myth, strongly support tougher sentencing for serious crimes.

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/news/Canada+soft+crime+believe/4559703/story.html>

April 4

Invest in police, not prisons

The RCMP isn't just a showpiece institution -its health is vital to Canada's security. So as Commissioner William Elliott's stormy tenure sputters to an end, we need to look at what needs to be done to resuscitate both the reputation and the effectiveness of Canada's national police force.

<http://www.nationalpost.com/news/Invest+police+prisons/4553107/story.html>

Province ignores calls for new courts

We've had two proposed budgets in the last two weeks but haven't seen much in terms of investment in infrastructure for the justice system.

<http://www.lawtimesnews.com/201104048367/Commentary/Editorial-Province-ignores-calls-for-new-courts>

April 2

Politicians exploit myth that Canada's soft on crime On average, first-degree murderers in our country spend 10 more years in prison than their American counterparts

Now that an election is upon us, prepare to hear politicians trot out the two great myths about the Canadian justice system: One, the system is soft on serious crime, and two, Canadians, perhaps as a result of embracing the first myth, strongly support tougher sentencing for serious crimes.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Politicians+exploit+myth+that+Canada+soft+crime/4549966/story.html#ixzz1IrfPwjAV>

April 1

Helping law firms exploit 'that treasure'

One year ago Friday, a group of 10 Montreal lawyers and information technologists behind the creation of what is today called the largest free database of case law in the world began life as the owners of a private company.

Montreal-based Lexum Inc. is a spinoff of a laboratory at the Université de Montréal hatched in 1993 as the result of collaboration with the Supreme Court of Canada, which was seeking to publish its decisions online.

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/business/Helping+firms+exploit+that+treasure/4539674/story.html#ixzz1IrQcN26d>

Canadian civil servants sit out election campaign for fear of retribution

Federal government workers have the constitutional right to participate in election campaigns, but many hold back for fear of retribution.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Canadian+civil+servants+election+campaign+fear+retribution/4541876/story.html#ixzz1IrgDxbIC>

The trials of Nunavut: Lament for an Arctic nation

Crime has doubled in Nunavut since the territory was founded 12 years ago this week, raising a critical question: Is Nunavut a failure of Canadian nation building? And if so, what must be done for history's scars to heal?

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/nunavut/the-trials-of-nunavut-lament-for-an-arctic-nation/article1963420/>

Médias francophones

7 Avril

Plateforme conservatrice: la réforme de la justice criminelle adoptée en 100 jours

Pied de nez aux autres partis: s'il est élu avec un gouvernement majoritaire, le Parti conservateur promet d'adopter sa réforme en matière de justice criminelle dans les 100 jours de sa victoire électorale, soit avant la fin du mois d'août.

<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/actualites/elections-federales/201104/07/01-4387641-plateforme-conservatrice-la-reforme-de-la-justice-criminelle-adoptee-en-100-jours.php>

Fonction publique

Québec «dynamite» le recrutement des juristes

Les juristes du gouvernement québécois se moquent de la volonté de la ministre Michelle Courchesne de «dynamiser» la stratégie de recrutement de l'État afin d'intéresser les jeunes à travailler dans la fonction publique.

<http://lejournaldequebec.canoe.ca/politique/provinciale/archives/2011/04/20110407-131131.html>

Le coût des rentes des fonctionnaires, un véritable boulet

Le gouvernement doit assurer la relève de ses fonctionnaires. Mais, il n'est déjà plus capable de financer leurs prestations de retraite.

<http://fr.canoe.ca/cgi-bin/imprimer.cgi?id=888624>

Certains salaires de juges du Québec gelés illégalement

Le gouvernement Charest vient d'essuyer un coûteux revers devant la Cour supérieure, qui a annulé un de ses efforts budgétaires de 2010, soit le gel salarial de la centaine de juges de la Commission des lésions professionnelles (CLP).

<http://www.droit-inc.com/article5484-Certains-salaires-de-juges-du-Quebec-geles-illegalement>

6 Avril

28 policiers au banc des accusés

Pas moins de 28 policiers se sont retrouvés du mauvais côté de la justice, devant répondre à des accusations criminelles, au Québec, en 2010.

<http://www.canoe.com/cgi-bin/imprimer.cgi?id=887572>

5 Avril

Conférence des juristes de l'État : le ministre Fournier boude l'événement

Le courant n'est toujours pas rétabli entre le gouvernement et ses avocats. Le ministre de la Justice, Jean-Marc Fournier, a décliné une invitation à prononcer le discours d'ouverture de la Conférence des juristes de l'État, rompant ainsi avec une tradition de plus de 30 ans.

<http://www.24hmontreal.canoe.ca/24hmontreal/actualites/archives/2011/04/20110405-211814.html>

3 Avril

Violence conjugale : 2009 a été une année record au Québec

QUÉBEC - La violence conjugale est en recrudescence au Québec et occupe les policiers plus que jamais auparavant, donnant lieu à pas moins de 50 crimes chaque jour.

<http://lejournaldemontreal.canoe.ca/actualites/faitsdiversetjudiciaires/archives/2011/04/20110403-233131.html>

1er Avril

Les juristes de l'État s'adressent aux tribunaux

Les juristes de l'État ont déposé mardi une requête devant la Cour supérieure afin de faire invalider la loi spéciale qui a forcé leur reprise du travail.

<http://www.radio-canada.ca/regions/Quebec/2011/04/01/001-juristes-tribunaux-loi.shtml>

Un nouveau chef de la direction pour le Centre canadien de technologie judiciaire

Le conseil d'administration du Centre canadien de technologie judiciaire (CCTJ) a annoncé aujourd'hui la nomination de Patrick Cormier comme chef de la direction.

<http://www.cnw.ca/fr/releases/archive/April2011/01/c8675.html>