



AJC-AJJ
ASSOCIATION OF JUSTICE COUNSEL
ASSOCIATION DES JURISTES DE JUSTICE

Press Clippings for the period of April 27 – May 3, 2012
Revue de presse pour la période du 27 avril au 3 mai 2012

English Media

May 3

Some 11,000 federal public servants told jobs on line in past month And 2,000 federal public servants have posted online to swap jobs

In the past four weeks more than 11,000 public servants have been told their jobs are on the line because of government cuts, and already about 2,000 have posted their credentials online, hoping they will be able to find a way to keep working in the bureaucracy.

<http://www.hilltimes.com/civil-circles/hill-life-people/2012/04/30/some-11000-federal-public-servants-told-jobs-on-line-in-past/30589>

Pensions for public sector out of whack

As governments across Canada struggle to get their fiscal houses in order, it's becoming increasingly clear that spending on public-sector wages and benefits is neither fair nor sustainable.

<http://www.theprovince.com/business/Pensions+public+sector+whack/6557884/story.html>

Robyn Benson elected new president of PSAC

Robyn Benson, a long-time union activist who began her public service career as a term at the tax agency, is the new president of the giant Public Service Alliance of Canada.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/Robyn+Benson+elected+president+PSAC/6559647/story.html>

95 federal Crowns face pink slips

A group of federal lawyers has hit out at the government after 95 of its members were put on notice that their jobs could be cut.

The Association of Justice Counsel represents 2,700 government employed lawyers, including the 95 who received letters notifying them that they may be deemed surplus to requirements because “of a lack of work or discontinuance of a function.”

<http://www.canadianlawyermag.com/legalfeeds/834/95-federal-Crowns-face-pink-slips.html>

Civil service Games

By now, you know the broad parameters of The Games. Innocents plucked from the working districts are pitted against each other in a Darwinian battle for survival. Contestants must not only battle each other, but also perils created ad hoc by the game makers.

No, I am not describing the film adaptation of Suzanne Collins’ best-seller, The Hunger Games.

I am describing what unions claim is the strategy in parts of the federal government of having employees “compete” for their own jobs (think “reaping” in Games parlance). Claude Poirier, the head of the Canadian Association of Professional Employees (CAPE), which represents economists, said, “It’s awful for employees to have to compete for their own jobs.” Imagine, economists of all people competing. Just thinking about it makes me teary-eyed, if only it were true.

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/05/02/civil-service-games/>

Closing penitentiaries is not in taxpayers’ best interests

This spring we’ve heard many announcements of layoffs in the public sector, and for the most part we expected this. However, I know of several officers in Correctional Services of Canada who believed their jobs were more secure with a Conservative majority. They were shocked when Vic Toews made the announcement that two federal prisons were closing, including Kingston Penitentiary – a maximum-security prison holding some of our most frightening and violent criminals.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/economy/economy-lab/daily-mix/closing-penitentiaries-is-not-in-taxpayers-best-interests/article2419989/>

Lack of resources undermining right to speedy trial, Ontario's top court says

A court system stretched to the limits is undermining the right of some accused to a speedy trial, Ontario's top court said Wednesday.

In upholding the conviction of a corrupt public health inspector, the Ontario Court of Appeal took aim at the delays that could have resulted in a stay of proceedings — as has happened in dozens of other cases across Canada.

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/canada/lack-of-resources-undermining-right-to-speedy-trial-ontarios-top-court-says-149862325.html>

Province adds more Crown prosecutors, support staff

The Manitoba government is adding 11 Crown prosecutors and six prosecutorial support staff and other positions to make the justice system function better, Attorney General Andrew Swan said this morning.

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/Province-adds-more-Crown-prosecutors-support-staff-149854125.html>

May 1

Third wave of 2012 budget cuts hits 95 federal lawyers, harming public interest

95 federal lawyers represented by the Association of Justice Counsel were notified that their positions will be affected as a result of federal budget cuts. The affected lawyers work within the Aboriginal Affairs Portfolio, Legislative Services Branch, Management Sector and Business and Regulatory Law Portfolio.

