



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

Press Clippings for the period of May 25-31, 2012  
Revue de presse pour la période du 25 au 31 mai 2012

## English Media

May 31

### **Crown agent costs on the rise**

Ottawa paid private law firms nearly \$41 million to prosecute drug and other cases in 2011 — a record tab expected to jump this year as new mandatory minimum sentences come into force.

Of the total price tag for tax, customs, fisheries and other federal prosecutions done by the private bar last year, \$35.3-million was spent on drug offences — up more than 3 per cent from 2010, according to records obtained by The Lawyers Weekly from the Public Prosecution Service of Canada (PPSC) under the Access to Information Act.

<http://www.lawyersweekly.ca/index.php?section=article&volume=32&number=5&article=2>

### **Public sector pensions could cost Canadians over \$300 billion**

Every man, woman and child in Canada may be on the hook for more than \$9,000 to pay for the unfunded liabilities of public sector employee pension plans. That's according to a new report, *Canada's Hidden Unfunded Public Sector Pension Liabilities*, released today by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB).

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/983877/public-sector-pensions-could-cost-canadians-over-300-billion>

[Full report.](#)

May 30

### **What is the right size for the public sector?**

According to much of the country's political left, the principal problem holding back the Canadian economy and chipping away at social equity is a public sector that is inadequately resourced. From the federal NDP to prominent union leaders to the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, one hears a constant refrain that, because of previous tax cuts and finance ministers who are too timid to ignite the engines of public spending, governments simply aren't allocating enough money to programs, services and infrastructure.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/business/What+right+size+public+sector/6699396/story.html>

## **Ottawa won't reveal budget cut details**

The government has refused in writing to release details of cuts contained in the spring budget, saying that would mean breaking union contracts.

But the unions themselves are calling for the information to be released. Meanwhile, the budget is moving closer to a final vote while the details of its cuts remain unknown to the public.

<http://thechronicleherald.ca/canada/101824-ottawa-won-t-reveal-budget-cut-details>

**May 29**

## **Federal budget's deep cuts getting deeper**

Federal budget cuts are actually twice as deep as advertised, says a new report from the Parliamentary Budget Office.

While all eyes have been on the austerity measures in the 2012 budget, the PBO finds that cuts and budget freezes from 2010 to this year double the belt-tightening that departments are dealing with.

<http://thechronicleherald.ca/canada/101500-federal-budget-s-deep-cuts-getting-deeper>

**May 28**

## **Increased workload, budget cuts concern Crown attorneys**

Rick Woodburn is a man of many crowns.

He's been a provincial prosecutor in Halifax since 2001.

He's been president of the Nova Scotia Crown Attorneys Association since 2003.

And this month he was elected president of the Canadian Association of Crown Counsel at its annual meeting in Quebec City. For the next two years, Wood-burn will look out for the collect-ive interests of Crown prosecutors and government lawyers across the country.

He takes over from James Chaffe, a Crown attorney in Scar-borough, Ont. Woodburn, 44, is the first Nova Scotian to hold the national position and says he is looking forward to the challenge.

<http://thechronicleherald.ca/novascotia/101259-increased-workload-budget-cuts-concern-crown-attorneys>

## **Unions are powerless to Harper government's anti-labour stance**

Members of the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) recently marched on Parliament Hill donning 'Stephen Harper Hates Me' T-shirts.

While 'hate' is probably too strong of a word, they might just be on to something.

<http://ca.news.yahoo.com/blogs/canada-politics/unions-powerless-harper-government-anti-labour-stance-193336410.html>

May 27
--------

## **The cost of the public sector in Canada**

According to much of the country's political left, the principal problem holding back the Canadian economy and chipping away at social equity is a public sector that is inadequately resourced.

From the federal NDP to the Canadian Labour Congress and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, one hears a constant refrain that, because of previous tax cuts and Finance Ministers who are too timid to ignite the engines of public spending, governments simply aren't "investing" enough in programs, services, and infrastructure.

<http://www.troymedia.com/blog/2012/05/27/the-cost-of-the-public-sector-in-canada/>

## **Labour Minister Lisa Raitt is tilting the playing field against unions**

Federal Labour Minister Lisa Raitt threatened back-to-work legislation on the first day of the strike by the Teamsters Union against Canadian Pacific Railway. It's the same message that she sent to workers at Canada Post and Air Canada: You are no longer allowed to withdraw your services for any length of time because it will impact our fragile economy.

<http://www.thestar.com/opinion/editorialopinion/article/1194008--labour-minister-lisa-raitt-is-tilting-the-playing-field-against-unions>

May 25

## **Federal government posts \$9-billion deficit for March; total red ink for 2011-12 hits \$23.5 billion**

The federal government ran a deficit of \$23.5 billion for the 2011-12 fiscal year — a significant drop from a year earlier — despite a gusher of red ink in the final month.

The government ran a \$9-billion deficit for the month of March 2012 alone, despite warnings by Treasury Board president Tony Clement for bureaucrats not to engage in “March Madness” spending at the end of the fiscal year simply to use up their budgets. A large chunk of the spending for March was, however, for various transfers to provinces and federal social programs.

<http://blogs.canada.com/2012/05/25/federal-deficit-hits-23-5-billion-in-2011-12-fiscal-year-1-4-billion-less-than-expected/>

## **Governments can save money by spending money**

The commonly held belief is that if only governments would cut spending, tax increases could be avoided. This is true in many instances, but is by no means a universal truism.

If by cutting spending we mean to cut superfluous public sector jobs, which undoubtedly exist at the federal and provincial level, then that is a good thing. It will help governments avoid tax increases.

However, if we mean to cut frontline public sector workers such as hospital cleaners, nurses, and others - including cuts to Ontario Works employees in Renfrew County who are now on strike - that will not result in saving us from tax increases.

<http://www.emcarnprior.ca/20120524/news/Governments+can+save+money+by+spending+money>

## **Pension plans in Canada rise in Public Sector.**

Membership in registered pension plans (RPPs) in Canada amounted to 6,065,750 in 2010, an increase of 42,000 or 0.7% from 2009. Membership increased in public sector plans, but declined in private sector plans.

<http://www.exchangemagazine.com/morningpost/2012/week21/Friday/12052517.htm>

## Médias francophones

31 mai

### **Les retraites du secteur public pourraient coûter plus de 300 milliards \$ aux Canadiens**

Les engagements sous-capitalisés des régimes de retraite du secteur public représentent une facture potentielle de plus de 9 000 \$ pour chaque homme, femme et enfant vivant au Canada. C'est ce que révèle un nouveau rapport intitulé *La sous-capitalisation non chiffrée des régimes de pension du secteur public au Canada* que la Fédération canadienne de l'entreprise indépendante (FCEI) a publié aujourd'hui.

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/983871/les-retraites-du-secteur-public-pourraient-couter-plus-de-300-milliards-aux-canadiens>

[Rapport complet](#)

29 mai

### **Deux mois après le budget fédéral, les syndicats dénoncent l'attitude du gouvernement conservateur**

Deux mois après le dépôt du budget fédéral, l'incertitude règne toujours dans la fonction publique. Des milliers de fonctionnaires ont reçu des avis de postes excédentaires, mais ils ignorent ce que l'avenir leur réserve.

Les syndicats qui les représentent dénoncent la situation, accusant le gouvernement conservateur de ne respecter les conventions collectives.

<http://www.radio-canada.ca/regions/ottawa/2012/05/29/013-budget-deuxmois-fonctionnaires.shtml>