

Press Clippings for the period of May 3rd to the 9th, 2016 / Revue de presse pour la période du
3 au 9 mai 2016

PS must step up recruitment to offset exodus of retiring baby boomers

Kathryn May, Ottawa Citizen, May 6 2016

Canada's aging public service is poised for a "dramatic generational change" that is forcing the federal government to accelerate the recruitment and grooming of young talent, says the country's top bureaucrat.

On Friday, Privy Council Clerk Michael Wernick released his first report to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. It lays out the public service's accomplishments of the past year, as well as the priorities for the coming year.

At the top of Wernick's list is recruitment and managing a "generational change" as the last wave of baby boomers, who dominated the face and character of public service for decades, retires.

"It will be important to pass on the values and wisdom of the past generations while mobilizing the energy and creativity of the new generations of public servants. I see this as a key and urgent task for the public service as a whole," he said in his report.

Wernick said that the public service must "step up the pace" of finding, hiring and developing new public servants – including medically-released veterans who now have first dibs on job openings in the public service.

Treasury Board President Scott Brison has committed to targeting the large millennial generation while adapting the public service to make it more millennial-friendly.

Wernick said the government will also have to accelerate its modernization plan – Blueprint 2020 – to meet the expectations of Canadians and deliver the government's agenda.

He said rules and processes will be "rigorously" streamlined. Departments must review how their work is done. The culture must shift to focus on results rather than "activity."

"We must become more sophisticated in defining the objectives of the initiatives we are pursuing, whether they are in policy program regulatory or service areas. The measure of an initiative cannot be the dollars spent or the number of meetings held, but rather the chance and difference made in people's lives," the report states.

Press Clippings for the period of May 3rd to the 9th, 2016 / Revue de presse pour la période du
3 au 9 mai 2016

Canada's aging population poses challenges for the federal government to ensure it employs enough skilled people of all ages.

The public service, the largest employer in Canada, is emerging from an era of spending restraints and cuts with a smaller, older workforce of employees 18 to 65-plus. The public service now has 257,138 employees with an average age that nudged slightly up to 45 years old over the past year.

Part of the problem is that average age of new hires is now 37 and the proportion of the permanent employees under age 35 has dipped slightly.

About 46 per cent of all public service executives are over age 50. The average deputy minister is 58; associate deputy minister is 54; assistant deputy minister 53.7 and directors and directors-general are 50.

Wernick gave no indication about whether the public service would grow with new recruitment but his report shows new hires aren't replacing the number of people who leave. Last year, the government hired 6,093 permanent employees – compared to 2,900 in 2012 – while about 9,740 left or retired.

Departments are also hiring term, casual and student employees rather than permanent employees. The proportion of permanent employees – who make up 86 per cent of the public service – slipped as that of terms, casuals and students increased.

Departures remained stable over the past decade – other than the big blip that came with the job cuts from the Conservatives' 2012 budget. Retirements and other departures hit a peak of 13,000 in 2012-13.

The recruitment and retention patterns are reflected in the experience levels of public servants. Today, 11 per cent of public servants have fewer than four years of experience compared with more than 13 per cent the previous year. The proportion with five to 14 years of experience increased slightly to 49.4 per cent from 48.7 per cent. Those with 25 years or more remained stable hovering at 17 per cent.

Wernick is picking up the same priorities of his predecessor Janice Charette, who put recruitment, mental health and policy development at the top of her management agenda.

Wernick earlier telegraphed mental health as a priority when he notified deputy ministers their performance pay this year would be tied to the health and well-being of their departments.

Press Clippings for the period of May 3rd to the 9th, 2016 / Revue de presse pour la période du
3 au 9 mai 2016

Mental health is a big issue, with depression and stress accounting for nearly half of all health claims. The government agreed to a joint labour and management task force on how to make the public service a healthy and “respectful” workplace.

Wernick’s report clearly indicates there will be no single plan when the task force releases its final report.

Rather, each department will develop its own “action plan” rather than shoehorn a master set of rules on all departments. That’s because the nature of federal workplaces varies wildly from white-collar office jobs to employees working in call centres, on Coast Guard ships, in prisons or the military.

Those plans will focus on changing culture with leadership, training, support for employees and managers, and then measuring the impact of those changes.

Wernick’s report noted that the last public service survey showed that harassment, discrimination and lack of empowerment are key barriers to a “respectful” workplace.

“These types of behaviours must be addressed,” he said. “There is no place for them in society or in the workplace. Every manager and every employee is accountable.”

On the policy front, Wernick has taken exception to critics who argue the public service lost its policy-making skills over the Conservative decade.

His report, however, says the way policy is developed has to be modernized and a policy community project is underway to strengthen policy-making in a rapidly changing world.

“It will be important never to return to a time where policy was developed in splendid isolation from the operations and services that implement it, or the people affected by it. Nor should policy be developed in silos and stovepipes. All of the important issues facing Canada are broad and multi-faceted.”



