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*Here are articles and opinion pieces that might be of interest to AJC members
Voici quelques articles et textes d'opinion qui pourraient intéresser les membres de l'AJJ*

Public servant investigated over political 'Harperman' song

Kathryn May, Ottawa Citizen, August 27, 2015

An Ottawa federal scientist is being investigated for breaching the public service's ethics code for writing and performing a highly political protest song to get rid of the Harper government.

Tony Turner, a scientist in habitat planning at Environment Canada, was recently sent home on leave with pay while the government investigates the making of Harperman, a music video posted on YouTube in early June that has attracted about 48,000 hits.

Mark Johnson, a spokesman for Environment Canada, said the department wouldn't be commenting on the case because of "privacy concerns." He said public servants agree to comply with the value and ethics code — which lays out expected behaviours — when they join the government regardless of their level or job.

The Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada, which represents federal scientists, said the union was representing Turner. It said he was put on leave pending the outcome of the probe into allegations that he violated the ethics code by writing and performing a political protest song.

"We will stand up for its members who face the prospect of being disciplined for exercising their democratic rights as citizens. The Supreme Court of Canada has confirmed that public service workers, like all Canadian citizens, benefit from freedom of expression," said PIPSC president Debi Daviau.

Turner has been a public servant for 19 years and is nearing retirement. He most recently was assigned to co-ordinate a project to map priority areas for migratory birds.

But he has also been a stalwart of the local folk music scene since 1994 when he joined Writers' Bloc, Ottawa's songwriters collective. He has several CDs, plays regularly across the province and is best known for the song Circle of Song, which will be included in a new anthology of Canadian folk songs. His biography makes no mention of being a public servant.

For Ottawa's folk musicians, Turner's situation is a fight for freedom of speech that has become tangled in the balance between political rights of public servants and their duty of loyalty to the government.

“Can’t we make jokes or say anything? Are we all muzzled? This is the politics of fear. I am an activist and singer but mostly I am a citizen and I care about democracy and freedom of speech,” said Diane McIntyre, who sang one of the verses in the video.

The song, with its chorus “Harperman, it’s time for you to go,” was recorded in a Westboro hall. The chorus is a call to dump Stephen Harper’s Conservative government, which even some public servants felt went too far.

“It’s always risky when a public servant criticizes someone in power,” said David Hackston, a former public servant who sings one of the verses. “It’s political and I can see why someone is upset with it, but that’s what protest songs are all about.”

The video began when Turner won a songwriting contest with Harperman and performed it at Gil’s Hootenanny, an annual May Day sing-along event where judges were looking for “songs of protest and songs of hope,” said organizer Hollis Morgan.

“I am chagrined that his employ would ever be a factor in his private outputs,” said Morgan. “He never discussed his employ, and in my world Tony Turner is a singer-songwriter,” said Morgan.

Turner’s win snowballed into a project led by Chris White, longtime artistic director of the Ottawa Folk Festival. He decided to record the song and use it to launch a national singalong on Sept. 17. The plan was to get as many Canadians as possible singing it online or adding their own verses.

White said he put out a call to gather local musicians and singers. About 50 showed up, most having never heard the song. They practiced a few times and then recorded the song, which was posted on YouTube.

In the meantime, White set up a Harperman website with T-shirts, bumper stickers and other paraphernalia and launched a crowd-funding drive to help organize the Sept. 17 singalong.

He said the fundraising has been stopped but the singalong is going ahead as planned whether Turner attends to perform his song or not. It’s unclear if Turner breaches the ethics code if others sing his song.

“This is an issue of freedom of expression, and who is the government to tell Tony what he can do on his own time when expressing himself in music and song?” said White.

Donald Savoie, a political scientist at the University of Moncton, said the song crosses the line of behaviour expected of public servants. He questioned Turner’s judgment in publicly performing it and the department’s for investigating it and bringing even more attention to the video.

“The government risks giving this much more visibility than it warrants by launching an investigation. People will be on YouTube to look at this because they made it an issue.”

Un scientifique fédéral suspendu après avoir écrit une chanson contre Harper

Radio-Canada, le 28 août, 2015

Un scientifique d'Environnement Canada fait l'objet d'une enquête administrative pour avoir prétendument enfreint le code d'éthique en écrivant une chanson critiquant le chef conservateur Stephen Harper.

