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Press Clippings for the period of April 13-19, 2012
Revue de presse pour la période du 13 au 19 avril 2012

English Media

April 19

Toews announces closure of 3 federal jails

The federal government is closing down the maximum-security penitentiary in Kingston, Ont., the Regional Treatment Centre located on the grounds of the penitentiary, and the medium-security Leclerc Institution in Laval, Que.

Public Safety Minister Vic Toews told a press conference Thursday in Ottawa that the facilities are "simply not working well anymore" and that they will be shut down over the next two years, saving \$120 million per year.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/story/2012/04/19/pol-prison-closing-toews.html>

'Affected' notices sent to 1340 corrections workers

Correctional Services Canada notified about 1,340 employees Thursday that their jobs will be affected by the Conservatives' decision to close three federal institutions, including the maximum-security Kingston penitentiary.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/health/Affected+notices+sent+1340+corrections+workers/6487795/story.html>

April 18

Some federal bureaucrats could pocket \$50,000 for delivering job cuts

Austerity, it seems, is not for everybody in Ottawa.

While thousands of public service workers prepare for the 'unemployment lines,' many senior bureaucrats will actually be getting some big fat bonuses.

According to an *iPolitics* report, the government has tied about 40 per cent of executives' 2012 bonus to how well they cut costs in their departments during the government's strategic and operating review.

<http://ca.news.yahoo.com/blogs/canada-politics/federal-bureaucrats-could-pocket-50-000-delivering-job-171934233.html>

BC justice minister declines to release estimate of crime bill costs

British Columbia government officials have been working for months to figure out how much the federal omnibus crime bill will cost the province, but Justice Minister Shirley Bond is keeping the results of that work secret.

<http://thetyee.ca/Blogs/TheHook/BC-Politics/2012/04/18/BondBill/>

Government slammed for lack of transparency in budget cuts

As Treasury Board president Tony Clement trumpets Canada's plan for open government at a meeting overseas, back home, the Conservatives are facing criticism for being secretive about thousands of federal job losses, government program cuts and taking control of pipeline approvals.

<http://www.theprovince.com/business/Government+slammed+lack+transparency+budget+cuts/6480853/story.html>

'Handcuffed' Tories won't reveal full details of cuts till next spring

Canadians will have to wait until the spring of 2013 to get a full accounting of what programs and services have been cut to balance the federal books.

That's the timeline Treasury Board President Tony Clement reluctantly confirmed Wednesday during a conference call from Brazil, where he's taking part in a conference on "open government."

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/ottawa-notebook/clement-says-legal-process-prohibits-full-release-of-spending-cuts/article2406714/>

April 17

\$5.2B in spending cuts amounts to only half of upcoming government reductions, report shows

The unrolling of the Conservatives' \$5.2 billion in spending cuts, which has public servants on tenterhooks about their jobs, is only half of the reductions that federal departments will be swallowing over the next three years

A recent report by Parliament's spending watchdog examines the cumulative impact of the spending cuts that departments are facing, showing the magnitude of the reductions announced in the 2012 budget are about the same size of those that departments are still wrestling to absorb from two previous budgets.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/business/spending+cuts+only+half+upcoming+Tory+reductions+report+shows/6475219/story.html>

April 16

The shrinking shadow

The federal government says it's laying off 4,800 civil servants in the National Capital Region, but some believe the actual number of local job losses will be more than double that figure as staffing contracts with the area's "shadow public service" go unrenewed.

<http://www.obj.ca/Local/2012-04-16/article-2954578/The-shrinking-shadow/1>

Prison rehab program axed due to budget cuts

An award-winning program that helps rehabilitate prisoners and protect the public by keeping them from re-offending is falling victim to budget cuts.

The Lifeline program, which provides support for those serving life sentences and helps re-integrate those who are released on parole, has been operating in Canadian prisons for more than 20 years.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/story/2012/04/16/corrections-service-lifeline-cut.html>

April 15

NUPGE C4P activists meet in Ottawa

Over forty Champions for Pensions (C4P) activists from Components of the National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE) are meeting in Ottawa today and tomorrow to launch the newest initiative of NUPGE's All Together Now! (ATN) campaign to defend public services and fight for tax fairness in Canada.

<http://www.nupge.ca/content/4924/nupge-c4p-activists-meet-ottawa>

Harper gives lessons in how not to downsize

Could there be a worse way to manage cuts to the federal public service, however necessary they may be? Perhaps, but the Harper approach is in a class of its own.

First, the Conservatives warned the chickens months ago that the executioner's axe was about to fall. Naturally, the chickens were frightened, demoralized, confused. Their normal work life was disrupted: They couldn't lay eggs on time or in the right place.

<http://www.timescolonist.com/news/Harper+gives+lessons+downsize/6462266/story.html>

April 13

Crime rates, caseloads are falling but legal costs continue to rise Chief justice's report cites cutbacks to system, as Victoria looks for answers

Across B.C. there were more than 100 fewer Supreme Court trials last year than in 2005, yet the number of proceedings being "bumped" or rescheduled is skyrocketing.

More than double the number of trials and lengthy chamber applications were disrupted last year than in 2010.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/Crime+rates+caseloads+falling+legal+costs+continue+rise/6452476/story.html>

Médias francophones

16 avril

Les juristes de l'État rejettent l'offre de Québec

La mésentente persiste entre les juristes de l'État et le gouvernement Charest.

Les membres de l'Association des juristes de l'État (AJÉ) ont rejeté la semaine dernière à 67 pour cent une proposition du gouvernement qui aurait mis fin à la parité historique avec les procureurs aux poursuites criminelles et pénales.

<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/actualites/quebec-canada/politique-quebecoise/201204/16/01-4515755-les-juristes-de-letat-rejettent-loffre-de-quebec.php>