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English Media

March 15

Public service must be renewed even as it is thinned

Whether through attrition, buyouts or layoffs, the federal public service is about to go through a period of painful downsizing. Three people who used to be in charge of that public service are warning the Conservatives not to repeat the mistakes of their Liberal predecessors.

“What will happen to the hiring of new blood into the public service?” Mel Cappe asked Wednesday. Mr. Cappe was Clerk of the Privy Council, the head of the public service, from 1999 to 2002.

http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/john-ibbitson/public-service-must-be-renewed-even-as-it-is-thinned/article2369867/?utm_medium=Feeds%3A%20RSS%2FAtom&utm_source=Politics&utm_content=2369867

Don't expect radical changes in upcoming public-service cuts

Rumours are swirling, numbers being bandied about, totals projected and denied. How severely will the federal public service be downsized? How many layoffs will there be? What will the severance packages cost?

With Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's landmark 2012 budget only 15 days away, the Ottawa machine is spinning in neutral, as departments wait to hear whether their budget will be cut by 5 per cent, 10 per cent, or somewhere in between, and what that will mean for both programs and for the workforce.

<http://m.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/john-ibbitson/dont-expect-radical-changes-in-upcoming-public-service-cuts/article2368727/?service=mobile>

Federal Budget 2012: It's time to address income inequality, think-tank says

The Harper government should use the March 29 budget to address growing income inequality, says an Ottawa think-tank in a pre-budget analysis being released Thursday.

"Income inequality in Canada is at a 30-year high, rising at a faster pace than in the U.S.," says the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) in a study entitled "A Budget for the Rest of Us."

<http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/politics/article/1146302--federal-budget-2012-it-s-time-to-address-income-inequality-think-tank-says>

[Full Report \(English\)](#)

[AFB fact Sheet \(English\)](#)

[Infographics \(English\)](#)

Justice system leaves much to be desired

The Canadian justice system continues to fail female victims of abuse. While efforts have been made to improve the support system for women, the courts still seem to make life easy on the accused, leaving victims to feel victimized all over again.

<http://www.emcalmontecarletonplace.ca/20120315/editorials/Justice+system+leaves+much+to+be+desired>

Ottawa labour clampdown may hurt workers, employers

A Canadian clamp-down preventing labour action in the private sector is unprecedented and not in the best interests of either workers or employers, labour relations experts said on March 14.

<http://www.labour-reporter.com/articleview/12567-ottawa-labour-clampdown-may-hurt-workers-employers>

March 14

Budget won't reveal details of PS cuts, Clement says

Canada's public servants still won't know if they're losing their jobs when the Conservative government unveils its deficit-reduction plan on budget day and may not find out their fate for months.

Treasury Board President Tony Clement acknowledged at the Commons' government operations committee Wednesday that it may take months for the impact of the March 29 budget cuts to unfold within federal departments, where bureaucrats are braced for up to 30,000 job losses.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/Budget+reveal+details+cuts+Clement+says/6303389/story.html>

Time to stop bloat in the federal civil service

Bureaucratic fat is once again being trimmed, just as it was under Jean Chretien - but how did it expand so quickly?

Call it the civil service cycle. Ottawa has been growing and shrinking its workforce as though playing an accordion.

And taxpayers should be furious.

Each time a federal government sets itself a mission to wipe out a deficit, it turns its attention to downsizing the employee roster.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/business/Time+stop+bloat+federal+civil+service/6298808/story.html>

Will Jim Flaherty cut as deeply as Paul Martin?

When Finance Minister Jim Flaherty rises in the House of Commons on March 29 to present the federal budget, Canadians will finally learn how deep the Stephen Harper government is prepared to cut.

Will the cuts be as sharp as some cabinet ministers were hinting at until a month or so ago? Or has the government had second thoughts?

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/story/2012/03/13/f-budget-2012-1995.html>

March 13

Public service staffing cuts will respect collective agreements with unions: Clement

Treasury Board President Tony Clement has confirmed for the first time that the Conservatives won't "tear up" collective agreements when downsizing the public service and will be offering buyout and retirement packages to help manage layoffs.

<http://www.canada.com/business/Public+service+staffing+cuts+will+respect+collective+agreements+with+unions+Clement/6297264/story.html>

Overhead costs rising as federal departments tighten all other spending

Federal departments are increasingly spending more on overhead costs, from technology to communications, while reducing all other costs that are being targeted by the Conservative government's sweeping spending review.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/Overhead+costs+rising+federal+departments+tighten+other+spending/6290921/story.html>

Community reaction to federal workers' buyouts

The bid to curb spending in the federal government will lay off at least 30,000 public servants over the next three years, with a potential payout that could cost taxpayers nearly \$2 billion.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/yourcommunity/2012/03/community-reaction-to-federal-workers-buyouts.html>

Severance for public servants set out in contracts

Treasury Board President Tony Clement says government bound by agreements

Severance for public servants is laid out in government contracts, Treasury Board President Tony Clement said Tuesday in response to a CBC News estimate that it could cost more than \$2 billion to lay off government workers in a widely expected round of budget cuts.