Tony Turner, un scientifique qui travaillait dernièrement sur les oiseaux migrateurs, a été suspendu à la mi-août le temps de procéder à une enquête relativement à sa participation à la chanson Harperman, selon son syndicat.

Dans la chanson, Tony Turner et d'autres chanteurs accusent notamment le premier ministre sortant de « museler les scientifiques », de « n'avoir aucun respect pour l'environnement » et de « restreindre la liberté de presse ». Le refrain se termine par : « Harperman, c'est le temps de partir (Harperman, it's time for you to go) ».

Selon la porte-parole du syndicat, M. Turner fait l'objet d'une enquête « parce qu'Environnement Canada [soutient] qu'il a enfreint le code d'éthique et de valeurs de son département, car le fait d'avoir écrit et joué la chanson l'empêche de faire son travail sur les oiseaux migrateurs de façon impartiale ».

Un porte-parole d'Environnement Canada n'a pas voulu commenter l'affaire, invoquant des « motifs de vie privée », mais a indiqué que tous les fonctionnaires devaient se conformer au code d'éthique et de valeurs, quel que soit leur domaine.

Une vidéo de la chanson a été enregistrée en juin et publiée ensuite sur le site YouTube, où elle a franchi le cap des 60 000 visionnements. On y voit Tony Turner chanter et jouer de la guitare, accompagné de quelque 40 autres chanteurs.

Tony Turner travaille à Environnement Canada depuis près de 20 ans et s'apprête à prendre sa retraite. C'est un habitué de la scène musicale folk de la région d'Ottawa.

Harperman case: Can public servants be political activists?

The rules about public expression are not always clear for government employees

Sheena Goodyear, CBC News, August 30, 2015

An investigation into an Ottawa federal scientist who wrote and performed an anti-Harper protest song and posted it to YouTube has sparked a debate about just how political Canada's public servants are allowed to be.

Tony Turner, a scientist in habitat planning at Environment Canada, was sent home on leave with pay pending a government investigation into the making of Harperman, a highly critical song about Conservative Leader Stephen Harper that has amassed more than 280,000 hits since June.

At issue is whether Turner violated the code of ethics that all public servants must adhere to — one that mandates they be impartial and non-partisan.

At the same time, the courts have upheld public servants' right to engage in political activity.

So how should public servants strike the balance between what's forbidden under the code and permitted by the courts?

"These are very old debates and very old discussions," said Robert Shepherd, a professor at the Carleton University School of Public Policy and Administration. "This is a major question, and it's still being tested."

What is the code?

All federal public servants, some 400,000 people, are bound by the Values and Ethics Code for the Public Sector, which states that a "professional and non-partisan federal public sector is integral to our democracy."

It states that all public servants are expected to carry out their duties "in a non-partisan and impartial manner" and that they must "loyally" serve their departmental ministers.

A non-partisan public service is "an important cornerstone of Canadian democracy," said Stephen Maguire, executive director of the Centre on Values and Ethics at Carleton University.

"We elect the government of the day and we expect that government to carry out the promises that it made during the election, and it can't do that if its policy and the implementation of that policy is actively subverted by the public service."

Supreme Court ruling sparks change

The idea of a non-partisan public service took a hit in 1991 when the Supreme Court upheld public servants' rights to engage in political activities. [Click here to read the ruling.](#)

The court ruled that banning political activity infringes on workers' Charter rights to freedom of expression.

Public servants can now volunteer for election campaigns, post political lawn signs, make phone calls and deliver flyers — so long as they don't use office resources and their activities don't impede their ability to do their jobs.

"When we look at this individual case of an Environment Canada scientist who studies migratory birds, it's quite difficult to make the link between the work he does and any impact that video might have on his ability to do his work," said Debi Daviau, president of the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada, the union that represents public servants.

"If there's anyone who's guilty of getting in the way of our members doing their jobs impartially, it's the Harper government and their policies."

She said political activity doesn't jeopardize Canada's tradition of a non-partisan public service.

"A non-partisan public service is exactly what we are and we have a duty of loyalty to the government of Canada that we uphold in the highest regard," she said.

"Nonetheless, that loyalty to the government of Canada and the services we perform on behalf on Canadians does not extend to a blind loyalty to one politician's positions."

'You can't be half-pregnant'

Donald Savoie, the Canada Research Chair in public administration and governance at the University of Moncton, disagrees.

