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English Media

May 24

Crown workload up across Canada

Vancouver prosecutor Samiran Lakshman estimates that, on average, his paid 35-hour week runs from Sunday to Tuesday. The rest of the week, he essentially works pro bono on behalf of British Columbia taxpayers.

A similar situation of heavy workload and underpay faces 450 other prosecutors he represents as president of the British Columbia Crown Counsel Association (BCCCA).

<http://www.lawyersweekly.ca/index.php?section=article&volume=32&number=4&article=1>

Harper's heavy hand with labour no boon to business

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's hardline approach to labour disputes may help bring a quick end to a strike at Canadian Pacific Railway Ltd. It may also keep the company from cutting labour costs.

Labour Minister Lisa Raitt said yesterday that while her preference is for a negotiated settlement, she has given notice she may introduce a bill to end the strike when Parliament returns from break on May 28.

<http://www.ipolitics.ca/2012/05/24/harpers-heavy-hand-with-labour-no-boon-to-business/>

May 23

Taxpayers may owe \$1 billion-plus in severance to bureaucrats who weren't laid off

Taxpayers could be on the hook for more than \$1 billion in accumulated severance payments to federal public servants who remain in their jobs, voluntarily quit their positions or retire from government.

The eye-popping payout packages are in addition to an estimated \$900 million in "workforce adjustment" payments — including 22 weeks pay for one year of service — that will be granted to thousands of federal employees losing their jobs due to federal budget cuts.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/Taxpayers+billion+plus+severance+bureaucrats+weren+laid/6667950/story.html>

Big unions want to open up membership in merger

The two unions contemplating the biggest merger in Canadian labour history want to open membership to workers who don't have bargaining rights.

In a revolutionary move for the labour movement in North America, a committee of the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) and Communications, Energy and Paperworkers (CEP) unions will reveal the proposal Wednesday as part of an "innovative plan" to attract and organize many more employees, a centrepiece in their merger talks.

<http://www.thestar.com/news/article/1182588--big-unions-want-to-open-up-membership-in-merger>

May 22

Federal jobs cuts: Clarity is always one year away

Budget 2012 is not the only budget that will affect the number of jobs over the next three years. Two previous rounds of cuts will also impact federal government employment. The 2007-2010 Strategic Reviews and the 2010 budget freeze both pushed their impacts into the future. The future is now and their employment impact will be felt as well over the next three years.

<http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/progressive-economics-forum/2012/05/federal-jobs-cuts-clarity-always-one-year-away>

May 21

PSAC launches grievances against CIDA, Parks Canada

PSAC says CIDA and Parks Canada mishandling mass layoffs, but the agencies say they have done nothing wrong.

The Public Service Alliance of Canada has filed two grievances with senior management at CIDA and Parks Canada for the way they are letting go almost 1,000 staff members, but the agencies say they have done nothing wrong.

At Parks Canada, on March 30 employees were asked to volunteer to be laid off, before the department told them whether or not their positions were going to be cut. The notice went out the day after the federal budget was tabled on March 29, and employees were given 10 days to decide if they wanted to volunteer.

<http://www.hilltimes.com/civil-circles/2012/05/21/psac-launches-grievances-against-cida-parks-canada/30822>

Médias francophones

23 mai

Fonctionnaires divulgateurs: le retard de la révision de la loi inquiète

Plus d'un mois après la date limite fixée dans la loi, Ottawa n'a pas encore annoncé à quel moment il amorcera le processus de révision de la loi fédérale sur la protection des fonctionnaires divulgateurs. Ce qui inquiète au plus haut point les groupes de défense des droits des dénonciateurs, qui craignent que le gouvernement ne court-circuite le processus pour éviter une véritable discussion.

<http://www.lapresse.ca/le-droit/politique/fonction-publique/201205/23/01-4527858-fonctionnaires-divulgateurs-le-retard-de-la-revision-de-la-loi-inquiete.php>

19 mai

850 millions \$ seront versés en 2012-13

Le gouvernement fédéral versera une somme de 850 millions \$ à ses employés pour des indemnités de départ accumulées au cours de l'année 2012-2013.

C'est ce que révèle le budget supplémentaire des dépenses annonçant des crédits supplémentaires de 2,3 milliards \$ qui n'avaient pas été inclus dans le budget déposé précédemment pour l'année 2012-2013. Ces sommes représentent une augmentation de 2,3 pour cent des dépenses déjà prévues.

<http://www.lapresse.ca/le-droit/politique/fonction-publique/201205/18/01-4526851-850-millions-seront-verses-en-2012-13.php>