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Press Clippings for the period of May 20-26, 2011
Revue de presse pour la période du 20 au 26 mai 2011

English Media

May 26

Quebec justice minister wants more judges, courts Justice System is overloaded; Plans include better facilities, jury pay

Mega-trials and the creation of special police squads to investigate organized crime and corruption mean Quebec's court system is overloaded and needs more judges and courtrooms, Justice Minister Jean-Marc Fournier said Wednesday.

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/Minister+wants+more+judges+courts/4841211/story.html>

The law is too important to leave to politicians

Earlier this month, Justices Ian Binnie and Louise Charron, both from Ontario, announced their intention to retire from the Supreme Court of Canada at the end of the current session of the court. How their successors will be chosen is an as-yet unanswered question.

<http://www.nationalpost.com/news/important+leave+politicians/4840708/story.html>

DND to cut 2,100 jobs, plan shows Report also calls for 5% reduction of contractors per year for three years

The Defence Department will cut 2,100 of its public service positions over the next three years with more "adjustments" to follow, the Citizen has learned.

The cuts will be done through attrition, and some public servants will also find themselves being transferred within the department, according to leaked Defence Department documents.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/business/jobs+plan+shows/4842555/story.html>

May 25

No wage increase for judges, Penner says

B.C. provincial court judges won't be in line for wage hikes despite the recommendations of an independent panel, says Attorney-General Barry Penner.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/no-wage-increase-for-judges-penner-says/article2035281/>

May 24

Canada gets failing grade for lax enforcement of anti-bribery laws

Canada has again been singled out for failing to enforce anti-bribery rules abroad by an international report that points the finger at Prime Minister Stephen Harper's lack of commitment.

"Canada is the only G7 country in the little or no enforcement category, and has been in this category since the first edition of this report in 2005," Transparency International said Tuesday.

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/canada/breakingnews/canada-gets-failing-grade-for-lax-enforcement-of-anti-bribery-laws.html>

Clement hands out \$4-million in his riding before election, now charged with government cuts and grants

Liberal MP Wayne Easter says it will be difficult for Tony Clement to ignore the political and regional development pressures while chairing the full Treasury Board Cabinet committee and also chairing a sub-committee PM Stephen Harper established to review cuts to government spending.

http://hilltimes.com/dailyupdate/view/clements_dual_roles_as_treasury_board_president_and_fednor_minister_in_direct_conflict_say_opposition_mps_05-24-2011

May 21

A historic plan

Penalties for Organized Crime Act: Mandatory minimum sentences for drug crimes.

Anyone caught growing as few as five marijuana plants for the purpose of trafficking would be jailed for at least six months, according to the latest version of the bill. Anyone caught growing more than 500 plants would be jailed at least two years.

<http://www.nationalpost.com/news/historic+plan/4820531/story.html>

Punishment

Keeping Canadians Safe (International Transfer of Offenders) Act. The bill places a greater emphasis on public safety when Ottawa is deciding whether to transfer a Canadian offender serving a sentence in another country.

<http://www.nationalpost.com/news/Punishment/4820532/story.html>

Agenda for crime reform

The Conservative government's omnibus crime legislation, due "within 100 days," will mark a watershed moment in Canadian legal history, imposing many controversial changes to how police and the courts operate, experts say.

<http://www.nationalpost.com/news/Agenda+crime+reform/4820529/story.html>

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Second Independent Authority Appointed To Review Amendments To The National Defence Act

This ongoing independent review process ensures the military justice system remains fair and continues to keep pace with developments in the law while continuing to meet the unique needs of the Canadian Forces in promoting operational effectiveness. The review will also consider the military police complaint process and the Canadian Forces grievance process.

<http://www.forces.gc.ca/site/news-nouvelles/news-nouvelles-eng.asp?cat=00&id=3781>

Clement warns staff that jobs not promised 'forever'

Vowing that "failure is not an option," the new Treasury Board president says he is committed to reducing the size of government even if it means cutting public service jobs.

<http://www.nationalpost.com/news/Clement+warns+staff+that+jobs+promised+forever/4813714/story.html>

PS cuts may go beyond attrition

Treasury Board president Tony Clement won't rule out axing entire programs if they're no longer effective

Vowing that "failure is not an option," incoming Treasury Board president Tony Clement says he is committed to reducing the size of government and says he can't take public service job cuts off the table.