"In my view, regardless of what the Supreme Court might say, public servants should not become political actors, especially in the middle of campaigns," he said. "They are not political actors. We have political actors; they are politicians."

He said you can't be politically active and non-partisan at the same time.

"If you start handing out flyers and you appear in videos, you become a part of that — you become partisan. You can't be half-pregnant," he said.

Public servants run for office

Public servants can run for political office, so long as they get permission from the Public Service Commission and take a leave of absence. A record number of 35 are running in the 2015 federal election.

Still, many public servants remain unclear as to what is acceptable political behaviour.

Chris Rodgers, the Liberal candidate in the Ottawa riding of Carleton who took leave from his job as a policy analyst at Public Safety Canada to run, says he meets public servants who are afraid to get politically involved.

"They don't feel they can put a sign on their yard. They're concerned whether they can go and knock on some doors in the evening," Rodgers told CBC News. "These are people who can and should be able to separate their private political activities from their professional work."

'Truth to power'

Maguire said public servants also have a responsibility to "speak truth to power."

"If they think there are problems with a government policy, it's their job to point it out," he said. "In this government, speaking truth to power has not been encouraged, to put it mildly."

Daviau agrees, and says the Turner investigation is just the latest example of the government muzzling federal scientists.

But Shepherd says the responsibility to speak truth to power does not give public servants permission to engage in political activism.

"The expression or the vehicle for doing that is to use internal avenues, not to be activists outside of the established mechanisms within the public service," he said.

A public servant concerned about government policy who exhausts all other avenues and chooses to go public, he says, must be willing to accept the consequences.

‘Harperman’ singer suspended, investigated for alleged conflict of interest

Madeline Smith, The Globe and Mail, August 28, 2015

An Environment Canada scientist is under investigation for allegedly breaching the public service code of ethics by writing and performing a political song that criticizes the Harper government.

Tony Turner, a scientist who most recently was working on a study of migratory birds, has been suspended with pay over allegations that his participation in his song Harperman puts him in a conflict of interest, the union representing him said. The Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada said there’s “no matter under investigation other than Mr. Turner’s involvement with the song.”

A recording of the song, uploaded to YouTube in June, says Mr. Turner was inspired by “a list of federal government actions disliked by his Unitarian church’s social justice committee.”

The song’s lyrics accuse Prime Minister Stephen Harper of muzzling scientists and suppressing freedom of the press, and tell Mr. Harper: “It’s time for you to go.”

Mr. Turner has worked for Environment Canada for almost 20 years and was just months away from retirement when he was suspended.

PIPSC president Debi Daviau said the opinions expressed in the song should not constitute a conflict because they don’t interfere with Mr. Turner’s ability to do research in his field. She also noted that an investigation of this nature was something she hadn’t previously seen among the PIPSC membership.

“Public servants have the same democratic rights as every other Canadian. To imply that [Mr. Turner] doesn’t have the right to express himself through a folk song as a private citizen is

“It’s our belief that Mr. Turner hasn’t infringed any laws or policies – and certainly is not in a conflict.”

The Values and Ethics Code for the Public Sector states that federal public servants are expected to “[carry] out their duties in accordance with legislation, policies and directives in a non-partisan and impartial manner.”

Mr. Turner is a well-known singer-songwriter in the Ottawa folk music scene, and his biography on his website says he has been a member of the city’s Writers’ Bloc, a songwriting collective, since 1994.

Harperman was originally written for Gil's Hootenanny, a community singalong in Ottawa, where it won the annual songwriting contest under the theme "songs of protest, songs of hope."

Andrew Hall, who filmed the Harperman video – a singalong with a backup choir that had more than 50,000 views as of Friday afternoon – said the song is a "joyful" expression of protest. He said Mr. Turner wasn't acting as a public servant, so there should be a reasonable expectation "to be able to engage in democracy."

"None of our materials say he's a public servant. He's performing as an artist. Besides freedom of speech, there's an issue of artistic expression here," Mr. Hall said.

A companion website for the song sells Harperman T-shirts and invites people to write their own lyrics to the tune.

Mr. Hall and Chris White, who previously worked as the artistic director for the Ottawa Folk Fest, are organizing an Indiegogo fundraiser to hold a cross-country Harperman singalong in September. They plan to host the event on Parliament Hill and add participants from other cities.

Mr. Turner has not responded to requests for comment.

