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ASSOCIATION OF JUSTICE COUNSEL
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Press Clippings for the period of February 22-28, 2013
Revue de presse pour la période du 22 au 28 février 2013

English Media

February 24, 2013

SPECIAL REPORT: Courts ‘jammed’ in N.S.

Nova Scotia’s criminal court system is the second-slowest in the country, the most recent statistics show.

In 2010-11, the median amount of time for a case to make its way through the adult courts in this province was 141 days, well above the national median of 118 days.

Only Quebec was worse, at 191 days.

<http://thechronicleherald.ca/novascotia/766058-special-report-courts-jammed-in-ns>

February 25, 2013

Treasury Board and PBO in standoff over calculation of cuts to front line services

Parliament’s budget watchdog Kevin Page has landed into another dispute with the Conservative government, this time over conflicting calculations of costs that have left Treasury Board wanting to vet his reports and some MPs questioning the reliability of the numbers they’re given to hold the government to account.

The latest uproar was triggered when the Parliamentary Budget Office released a report last month which concluded that spending cuts are hitting front line services for Canadians while overhead — or the “internal services” costs of the bureaucracy — rose over the past three years.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/Treasury+Board+standoff+over+calculation+cuts+front+line+services/8014438/story.html>

Judge wants action on sentencing delays

Superior Court judge is calling on the government to amend the Criminal Code to prevent “unacceptable” delays in sentencing dangerous offenders.

<http://www.lawtimesnews.com/201302259628/Headline-News/Judge-wants-action-on-sentencing-delays>

February 26, 2013

Defence hit hard as gov't slashes spending

The federal government plans to slash \$4.9 billion in discretionary spending in the next year; with the Department of National Defence bearing the brunt of cuts, while departments involved in the Conservatives' law-and-order agenda are spared.

<http://www.thestarphoenix.com/news/Defence+hard+slashes+spending/8015685/story.html>

Programs related to safety face government spending cuts

Programs aimed at keeping Canadians safe are facing spending cuts as part of the Conservative government's push to erase the deficit, according to a long-awaited accounting of Ottawa's spending plans.

Detailed program budgets show Transport Canada is planning cuts to several programs focused on aviation, marine and rail safety and security. The reports also show reduced spending on food safety at Agriculture Canada.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/programs-related-to-safety-face-government-spending-cuts/article9102014/>

February 28, 2013

Guest column: Flawed StatsCan methods miss true crime story

Canadians can be excused for being confused about the amount of crime in their society. Last year produced horrific scenes of people being murdered and their bodies dismembered, several executions in public places in Toronto, and the media reporting that shootings and stabbings in different cities are on the increase.

These headlines contradicted all of the articles that "crime is falling" published after the release of Statistics Canada's recent annual Juristat survey of crime.

<http://www.theprovince.com/news/Guest+column+Flawed+StatsCan+methods+miss+true+crime+story/8033830/story.html>

It's time to put indexed public pensions to bed

Ottawa should take cue from provinces which are eliminating provision to wrestle down spiraling costs.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/rob-commentary/rob-insight/its-time-to-put-indexed-public-pensions-to-bed/article9132503/>

Unions must share the blame for precarious employment

Could it be that the middle class was a late 20th-century fluke of history? For a few fleeting decades, almost anyone with an average IQ and education could reasonably expect to count on a decent job and pension. In the past few years, that assumption has gone out the window.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/commentary/unions-must-share-the-blame-for-precarious-employment/article9129832/>

Médias francophones

28 février 2013

Fonctionnaires désemparés

L'idée qu'il était possible de rendre l'administration publique semblable à la gestion du secteur privé a été mal inspirée, mal avisée et coûteuse pour les contribuables.

La gestion du secteur privé se soucie uniquement du résultat financier et des parts de marché. L'administration du secteur public est une affaire d'opinion, de débat, et une question d'éviter le blâme dans un contexte politiquement chargé.

<http://www.lapresse.ca/debats/votre-opinion/201302/28/01-4626429-fonctionnaires-desempares.php>