Press Clippings for the period of May 3rd to the 9th, 2016 / Revue de presse pour la période du
3 au 9 mai 2016

460 plaintes, 1,2 million de transactions avec Phénix

Paul Gaboury, Le Droit, le 4 mai 2016

Les responsables fédéraux de l'implantation du système de paye Phénix ont reçu 460 plaintes sur 1,2 million de transactions depuis la mise en oeuvre du projet en février dernier.

Sur le nombre, plus de 160 plaintes ont été réglées rapidement une fois que les responsables en ont pris connaissance. Les plus récents problèmes liés à la phase deux de l'implantation, le 2 avril dernier, du nouveau système touchaient principalement au paiement du temps supplémentaire parmi les 67 ministères et 190 000 employés. Au total, 300 000 comptes de paye sont désormais traités par Phénix.

Environ 180 cas restent toujours à régler, et les responsables s'affairent à les résoudre le plus rapidement possible. «Nous avons fait les corrections nécessaires et nous croyons que les problèmes ne devraient pas revenir de nouveau. Il s'agissait de problèmes particuliers touchant le temps supplémentaire qui touchaient quelques ministères», a tenu à préciser Brigitte Fortin, sous-ministre adjointe responsable de la comptabilité, de la gestion bancaire et de la rémunération à Services publics et Approvisionnement Canada.

Sur 155 000 transactions de paiement du temps supplémentaires, 2935 cas ont été touchés par ce problème.

Le paiement du temps supplémentaire qui n'a pu être fait pour la plupart de ces employés lors de la paye du 4 mai recevront les sommes lors de la paye du 18 mai.

Par ailleurs, il n'a pas été possible de savoir combien d'employés ont demandé une avance de salaire en raison des problèmes liés à Phénix.

Pendant la mise en oeuvre de la phase 2, le 21 avril dernier, le ministère a enregistré un sommet de 2367 appels. La moyenne par jour est passée de 900 à plus de 1900 appels au centre de Miramichi, au Nouveau-Brunswick. L'ajout de 50 personnes pour répondre à l'augmentation du nombre d'appels a permis de réduire la moyenne du temps d'attente de 20 minutes à 7 à 9 minutes.



Press Clippings for the period of May 3rd to the 9th, 2016 / Revue de presse pour la période du
3 au 9 mai 2016

Fewer problems with final pay system rollout, says Public Services

Kathryn May, Ottawa Citizen, May 4 2016

Federal officials claim the “vast majority” of 300,000 employees now paid by the government’s new automated pay system got their cheques this week with no problems.

Brigitte Fortin, assistant deputy minister at Public Services and Procurement, said Wednesday’s payday was a major milestone in the final rollout of the new \$300-million pay project. It was the first since the last round of 67 departments joined the new Phoenix pay system.

“The vast majority of pay transactions were processed without pay issue, but of course we cannot rule out the possibility of other issues, so we are expecting to see call volume increase again and we will likely field additional complaints,” Fortin said.

There was much speculation on how the system would handle the onslaught of nearly 190,000 more files after the first rollout of Phoenix with 34 departments was marked with delays, glitches and untold numbers of public servants who were paid improperly.

The Public Service Alliance of Canada had repeatedly appealed to the government to delay the latest rollout until overworked compensation advisers at the pay centre in Miramichi, N.B., caught up with a backlog of files.

PSAC vice-president Chris Aylward said the first payday using Phoenix seems to have gone smoothly and without a flood of complaints. He said the union and Public Services management have agreed to meet weekly to share concerns and deal with problems that crop up.

Many of the files that were transferred to Phoenix in this round are those of employees working in departments, such as Canada Revenue Agency and Canada Border Services Agency, that will continue to administer their own pay and won’t use the Miramichi pay centre.

With the additional volume, Fortin noted the number of calls to the pay centre increased. She said two problems that emerged were 335 employees who didn’t get their overtime pay because their files weren’t transferred to the new system. She said another 2,600 employees in another department were paid overtime twice because of human error.

Press Clippings for the period of May 3rd to the 9th, 2016 / Revue de presse pour la période du
3 au 9 mai 2016

She said these problems should be fixed by the next payday. She also noted that all overtime pay problems, which plagued employees in the first rollout, have now been fixed. Those transactions are now fully automated and won't need human intervention.

She said calls at the pay centre surged, hitting a peak of 2,300 calls on April 21, but expects those will decrease as people get used to the system. At one point, the union said the centre was swamped with up to 7,000 calls a day in the first rollout.

She said departments are also getting instructions in how they can fix pay problems for employees without having to call Miramichi.

Fortin said the government never expected a "flawless transition" when moving thousands of files from the 40-year-old system to Phoenix. But despite the volume, Fortin said she expects fewer issues in this second rollout because many of the bugs were identified in the first round.