[Video](#)

Are public service workers' planned buyouts too generous?

Thousands of public service workers will likely lose their jobs as the government looks for cost savings ahead of the federal budget - but CBC News has learned that the workers could have a soft landing.

CBC investigative reporter Greg Weston reports that generous severance packages and rare pension perks could cost taxpayers nearly \$2 billion.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/yourcommunity/2012/03/are-public-service-workers-planned-buyouts-too-generous.html>

Next Federal Budget Must Assist in Creating Jobs

The President of the Canadian Labour Congress is calling on the federal government to use its upcoming budget to assist in creating good, family supporting jobs.

Ken Georgetti was commenting on the release by Statistics Canada of its Labour Force Survey for February 2012. The national unemployment rate was 7.4% and there were 1,386,000 unemployed Canadians in February.

http://www.businessreviewcanada.ca/press_releases/next-federal-budget-must-assist-in-creating-jobs

March 12

Federal workers' buyouts could reach \$2B

The Harper government's plan to slash an estimated 30,000 public service jobs over the next three years includes hefty golden handshakes that could leave some federal workers laughing all the way to the bank.

For instance, CBC News has learned that a public servant laid off after only one year in the government will be entitled to a severance package of almost six months' pay, plus up to \$11,000 to go back to school for a couple of years.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/story/2012/03/12/pol-weston-public-service-budget-severance.html>

Nunavut gets more money to help crime victims

Funds will help victims travel to court hearings: Shewchuk

The Government of Nunavut, using a \$1.4 million contribution from Justice Canada, will spend more on travel assistance for victims of homicides and other crimes who want to travel to court hearings outside their communities, Justice Minister Dan Shewchuk said March 6 in a minister's statement.

http://www.nunatsiagonline.ca/stories/article/65674nunavut_gets_more_money_to_help_crime_victims/

March 11

Tories offer peek at budget

The Tories tempted their party faithful this weekend with tidbits of the upcoming federal budget as conservatives fretted openly that their party -- and politics -- have lost their way.

Six federal cabinet ministers gave keynote speeches at a two-day Manning Centre conference, providing a broad-brush look at the March 29 budget that will include billions in budget cuts but also set forth a longer-term government strategy.

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/canada/tories-offer-peek-at-budget-142234745.html>

March 10

Tony Clement: ‘How can I do my job in an excellent way at less cost to taxpayers?’

Treasury Board President Tony Clement spoke Saturday morning at the Manning conference. What follows are his prepared remarks:

<http://www.ipolitics.ca/2012/03/10/tony-clement-how-can-i-do-my-job-in-anexcellent-way-at-less-cost-to-taxpayers/>

Federal budget will be first step in changing status quo of bureaucrat spending: Tony Clement

Treasury Board president Tony Clement says the upcoming federal budget must be the start of a sweeping culture shift in official Ottawa of bureaucrats containing costs instead of fostering spending.

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2012/03/10/federal-budget-will-be-first-step-in-changing-status-quo-of-bureaucrat-spending-tony-clement/>

March 9

Use spending cut to ‘drive transformation’: advisory committee

Senior bureaucrats should use the Conservatives’ spending cuts and push for smaller government to “drive transformation” in their departments and change how the public service works, manages its people and serves Canadians, says the prime minister’s advisory committee on the public service.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/spending+drive+transformation+advisory+committee/6274087/story.html>

Médias Francophones

15 mars

Le Centre canadien de politiques alternatives s'oppose aux compressions dans la fonction publique fédérale

À deux semaines du dépôt du budget fédéral, le Centre canadien de politiques alternatives (CCPA) demande à Ottawa de laisser tomber ses projets de compressions.

<http://www.radio-canada.ca/regions/ottawa/2012/03/15/006-budget-alternatif-compressions.shtml>

[Rapport complet \(Français\)](#)

[Fiche d'information \(Français\)](#)

[Infographie \(Français\)](#)

10 mars

Des extraits du budget fédéral dévoilés

En conférence pendant un congrès de deux jours tenu au Manning Centre, six membres du conseil des ministres ont donné les grandes lignes du budget fédéral qui sera déposé le 29 mars prochain, dans lequel des compressions budgétaires de milliards de dollars sont prévues, ainsi que des coupures qui refléteront la nouvelle stratégie à long terme du gouvernement.

<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/actualites/quebec-canada/politique-canadienne/201203/10/01-4504381-des-extraits-du-budget-federal-devoiles.php>