Clement, on his first full day in his new cabinet job, restated the Harper Conservatives' campaign promise to cut costs mainly through attrition, but won't rule out axing entire programs if they're no longer effective.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/cuts+beyond+attrition/4813896/story.html>

Clement fails to impress PS unions Representatives attack tough talk on cutting costs

Two unions representing federal government workers say tough talk on cutting costs from Treasury Board President Tony Clement strikes a sour note as he takes over responsibility for the public service.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/business/Clement+fails+impress+unions/4819966/story.html>

Tony Clement vows to make government more transparent with online data

New Treasury Board President Tony Clement says he's committed to releasing raw government data online so that Canadians can keep tabs on federal departments.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/ottawa-notebook/tony-clement-vows-to-make-government-more-transparent-with-online-data/article2029925/>

Médias francophones

26 mai

Marc-Arthur Hyppolite, nouveau sous-ministre responsable des relations de travail Important changement de garde au Conseil du Trésor

Alors que le fédéral s'apprête à imposer un régime minceur à ses fonctionnaires, avec des compressions de 11 milliards \$ sur quatre ans, les syndicats viennent d'apprendre qu'ils devront faire face à un autre changement de garde important au Conseil du Trésor.

<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/le-droit/actualites/fonction-publique/201105/26/01-4403185-important-changement-de-garde-au-conseil-du-tresor.php>

Le fédéral maintient son plan de compressions

Le ministre fédéral des Finances, Jim Flaherty, a annoncé hier qu'il déposera son nouveau budget le lundi 6 juin, mais il n'a pas attendu pour confirmer qu'il entend toujours réduire les dépenses des ministères de 11 milliards \$ sur 4 ans afin de rétablir l'équilibre budgétaire d'ici 2014-2015.

<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/le-droit/actualites/economie/201105/25/01-4402839-le-federal-maintient-son-plan-de-compressions.php>

Québec consacre 15 millions à créer 20 postes de juges Les pourparlers se poursuivent avec les procureurs afin de bonifier leurs conditions de travail

Le ministre de la Justice, Jean-Marc Fournier, a annoncé hier des investissements de près de 15 millions visant à créer 20 nouveaux postes de juges à la Cour du Québec et à aménager six salles de plus à Montréal pour la tenue de mégaprocès.

<http://www.ledevoir.com/societe/justice/324063/quebec-consacre-15-millions-a-creeer-20-postes-de-juges>

25 mai

Plus de juges à la Cour du Québec

Le ministre de la Justice et procureur général du Québec, Jean-Marc Fournier, a annoncé une série de mesures pour améliorer le fonctionnement du système judiciaire.

Il souhaite notamment faire passer le nombre de juges à la Cour du Québec de 270 à 290. Cette modification législative à la Loi sur les tribunaux judiciaires restaurerait les 20 postes abolis en 1997.

<http://www.radio-canada.ca/nouvelles/Politique/2011/05/25/002-fournier-annonce-augmentation-juges.shtml>

21 mai

Compressions: les fonctionnaires fédéraux s'attendent au pire

Le plus important syndicat de fonctionnaires fédéraux note un inquiétant changement de discours du gouvernement Harper depuis qu'il détient une majorité, et s'attend au pire en matière de compressions.

<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/actualites/quebec-canada/politique-canadienne/201105/20/01-4401583-compressions-les-fonctionnaires-federaux-sattendent-au-pire.php>

La Fonction publique fédérale et les compressions budgétaires L'ACEP se méfie des «pièges» de l'attrition

Si l'arrivée de Tony Clement à la tête de conseil du Trésor suscite certaines appréhensions parmi les employés fédéraux, c'est davantage les mesures qui seront contenues dans la mise en oeuvre du prochain budget qu'ils devront surveiller dans les prochaines semaines, soutient le dirigeant d'un syndicat du secteur fédéral.

<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/le-droit/actualites/fonction-publique/201105/20/01-4401635-lacep-se-mefie-des-pieges-de-lattrition.php>

20 mai

Une deuxième autorité indépendante nommée pour examiner les modifications apportées à la Loi sur la Défense nationale

Le processus d'examen indépendant permettra de s'assurer que le système de justice militaire demeure juste et qu'il continue d'évoluer au même rythme que le droit tout en répondant aux besoins uniques des Forces canadiennes lorsqu'il s'agit de maintenir l'efficacité opérationnelle. L'examen portera également sur le processus d'examen des plaintes concernant la police militaire, ainsi que sur la procédure de règlement des griefs des Forces canadiennes.

<http://www.forces.gc.ca/site/news-nouvelles/news-nouvelles-fra.asp?cat=00&id=3781>