Those problems, however, prompted the government to hire 40 more compensation advisers, as well as an additional 50 workers to answer calls at Miramichi.

The Harper government often heralded the massive pay transformation project for being on time and on budget. The project is months behind the original schedule but Fortin said it is still on budget and will save about \$68 million a year beginning this year.

No toilets, no light — workers will be issued headlamps at National Defence headquarters for three days this month

David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen, May 2 2016

Federal public servants and military staff will be issued with headlamps and bottled water in preparation for working in the dark at National Defence headquarters in Ottawa for three days later this month.

Fire alarms and the sprinkler system will also be turned off, but the workers, who will be on the 11th floor, have been told the likelihood of a blaze breaking out in the headquarters is remote, according to documents obtained by the Citizen. They can use their BlackBerries to contact emergency crews.

The ventilation system will also be shut down and the elevators won't be working.



Press Clippings for the period of May 3rd to the 9th, 2016 / Revue de presse pour la période du
3 au 9 mai 2016

The arrangements will affect 15 military and civilian staff working their regular shifts at a communications centre at National Defence headquarters over the May long weekend. The building will be without electricity as part of regular maintenance.

Generators will be used to temporarily power the communications systems, which is used to keep in touch with overseas military missions.

The workers will be issued with headlamps and batteries so they can find their way around the darkened building. A floodlight will be used to illuminate one area of the communications centre.

“Without electricity, the fire alarms and suppression system will not work but it is also nearly impossible there will be an electrical fire,” a Canadian Forces officer told staff in an email.

The workers on the 11th floor won’t have access to water or toilets during the shutdown because of low water pressure.

They will be given bottled water. Toilets up to the sixth floor of the building will continue to function.

“This is absolutely ridiculous,” said John MacLennan, national president of the Union of National Defence Employees. “Everything about this violates every health and safety law there is.”

The union, which represents some of the workers has complained to DND health and safety officials and the Canadian Forces Fire Marshall.

In the email, the Canadian Forces noted, “The work environment conditions will be monitored by management as reported by employees. If conditions become unsafe, the area will be evacuated.”

Canadian Forces spokeswoman Lieutenant Commander Lora Collier said, “Necessary measures will be in place throughout to mitigate the risk associated with power interruptions occurring during the maintenance timeframe.”

Health and safety of all personnel remain a top priority and all activities will be carried out in a safe and controlled manner

“Health and safety of all personnel remain a top priority and all activities will be carried out in a safe and controlled manner,” she added.



Press Clippings for the period of May 3rd to the 9th, 2016 / Revue de presse pour la période du
3 au 9 mai 2016

But MacLennan said the claim the chance of a fire is unlikely borders on reckless.

"No one was predicting a fire at the Louis St. Laurent building and look what happened there," he said.

A fire broke out April 21 on the sixth floor of the building in Gatineau, Que. The cause is still unknown and the building remains closed.

The facility was home to 1,800 Department of National Defence staff and Canadian Forces personnel.

Employees are either working from home or at other office in the Ottawa area.

Roll out of new federal-government-wide email system halted, again

Project to amalgamate all federal government's email is more than a year behind schedule
Karina Roman, CBC News, May 4 2016

The federal department in charge of creating a single email-system for the government has delayed the project yet again.

Shared Services Canada (SSC) had initially planned for the Email Transformation Initiative (ETI) to be completed more than a year ago — in March 2015. But the project has been plagued by problems.

After being put on hold last November, the initiative was finally scheduled to resume on May 29 for a number of departments. But once again, the roll out is being postponed.

- [Government tech support putting RCMP, public safety at risk, documents reveal](#)
- [National Defence reports IT headaches over Shared Services support](#)
- [Highlights from the federal auditor general's fall report](#)

An email sent last Friday from the chief information officer at Fisheries and Oceans, to employees in the department, and obtained by CBC News, announced the latest delay.

"During testing, SSC determined that improvements must be made to the DFO network before the migration can proceed," the email read. "Migrations planned for May in other departments and agencies have also been postponed."

Press Clippings for the period of May 3rd to the 9th, 2016 / Revue de presse pour la période du
3 au 9 mai 2016

Those other departments include Transport Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food, Public Works and the Correctional Service of Canada, according to Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada (PIPSC) president Debi Daviau.

"Really this goes right back to the start of this project, maybe even the start of the creation of Shared Services Canada. They threw this thing together with no planning," Daviau told CBC News.

Project outsourced

Shared Services was created in 2012 to take over the delivery of email, data centre and network services for 43 government agencies.

The email transformation project aims to consolidate 63 email systems and move nearly 400,000 email accounts to a uniform email address ending with @canada.ca. The goal is better digital security and annual savings to the government of \$50 million.

The government outsourced the project to Bell Canada in partnership with CGI Information Systems & Management Consultants, something PIPSC, the union that represents government IT workers, protested. Daviau argued that IT specialists inside the public service have a better understanding of the various systems that need to be consolidated, the needs of departments and the possible challenges involved.