Banff National Park employees silenced during federal election campaign

Colette Derworiz, Calgary Herald, August 26, 2015

A cone of silence has been put over Banff National Park, preventing any federal employee from speaking publicly — even on operational issues such as wolves chasing deer through the townsite, bears being killed on the railway and rescues by the public safety team.

The restriction, which apparently started when the election kicked off Aug. 2, is based on Parks Canada's interpretation of the rules surrounding the campaign period.

Banff National Park superintendent Dave McDonough, who attended a public event Thursday, declined to comment. Several park sources, however, have said they aren't allowed to talk publicly during the federal election campaign.

It comes after Justice department employees received a memo suggesting they curtail their social media use during the campaign and the Department of National Defence loosened its information blackout after being questioned about the lack of updates on military activities. Officials acknowledged that releasing some details of military exercises won't undermine the democratic process.

It now appears the rules have affected Parks Canada staff on routine public safety and wildlife issues.

Questions were initially raised after Parks Canada spokeswoman Christina Tricomi declined the Herald's request for interviews on several operational issues last week — including a potential public safety matter on Aug. 11 after two wolves killed a deer in the Banff townsite.

It took officials almost a week to notify the public through the media.

When they finally did, an interview was requested with a resource conservation specialist about the incident.

No one was provided Monday because Tricomi said they were out in the field and wouldn't be available until Tuesday. When asked for an interview again the following day, Tricomi sent an email explaining that they wouldn't be providing an interview.

"We are of the view that we were able to respond fully and sufficiently in writing, and in an appropriate format, based on the nature of the questions," she wrote.

The Herald hadn't provided a list of questions.

In addition, Tricomi noted that "the Caretaker Convention governs government operations and, according to this Convention, departments and agencies must curtail their communications activities."

However, the protocol clearly states routine, non-controversial or urgent issues can be addressed.

Colleen Campbell, president of the Bow Valley Naturalists, said the issue of wolves coming into town is in the immediate public interest.

"It's important for people to manage their pets and their own behaviour," she said. "It's important for people to know what's happening in their community."

In addition, she said timely information is also important for tourists who may not know how to act around wolves.

"Wolves are typically not dangerous to people, but it depends on people's behaviour," said Campbell, who has worked as a wildlife specialist for Banff National Park. "It seems that the policies might be impairing the quality of safety for residents and visitors alike."

Other routine issues are also facing restrictions.

When the Herald asked about a black bear cub being killed on the railway, an issue being studied by a team of experts to reduce mortality on the tracks, a two-paragraph statement on the incident was received.

Even non-controversial rescues are taking days to get approvals from Ottawa to release a statement with the details.

After a patient was flown to hospital in Calgary by STARS air ambulance this Sunday from Banff, a request was made for details of a hiking incident from Banff, Yoho and Kootenay National Parks.

No information has been provided after four days.

Emilie Taman the NDP pick for Ottawa-Vanier

Elizabeth Payne, Ottawa Citizen, August 26, 2015

A federal public prosecutor who was fired for taking unauthorized leave to seek the NDP nomination in Ottawa-Vanier won a tightly contested race Tuesday night before a standing-room-only crowd.

Emilie Taman promised to work with NDP Leader Tom Mulcair to “take back our democracy from those who have eroded our freedoms.”

“What Stephen Harper disparagingly calls judicial activism, I call enforcing our Constitution,” she said.

The daughter of former Supreme Court of Canada justice Louise Arbour, Taman was one of four candidates on the ballot at a nomination meeting held at Vanier’s Knights of Columbus Hall. Her mother was on hand to see her win.

“This is historic, folks,” said Larry Rousseau, regional vice president of the Public Service Alliance of Canada. “I don’t think anyone can remember a nomination meeting that we have packed the hall and raised so much money.”

The NDP riding association will need the money and support in a bid to defeat incumbent Mauril Belanger, who was first elected in 1995 in what has been one of the safest Liberal seats in the country.

NDP officials believe with a strong candidate and high levels of support, it has a good chance in the riding that has voted Liberal since it was created.

“I just want to say how exciting it is to see so many people and to have had so many exceptionally strong candidates,” said Taman. “It says a lot about where we are and where we are going.”

Taman was cheered when she told the crowd: “You know as well as I do there are many things we cannot and shouldn’t accept. For a start, let’s unmuzzle the scientists and the civil service and form public policy based on evidence rather than ideology.”