<http://www.digitaljournal.com/pr/690409>

Fines could go up as B.C. law society seeks changes to Legal Profession Act

If passed, changes outlined in an amendment to B.C.'s Legal Profession Act will expand the law society's ability to suspend or disbar lawyers guilty of serious criminal offences and boost fines for misconduct.

<http://www.canadianlawyermag.com/legalfeeds/832/Fines-could-go-up-as-B.C.-law-society-seeks-changes-to-Legal-Profession-Act.html>

PM tables the 19th Annual Report on the Public Service of Canada

Prime Minister Stephen Harper today tabled in Parliament the 19th Annual Report to the Prime Minister on the Public Service of Canada from the Clerk of the Privy Council, Secretary to the Cabinet and Head of the Public Service, Wayne G. Wouters. The Report outlines some of the major achievements of the Public Service over the previous year, articulates key challenges shaping the operating environment and sets the direction for the leadership and management of the Public Service for the year ahead.

[Full Report](#)

April 30

Harper government cuts deeply into bureaucracy in new round of cuts

The federal government is sending notices to more public servants than necessary so that it can cherry pick the employees it wants to keep, the head of one of the largest public service unions suggested Monday as a tsunami of job cuts notices washed over the public service.

(...) More than half of the 95 justice department lawyers who received notices Monday work in aboriginal affairs, said Marco Mendicino, president of the Association of Justice Counsel. The others who received notices work in the legislative services and business regulatory and law sectors plus some managers, he said.

“This is an unfortunate day for the Department, and a devastating one for our members,” said Mendicino. “This is the first time the DOJ has faced a workforce adjustment situation of this size, and it’s going to negatively impact the quality of the legal advice the government receives, as well as the service Canadians require in the justice system.”

[http://ajc-
ajj.net/files/library/Harper_government_cuts_deeply_into_bureaucracy_in_new_round_of_cuts
iPolitics.pdf](http://ajc-
ajj.net/files/library/Harper_government_cuts_deeply_into_bureaucracy_in_new_round_of_cuts
iPolitics.pdf)

PSAC approves emergency levy plan

Canada’s largest federal union approved plans to impose an emergency levy up to \$5 a month for all members to cover revenue shortfalls from job losses resulting from government spending cuts as departments sent notices to more than 4,000 employees that their jobs could disappear.

(...) Marco Mendicino, president of the Association of Justice Council, said 95 lawyers at the Department of Justice were sent notices in the fields of aboriginal affairs, legislative services and regulatory and business.

He said the department wants to reduce staff by 6.5 per cent and Monday's reductions were akin to shutting down a major law firm in Ottawa. He said the reductions are also "irreconcilable" with the government's crime and justice priorities and the anticipated legal challenges to the omnibus crime bill.

"There is no doubt there will be a tidal wave of constitutional challenges to C-10. ... I can't square these job cuts when you know your legislation and justice policy has to withstand a broad constitutional attack."

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/travel/PSAC+approves+emergency+levy+plan/6543711/story.html>

National News: Government of Canada Announces Renewal of Legal Aid Program and Aboriginal Justice Strategy

The Honourable Rob Nicholson, P.C., Q.C., M.P. for Niagara Falls, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, today announced that federal funding for the Legal Aid Program and the Aboriginal Justice Strategy will continue at current levels.

<http://www.northumberlandview.ca/index.php?module=news&func=display&sid=14820>

April 29

'Thousands' stand to be 'affected' by 3rd wave notices

Union bosses are warning that "thousands" of public service sector employees will be receiving notices advising them that their jobs will be "affected" as a result of the government's spending cuts this week, just as members of one of Canada's largest unions meet for a national convention in Ottawa beginning Sunday.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/story/2012/04/28/pol-third-wave-public-sector-budget-cuts.html>

April 27

Health, justice cuts raise northern concerns

Concern is being raised about federal cuts to First Nation programs and what it will mean for life in the North.