"It was a very ill-conceived decision and if the supplier isn't able to deliver the scope of what is required one would think that they might be able to change that decision," Daviau said.

The delay in November was due to hardware problems. In an email to CBC News, SSC said, "While the vendor has successfully upgraded the hardware in question, there continues to be a number of functional issues that need to be resolved before migrations can resume."

The internal email announcing the latest postponement indicated a new roll out date for the fall will be set once final assessments are completed.

According to SSC, 12 departments have migrated to the new email service, amounting to 10 percent of the total mailboxes to be switched. The department has paid Bell approximately \$3.1 million so far. SSC said the contract could be as much as \$398 million over the 8-year period of the project.

Experts agree much of the problem stems from SSC's inexperience as a new department itself, as it was created only four years ago.



Press Clippings for the period of May 3rd to the 9th, 2016 / Revue de presse pour la période du
3 au 9 mai 2016

"I think of them as a fawn on a frozen lake. They haven't got their strength yet," said Patrick Malcolm, a cyber security expert with Netrunner Inc.

Malcolm said both Ottawa and Bell Canada underestimated the complexity and required resources for the project.

"There is a possibility this could fail and I believe that's what we're seeing. We're watching this fail."

Preparation not completed

Internal emails also show that demands of employees to reduce the size of their email accounts to less than one gigabyte in order to be ready for the email migration are not being heeded, despite threats that not doing so will result in no email access.

"There's some brinkmanship going on there, I feel," Malcolm said, adding that some government departments are not interested in seeing SSC succeed. "There's a lot of foot dragging here."

Malcolm said some municipalities in Australia undertook a similar project, which became beset with problems. He said Canada swore it would not copy their mistakes, but it has, and he questioned whether the government will ever see the savings it expected.

Aide à mourir: le projet de loi est adopté en deuxième lecture

Mélanie Marquis, La Presse Canadienne, le 4 mai 2016

Les députés de la Chambre des communes ont adopté en deuxième lecture le projet de loi sur l'aide médicale à mourir, après que le gouvernement eut coupé court aux débats.

Le principe du projet de loi C-14 a été adopté à 235 voix contre 75, mercredi, en début de soirée.

Tous les députés libéraux présents en Chambre ont voté en faveur, à l'exception de Robert-Falcon Ouellette, qui avait déjà fait part de ses réserves concernant l'aide médicale à mourir.

La majorité des élus conservateurs, dont la chef intérimaire Rona Ambrose, ont voté contre. Une vingtaine d'entre eux, dont huit Québécois, ont cependant approuvé le principe de C-14.



Press Clippings for the period of May 3rd to the 9th, 2016 / Revue de presse pour la période du
3 au 9 mai 2016

Du côté du Nouveau Parti démocratique (NPD), tous les députés présents, sauf Christine Moore, ont appuyé la mesure législative en deuxième lecture.

Le projet de loi C-14 peut maintenant faire l'objet d'une étude article par article au comité de la justice et des droits de la personne.

La ministre de la Justice, Jody Wilson-Raybould, avait plaidé l'urgence de passer à cette étape du processus législatif pour justifier l'interruption du débat en deuxième lecture de C-14.

Les libéraux ont forcé l'adoption, en après-midi, d'une motion d'attribution de temps après avoir entendu 84 des 337 députés s'exprimer en Chambre pendant un peu plus de 20 heures.

«Hypocrisie libérale»

La fin prématurée du débat a suscité la grogne de l'opposition.

«Je suis particulièrement outré par l'attitude du gouvernement, mais pas surpris. Parce que ce à quoi on assiste aujourd'hui c'est une démonstration, si besoin était, de l'hypocrisie libérale dans toute sa laideur», a tonné le député conservateur Gérard Deltell.

«On ne comprend pas pourquoi cet empressement soudain», a pour sa part affirmé le député néo-démocrate Alexandre Boulerice, qui n'aura pas livré de discours en deuxième lecture.

«On trouve ça dommage que les libéraux utilisent des tactiques conservatrices et coupent court au débat», a-t-il poursuivi en mêlée de presse dans le foyer des Communes.

Le leader parlementaire du Bloc québécois en Chambre, Luc Thériault, s'est montré désolé que la ministre coupe ainsi le sifflet aux élus.

«Elle présume que 80 quelque députés c'est suffisant pour se faire une tête dans un débat aussi délicat que celui-là. C'est triste, Monsieur le président», a-t-il regretté.

Un peu plus tôt, la ministre Wilson-Raybould avait réaffirmé en comité sénatorial que l'adoption de C-14 devait se faire avant le 6 juin. Un vide juridique serait intenable, a-t-elle insisté.

Son projet de loi a essuyé les critiques de sénateurs de toutes allégeances pendant cette séance.



