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Press Clippings for the period of March 22-28, 2013
Revue de presse pour la période du 22 au 28 mars 2013

English Media

March 25, 2013

Justice spending up 66% in 10 years

Expenditures on the Canadian criminal justice system have increased significantly in the last 10 years despite decreasing crime rates, a new report has found.

In a March 20 report, the Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer concluded that expenditures on criminal justice have increased by 66 per cent since 2002, reaching \$20.3 billion this year.

<http://www.lawtimesnews.com/201303259690/Headline-News/Justice-spending-up-66-in-10-years>

March 26, 2013

Newfoundland cutting 1,200 government jobs in face of \$564-million deficit

Newfoundland and Labrador will trim government jobs and cut the size of the premier's cabinet in a \$7.6-billion budget tabled Tuesday as the province faces a deficit of \$563.8 million in the 2013-14 fiscal year.

The deficit is on top of a shortfall of almost \$431 million for this fiscal year as net debt grows almost \$1 billion to \$9.5 billion next year.

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2013/03/26/newfoundland-cutting-1200-government-jobs-in-face-of-564-million-deficit/>

March 27, 2013

Prosecutor layoffs will harm justice system, lawyer says

A St. John's defence lawyer says layoffs of crown prosecutors, as a result of provincial budget cuts, could cause significant problems in Newfoundland and Labrador's justice system.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/story/2013/03/27/nl-prosecutor-cuts-327.html>

Do unions have a future?

Daniel Bastien's original plan—the one that his parents liked—was to go straight to law school.

An acceptance letter already in hand, he only took the hotel server job to get him through the summer. What he expected from the North York Novotel was a little over \$10 an hour and some pretty good tips. What he got was a different type of education than he'd ever imagined.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/rob-magazine/do-unions-have-a-future/article10310754/>

March 28, 2013

Modernizing PS work model 'job one'

Committee urges overhaul of labour relations, pay, benefits, services

A special advisory committee to Prime Minister Stephen Harper fleshed out a new "employment model" for the public service that was subtly signalled in the Conservatives' federal budget and urged an overhaul of everything from labour relations and pay and benefits to providing more services to Canadian by mobile devices.

The committee's report, released Thursday, concluded the "modernization of the employment model" is "job one" for the government.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/business/Modernizing+work+model/8167802/story.html>

[Prime Minister's Advisory Committee Calls for Modernizing the Public Service Employment Model](#)

[Seventh Report of the Prime Minister's Advisory Committee on the Public Service](#)

Mich. right-to-work law takes effect, but workers eyeing split with their union have to wait

A right-to-work law is on the books in Michigan, a mainstay of organized labour, but those considering opting out of paying union dues will have to wait months or years to do so.

The law, which lets workers choose not to pay to the unions that bargain on their behalf, applies to labour contracts that are extended or renewed starting Thursday — meaning many employees will not be affected until existing collective bargaining agreements end.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/Mich+right+work+takes+effect+workers+eyeing+split+with+their+union+have+wait/8166165/story.html>

Civil-service layoffs were as painless as they could be, panel says

A blue-ribbon panel claims the elimination of nearly 17,000 positions in the federal public service this past year has been a “smooth process” and that 2013 is shaping up to be an important year for the government to find more savings on everything from sick days to health and retirement benefits.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/civil-service-layoffs-were-as-painless-as-they-could-be-panel-says/article10547970/>

A taste of reality for Alberta’s public sector

For years, provincial leaders have been driven mad by the often obscene deals that Alberta has struck with its public-sector employees, making everyone from doctors to teachers the best paid in the country. Not surprisingly, those same professions in other provinces have used these wage benchmarks as targets of their own during contract negotiations.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/commentary/a-taste-of-reality-for-albertas-public-sector/article10507050/>

King says cuts won't affect court system

Newfoundland and Labrador's justice minister says cutting the number of Crown prosecutors in St. John's won't cause a backlog of cases in the provincial court system. Tuesday's budget reduced the number of prosecutors from 18 to 14. The family violence intervention court was also eliminated.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/story/2013/03/28/nl-king-justice-cuts-328.html>

Fed's tough-on-crime law targets vulnerable groups: B.C. health office report

Federal tough-on-crime legislation puts vulnerable First Nations' communities at risk and could be exacerbating a vicious cycle of poverty, crime and illness, warns a new report from British Columbia's top health official.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/health/tough+crime+targets+vulnerable+groups+health+office+report/8165967/story.html>

Médias francophones

23 mars 2013

Ni précisions, ni calendrier, déplore les syndicats

À l'instar du budget 2012, celui déposé jeudi par le ministre Jim Flaherty n'a rien pour redorer le blason du gouvernement Harper.

C'est ce que déplore le président de l'Institut professionnel de la fonction publique du Canada, Gary Corbett.

Dans ce dernier budget, le gouvernement Harper a indiqué qu'il allait revoir les relations de travail, la gestion de l'invalidité, les congés de maladie des employés et avantages sociaux des retraités de la fonction publique.

<http://www.lapresse.ca/le-droit/politique/fonction-publique/201303/23/01-4634090-ni-precisions-ni-calendrier-deplore-les-syndicats.php>

26 mars 2013

Des compressions insensées

Plusieurs employés occupant des postes à la fonction publique fédérale sont affligés de maladie ou de quelque affection nécessitant des suivis médicaux réguliers. Beaucoup d'entre eux ont, fort heureusement, accumulé au fil des années, des congés de maladie; suffisamment pour leur permettre de se présenter chez le médecin lorsque requis et de passer les examens exigés par leur état de santé.

<http://www.lapresse.ca/debats/votre-opinion/201303/25/01-4634631-des-compressions-insensees.php>