In its March 29 budget, the Conservative government announced it is eliminating a national health program and an alternative justice program along with other cuts that affect First Nations.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/story/2012/04/27/north-federal-cuts-concern-northern-leaders.html>

Cuts threaten aboriginal justice

First nation leader urges Ottawa to restore programs that rehabilitate offenders

It's an embarrassing reality: Aboriginal faces are far too numerous in Canada's penitentiaries.

As Corrections Canada notes on its website, aboriginals, representing three per cent of the Canadian population, make up 17 per cent of the prison roster. In some Prairie prisons, aboriginals are more than 60 per cent of inmates.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Cuts+threaten+aboriginal+justice/6528338/story.html>

Wage freezes save money, but are not without consequence

Governments have long taken advantage of public sector wage freezes as a means of saving money. But some experts say while wage freezes do save money in the short-term, they may have their own consequences in the long-run.

<http://www.globaltoronto.com/wage+freezes/6442630291/story.html>

McGuinty Government Announces Proposed Changes to Public Sector Pension Plans

The Ontario government has begun consultations on a new legislative framework for jointly sponsored public sector pension plans.

Announced in the 2012 Budget, the government has proposed reforms to the framework that governs public sector pension plans to “make them more sustainable for members and more affordable for taxpayers.”

<http://www.ourwindsor.ca/2012/04/mcguinty-government-announces-proposed-changes-to-public-sector-pension-plans/>

Médias francophones

3 mai

Aucun frein à l'embauche de travailleurs temporaires

Pendant que le processus d'élimination de 19200 postes bat son plein dans la fonction publique fédérale, le Conseil du Trésor admet qu'il n'a pas donné de directive aux ministères pour freiner l'embauche de travailleurs temporaires à contrat.

<http://www.lapresse.ca/le-droit/politique/fonction-publique/201205/03/01-4521606-aucun-frein-a-l'embauche-de-travailleurs-temporaires.php>

1^{er} mai

Plus de 7000 fonctionnaires avisés

L'étau se resserre autour des employés fédéraux de la région. Pour la troisième fois depuis le dépôt du budget fédéral, il y a un mois, des milliers de fonctionnaires de la capitale ont appris hier qu'ils pourraient perdre leur emploi prochainement, des postes dans la même catégorie que le leur étant jugés superflus.

<http://www.lapresse.ca/le-droit/politique/fonction-publique/201205/01/01-4520658-plus-de-7000-fonctionnaires-avises.php>

Fonction publique: «Pas un bon climat de travail, c'est même un peu malsain»

La semaine a bien mal commencé pour des milliers de fonctionnaires d'Ottawa-Gatineau ayant appris que des emplois dont le leur sont jugés «excédentaires» par le gouvernement.

Certains le savent depuis quelques semaines. D'autres l'ont appris lundi, ou connaîtront leur sort plus tard cette semaine. L'inquiétude en ronge plusieurs, dans les bureaux de fonctionnaires.

<http://www.lapresse.ca/le-droit/politique/fonction-publique/201205/01/01-4520718-fonction-publique-pas-un-bon-climat-de-travail-cest-meme-un-peu-malsain.php>

30 avril

Près de 700 employés du ministère des Affaires autochtones et du Développement du nord affectés

Journée difficile pour 8000 fonctionnaires

Près de 700 fonctionnaires du ministère des Affaires autochtones et du Développement du Nord verront leur emploi affecté par les compressions budgétaires, a appris LeDroit.

Les fonctionnaires œuvrant dans divers ministères du gouvernement fédéral se préparent au pire, lundi, de 6000 à 8000 d'entre eux devant apprendre plus tard aujourd'hui si leur catégorie d'emploi est visée par les coupes budgétaires annoncées dans le plus récent budget fédéral.

<http://www.lapresse.ca/le-droit/politique/fonction-publique/201204/30/01-4520356-journee-difficile-pour-8000-fonctionnaires.php>