Press Clippings for the period of May 3rd to the 9th, 2016 / Revue de presse pour la période du
3 au 9 mai 2016

Le sénateur libéral indépendant Serge Joyal, notamment, a soutenu que C-14 était selon son analyse «en contradiction flagrante» avec la décision du plus haut tribunal au pays.

Son collègue James Cowan a également émis des réserves sur la constitutionnalité de la mesure législative donnant suite à la décision de la Cour suprême dans une cause portée par deux femmes qui contestaient la prohibition de l'aide médicale à mourir, Kay Carter et Gloria Taylor.

«Est-ce qu'il est à l'abri des contestations? Assurément, nul d'entre nous ne voudrait obliger une autre Carter ou Taylor à subir cette agonie, cette épreuve», a-t-il soumis.

Mme Wilson-Raybould lui a répliqué qu'elle avait «confiance que non seulement ce projet respecte l'arrêt Carter, mais également qu'il résisterait à une contestation constitutionnelle».

Les sénateurs conservateurs ont de leur côté soulevé des inquiétudes par rapport à la liberté de conscience des médecins et à la vulnérabilité des patients souffrant de troubles mentaux.

Malgré la mise en garde servie par la ministre, il est loin d'être garanti que C-14 reçoive la sanction royale dans les délais prescrits, selon une source sénatoriale haut placée.

«Il serait surprenant que ce projet de loi là entre en vigueur à la date limite», a prédit cette source, qui prévoit de longs débats sur la question.

Et de façon plus générale, «pour tous les projets de loi qui vont se voter aux Communes, il ne faut plus jamais prendre pour acquis que ça passe automatiquement au Sénat», a insisté la source. «Oubliez ça. Ça n'existera plus.»

Rona Ambrose votera contre le projet de loi

La chef intérimaire conservatrice Rona Ambrose entend voter contre le projet de loi C-14 sur l'aide médicale à mourir.

En point de presse à l'issue de la réunion du caucus conservateur, mercredi, elle a plaidé que la mesure législative, dans sa mouture actuelle, ne contenait pas les dispositions nécessaires pour assurer la protection des personnes les plus vulnérables.

«J'y ai beaucoup réfléchi, et à ce stade-ci (en deuxième lecture), je vais voter contre», a-t-elle résumé devant les journalistes.

Mme Ambrose a cependant rappelé que les députés conservateurs pourraient voter selon leur conscience.



Press Clippings for the period of May 3rd to the 9th, 2016 / Revue de presse pour la période du 3 au 9 mai 2016

D'ailleurs, son chef adjoint, Denis Lebel, compte enregistrer son vote en faveur de C-14.

Cet appui se fait à la lumière de l'expérience du Québec, qui s'est déjà doté de sa propre loi en matière de soins de fin de vie, a-t-il expliqué.

Le gouvernement espère faire adopter d'ici la date butoir du 6 juin le projet de loi, qui est débattu en Chambre en même temps qu'il est étudié en comité, ces jours-ci.

Le premier ministre Justin Trudeau a réitéré mercredi en conférence de presse à Ottawa qu'un vide juridique serait intenable.

Il a écarté l'idée de demander un renvoi à la Cour suprême du Canada pour s'assurer de la constitutionnalité de C-14, qui a été remise en doute par plusieurs observateurs.

L'échéancier extrêmement serré ne le permet tout simplement pas; et par ailleurs, il faut faire confiance aux élus, a plaidé M. Trudeau.

S'il fallait se référer à la Cour suprême «à chaque fois qu'on présente un projet de loi important», on retirerait «la légitimité et l'importance du travail que font les parlementaires et le gouvernement», a-t-il soutenu.

Aide médicale à mourir - Le Barreau du Québec critique la constitutionnalité

Méline Marquis, La Presse Canadienne, le 3 mai 2016

Le Barreau du Québec ajoute sa voix au concert de critiques qui soulèvent des doutes sur la constitutionnalité du projet de loi fédéral sur l'aide médicale à mourir.

L'organisation, qui témoignait lundi soir devant un comité parlementaire de la justice et des droits de la personne, est catégorique : le projet de loi C-14 ne respecte pas la décision rendue par la Cour suprême du Canada (CSC).

Car les critères d'admissibilité selon lesquels la mort du patient doit être raisonnablement prévisible et que sa situation médicale doit être caractérisée par un déclin avancé et irréversible



Press Clippings for the period of May 3rd to the 9th, 2016 / Revue de presse pour la période du
3 au 9 mai 2016

de ses capacités ne figurent pas dans l'arrêt Carter, a signalé le Barreau dans un communiqué publié avant sa comparution.

« Le Barreau croit fermement que le projet de loi devrait être modifié pour respecter les critères de l'arrêt Carter et ainsi éviter des contestations judiciaires qui devront être menées par des personnes qui ne devraient pas avoir à supporter un tel fardeau », est-il écrit.

Le ministre québécois de la Santé, Gaétan Barrette, a tenu des propos semblables dans une entrevue diffusée dimanche à l'émission *Les coulisses du pouvoir*, sur les ondes du Réseau de l'information (RDI). Il s'est dit convaincu que la mesure législative serait contestée devant les tribunaux.

Et la femme par qui la cause s'est rendue jusqu'en Cour suprême, Kay Carter, n'aurait pas été admissible à l'aide médicale à mourir en vertu des dispositions prévues au projet de loi C-14, a soumis le ministre Barrette, faisant écho aux propos tenus la semaine dernière par la famille Carter.

La ministre fédérale de la Justice, Jody Wilson-Raybould, ne partage pas cette lecture. Devant le comité parlementaire, lundi après-midi, elle a réitéré que Mme Carter aurait rempli les critères requis pour se prévaloir de l'aide médicale à mourir et que le projet de loi était conforme à la décision rendue par la CSC.

Lorsqu'on lui a demandé si les critères d'admissibilité — notamment celui de mort naturelle raisonnablement prévisible — formulés dans C-14 pourraient être revus, elle a répondu que le gouvernement écouterait les doléances des élus, sénateurs, associations et groupes de la société civile.

Une autre critique qui a été soulevée à maintes reprises concerne la liberté de conscience des médecins. Les conservateurs, surtout, aimeraient qu'il soit écrit noir sur blanc dans le projet de loi que celle-ci serait protégée.

Press Clippings for the period of May 3rd to the 9th, 2016 / Revue de presse pour la période du
3 au 9 mai 2016

La ministre de la Santé, Jane Philpott, ne semble pas avoir l'intention d'accéder à cette demande. Cette disposition n'a pas sa place dans un projet de loi fédéral qui amende le Code criminel, a-t-elle plaidé en comité comme en mêlée de presse.

Un coup d'accélérateur

Les parlementaires ont appuyé sur l'accélérateur pour faire adopter C-14 avant la date butoir du 6 juin — la ministre Wilson-Raybould a de nouveau prévenu, lundi, qu'un vide juridique serait intenable.

Cette semaine, les débats auront lieu simultanément à la Chambre des communes, en comité parlementaire et en comité sénatorial, une procédure législative peu habituelle.

Les élus doivent siéger jusqu'à très tard lundi et mardi, avec l'objectif d'adopter le projet de loi en deuxième lecture avant la fin de la semaine, a indiqué une source libérale.

Le débat en Chambre, qui s'était amorcé il y a un peu plus d'une semaine, a repris lundi midi avec l'intervention de députés conservateurs anti-euthanasie et d'une députée libérale émue.

L'élue en question, l'Ontarienne Pam Damoff, a eu peine à contenir son émotion en se remémorant la conversation qu'elle a eue avec son père mourant.

Comme son collègue libéral Rob Oliphant l'avait fait avant elle, la députée a soutenu que le projet de loi C-14 n'allait pas suffisamment loin à son goût, mais qu'elle l'appuierait malgré tout.

Ce ne sera pas le cas des députés conservateurs Garrett Genuis et Harold Albrecht, qui ont pris la parole aux Communes pour signaler qu'ils s'opposaient à la mesure législative.

Pour le député Albrecht, même un projet de loi amendé serait inacceptable, car l'aide médicale à mourir entre en contradiction avec ses valeurs les plus profondes.



Press Clippings for the period of May 3rd to the 9th, 2016 / Revue de presse pour la période du
3 au 9 mai 2016

« *Chaque vie compte. Nul besoin, donc, de préciser que je n'appuie pas l'aide médicale à mourir, l'euthanasie ou toute autre mesure législative qui diminuera la valeur de la vie humaine* », a résumé le député de l'Ontario.

« *Ma vision du monde est influencée par mes expériences de vie, mais encore plus fondamentalement, elle a été façonnée par ma foi* », a ajouté M. Albrecht.

Les débats en Chambre devaient se poursuivre jusqu'à minuit, lundi.

MPs debate late into night to pass assisted dying bill before June deadline

Laura Stone, The Globe and Mail, May 2 2016

The Liberal government is taking unusual steps to get its physician-assisted dying bill passed before the Supreme Court's June 6 deadline, with MPs debating late into the night and committees in both houses of Parliament hearing from dozens of witnesses in advance to save time.

MPs were scheduled to sit until midnight on Monday, and possibly for the next few days, to ensure everyone gets a say on the government's right-to-die bill, which is facing criticism from all sides.

The debate is also unfolding under a strict timeline set out by the Supreme Court, which gave Parliament until June 6 to pass a new law that defines how those suffering intolerably can end their lives with the help of a medical professional.

At stake is the Liberal government's vision for bringing physician-assisted dying to the entire country for the first time, sharply contrasted with the Supreme Court decision that many believe leaves the door open to more people accessing the procedure.

"It would be irresponsible to let June 6 come and go without a federal law in place," Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould told the justice and human rights committee on Monday.

The government's Bill C-14 takes a more restrictive approach than the Supreme Court decision, defining a "grievous and irremediable" medical condition as being an incurable illness or

Press Clippings for the period of May 3rd to the 9th, 2016 / Revue de presse pour la période du
3 au 9 mai 2016

disease, and adding the provision that a patient's "natural death has become reasonably foreseeable."

"Medical assistance in dying should not be available for any and all types of suffering," Ms. Wilson-Raybould said.

Ms. Wilson Raybould, along with Health Minister Jane Philpott, faced questions from the all-party committee for more than an hour on Monday.

Conservative MPs asked why there were no conscience protections for doctors written into the bill. "There's nothing in here that compels a medical practitioner to participate," Dr. Philpott, a family doctor, told the committee.

Ms. Wilson-Raybould also defended her bill as complying with the Supreme Court decision, as well as the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

One of the Liberals' own MPs on the committee, Chris Bittle, asked why there was at least a 15-day waiting period between the request for assisted death and the procedure.

"I'm concerned that forcing someone to wait 15 days, 16 days, 17 days, in a typical case, while they're suffering and in pain, may be arbitrary and have issues under Section 7 [of the Charter], and may even be cruel and unusual," he said.

Dr. Philpott replied that, "It's my understanding that there is no other legislation in the world on the matter of assistance in dying that does not have a mandatory waiting period."

Before Monday's meeting, Dr. Philpott said her government is "respectful" of the committee process and looks forward to hearing its recommendations.

"Having said that ... we've already put a lot of thought into this and heard from a number of Canadians," she said. "We believe that the legislation introduces the right approach for Canada and we'll just keep listening and we look forward to hopefully seeing it pass in due time."

Liberal MP Anthony Housefather, who chairs the committee, told The Globe last week all members of the committee are open to hearing about how the bill can be improved.

"Definitely there can be amendments, there's no doubt. That's part of what the committee is there to do," Mr. Housefather said in an interview. "There will be a process that you didn't see in the previous House, I believe, of a committee that is actually considering legislation, hearing witnesses, and having the freedom to propose amendments."

Press Clippings for the period of May 3rd to the 9th, 2016 / Revue de presse pour la période du
3 au 9 mai 2016

To meet the deadline, both the House of Commons and the Senate will be hearing from witnesses before the bill has even passed the second reading phase in Parliament, expected at the end of this week.

The 10-member parliamentary committee has agreed to sit for the next two weeks in the evenings to hear from about 40 witnesses, including legal experts, doctors and faith-based groups.

The Senate's legal and constitutional affairs committee is also conducting its own prestudy of the bill this week and next, with the goal of sending any amendments to the House of Commons before it passes the bill. The bill will then make its way back to the Senate for further study.

"Time is of the essence if we are to get a bill in place by the 6th of June," said Senate Liberal Leader James Cowan, who previously told The Globe it's "not the end of the world" if the legislation isn't passed by deadline.

"We have the [Supreme Court] decision and that's pretty clear, but I think it would be desirable to have legislation in place. Now whether this is the right legislation or not, that's what we have the hearings for," he said.

Ms. Wilson-Raybould said both she and Dr. Philpott have been meeting with senators and are both to appear at the Senate committee this week.

"Without federal legislation in this regard there would be challenges and questions about what types of safeguards are in place, what protections are in place for patients, in place for doctors," she said after the committee.

"I believe that we're going to have legislation in place."

Press Clippings for the period of May 3rd to the 9th, 2016 / Revue de presse pour la période du
3 au 9 mai 2016

Competition Bureau to get new threads for officers on winter busts

**Agency says assessment found employees needed warm winter coats that
identified officers**

Alison Crawford, CBC News, May 6 2016

Next winter, staff at the Competition Bureau will sport some new threads when they leave the office to enforce laws such as the textile labelling act.

The agency recently bought 83 custom-made coats for a total of \$24,449. As one would expect of this government agency, the contract was the result of a competitive bid.

Spokesperson Marie-France Faucher said the purchase stems from a recent assessment of physical security, which "provided specific recommendations on how to mitigate risks when Competition Bureau employees execute search warrants and conduct other enforcement activities."

The assessment determined employees should be well identified by wearing the coats and carrying identification cards and badges.

"The winter coats will ensure that bureau employees are well identified and equipped to work in conditions that are sub-optimal (such as) unheated storage facilities," said Faucher.

The black jackets are emblazoned with "Bureau de la concurrence – Competition Bureau" on the front and back. Faucher said the logo on the back can be concealed.

Unlike a recent case in which the Competition Bureau alleged the company Moose Knuckles made false claims its high-priced parkas were entirely made in Canada, the bureau's winter coats were made in Quebec.



Press Clippings for the period of May 3rd to the 9th, 2016 / Revue de presse pour la période du
3 au 9 mai 2016

Are Trudeau's promised reforms to Bill C-51 ever coming?

Carter Vance, rabble.ca, May 4 2016

One of the few issues in the 2015 election that lined up along the comfortable left-right-centre dynamic of Canadian politics as traditionally defined was that of Bill C-51. Passed by the Conservatives with Liberal support in the wake of the 2014 Parliament Hill shooting (though resurrecting shelved elements of a series of surveillance-related bills that the government had previously been unable to pass), it generated due controversy and strong public pushback.

Organizations and individuals from [Amnesty International](http://www.amnesty.org) to the federal [Privacy Commissioner](http://www.priv.gc.ca) voiced significant concerns with the bill's implications for privacy and speech rights, as did large protests against the bill in the time leading up to its passage in June 2015.

This controversy continued into the election, where, true to expectation, the Tories stood firmly by the legislation as it stood, with the NDP pledging to repeal it in its entirety, while the Liberals promised a fuzzy compromise. Indicating that they agreed with the main intent of the bill while having concerns about certain elements in relation to privacy and peaceful protest, the Liberals pledged to pass a series of amendments to limit the legislation's scope and, they said, prevent abuse.

They [reaffirmed](#) this commitment in the days following their electoral victory, stating that the promised overhaul would be "swift." With it now having passed six months since this pledge, and no set of reforms tabled or even seemingly on the horizon, one must ask, where has that initial pledge gone and will these amendments ever see the light of day?

Liberals' checkered history of civil liberties

It is worth remembering when discussing these issues that the historical record of the Liberal Party in relation to matters of civil liberties and surveillance is, to say the least, checkered. One could, of course, point to the October Crisis and the use of the War Measures Act under Pierre Trudeau for the clearest proof of this, but reaching so far back is not even necessary.

In the time following September 11, 2001, the Chretien government passed a number of acts, beginning with the 2001 [Anti-Terrorism Act](#), which mirrored the United States' infamous Patriot Act in expanding surveillance powers and eroding judicial oversight. The Liberals also embraced the use of "security certificate" regime to indefinitely detain non-citizens, until this was [partly struck down](#) by the Supreme Court in 2007.

Press Clippings for the period of May 3rd to the 9th, 2016 / Revue de presse pour la période du
3 au 9 mai 2016

In fairness, it should be noted that some provisions in the Anti-Terrorism Act dealing preventative detention and investigation did include sunset clauses which meant these provisions expired in 2007. However, after the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings, these provisions were later returned in slightly modified with Liberal support as part of a [fast-track bill](#) introduced by the Harper Government.

In short, those looking for evidence that the Liberals are less than sincere when it comes to their opposition to the provisions of C-51 would not have to go far afield to do so. Though one can object to certain provisions of the bill in specific while still supporting these other pieces of legislation, it remains the case that their inaction on this issue seems to speak to a wider pattern.

In the meantime, CSIS, RCMP and other federal agencies have been clear that they are, indeed, [using powers](#) granted to them by C-51 to bypass judicial review in their activities. Though department spokespersons have indicated that these powers have been used to "disrupt" terrorist networks, it is acutely [impossible to know](#) exactly how and for what purposes the legislation is being applied and interpreted by the government.

The public safety minister has not been forthcoming with details on the cases in which the new powers have been used, leaving a kind of informational black hole as to how, if it all, the Liberals are differing from the Tories in their agency directives related to the legislation. It is true that any process of legislative reform takes time, but, if the current government were serious about reforming the bill they could, at the very least, make clear how its powers are being used at present and lay out a timeline to when new legislative changes will take effect. Their silence on both parts of this issue are deafening.

In staking out a middle position on C-51, the Liberals were able to have their political cake and eat it too, appearing in sympathy with the concerns of NGOs and protestors while not allowing themselves to be cast as "soft" on issues of terrorism and crime. Though a clever, and it would seem successful, political gambit, this promise has appeared to mean quite little concretely thus far.

Journalists and the organizations that originally opposed C-51 deserve some share of blame for not pressing the Trudeau government harder on this issue, but, ultimately, the government itself is responsible here. They ran a campaign pledging to address the concerns that many Canadians had around C-51 and, though there could be variety of reasons for their cold feet in getting down to the business of the amendments, it is to these pledges they should be held accountable.

Press Clippings for the period of May 3rd to the 9th, 2016 / Revue de presse pour la période du
3 au 9 mai 2016

On this issue, as with many others, getting rid of Harper's Conservatives was the relatively easy part. The harder point comes in holding those who say more of the right things and project a sunnier public image to account. Though there are many pressing issues which this government should be forced into answering for itself and its notional commitments, none have seemed to have slipped off the agenda as quickly as protection of privacy and civil liberties.

For this reason, activists and citizens concerned about these issues must be ready to rally and to organize to ask the fundamental question of where the Liberals will ultimately stand when it comes these most essential of freedoms enshrined in Charter with whom they so often claim allegiance.