Taman was making headlines weeks before being nominated to run as a candidate in the riding. The former prosecutor with the Public Prosecution Service of Canada was fired for defying a Public Service Commission decision denying her leave to seek the nomination.

On Tuesday she said she has no regrets about her decision. She has said she plans to fight her dismissal.

The Ottawa-Vanier Liberal riding association is the wealthiest in the country. Belanger won easily in the past two campaigns, but in 2011, the NDP surged to a second-place

showing with 29 per cent of the vote, compared to the Liberal 38 per cent of the vote. In the previous election, Belanger won with 46 per cent of the vote.

The three other candidates were David Dymont, president of the Canadian International Council who also teaches at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University; Prosper M'Bemba-Meka, a toxicologist and cancer research specialist; and Angela Rickman, an environmentalist and community activist and volunteer who works with the federal NDP in policy development.

David Piccini, 26, who coaches the University of Ottawa's men's soccer team and works for the federal government, is running for the Conservatives.

Nira Dookeran, an English as a second language teacher, is running for the Greens. The Libertarian party's candidate is Coreen Corcoran.

Emilie Taman représentera le NPD dans Ottawa-Vanier

Paul Gaboury, Le Droit, le 26 août 2015

L'avocate Emilie Taman a été choisie candidate pour représenter les couleurs du Nouveau Parti démocratique (NPD) dans la circonscription fédérale d'Ottawa-Vanier, un château fort libéral où elle tentera de déloger le député sortant Mauril Bélanger.

Fille de Louise Arbour, ancienne juge à la Cour suprême et Haut-Commissaire aux droits de l'homme aux Nations unies, l'avocate Taman a remporté l'investiture au troisième tour de scrutin en présence de près de 400 militants néo-démocrates mardi soir.

Pour se présenter, l'avocate et mère de trois jeunes enfants a décidé de mettre en jeu son emploi de procureure au Service des poursuites pénales du Canada.

Sa demande de congé sans solde lui a été refusée par la Commission de la fonction publique du Canada, décision qu'elle a décidé de contester devant la Cour fédérale avec l'appui de son syndicat.

Au début du mois d'août, son employeur a décidé de la congédier, décision qui avait scandalisé le chef néo-démocrate Thomas Mulcair.

La cause devrait être entendue au début de mois de septembre, en pleine campagne électorale.

More public servants running for office in 2015 than ever before

37 bureaucrats approved to run for office in 2015

By Julie Ireton, CBC News, August 27, 2015

Discontent appears to be motivating a number of public servants to seek nominations in this federal election campaign.

According to the Public Service Commission of Canada — the agency that oversees the bureaucracy — 37 bureaucrats have sought and received permission to run in this election campaign.

Debi Daviau, president of the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada, said it's a record-high number.

In the 2011 campaign, just 11 public servants were given permission to campaign for public office.

Chris Rodgers, the Liberal party candidate in the Ottawa riding of Carleton, has taken leave from his job as a policy analyst at Public Safety Canada to run in his home riding.

He admits it's a risky move.

'My career goal is not to get a pension'

"I have an indeterminate position with the public service, and my career goal is not to get a pension," said Rodgers. "It's to do something meaningful with my life. Sometimes risks are necessary."

Some former or retired public servants are also running, including government lawyer Emilie Taman, who left her job to run for the NDP in Ottawa-Vanier.

Both Rodgers and Taman said they're hearing from government workers in their ridings.

"I have had a surprising number of people reach out to me by email mostly with an opening line that says, I've never been involved with politics before, but I just have to get involved and when I heard about your candidacy," said Taman.

But Rodgers said there's a real chill amongst some bureaucrats when it comes to getting involved in campaigns.

"They don't feel they can put a sign on their yard. They're concerned whether they can go and knock on some doors in the evening," said Rodgers. "These are people who can and should be able to separate their private political activities from their professional work."

Right to volunteer

Public servants won the right to engage in political activities in a Supreme Court ruling in 1991. They can volunteer, post political lawn signs, make calls, deliver flyers without any special permission.

But according to the Public Service Commission, a public servant cannot do anything to impair their ability to do their job in a politically impartial manner.

"I think that has inspired people to say, yes, we are not partisan ... but we don't serve Stephen Harper, we serve the government of Canada and we're entitled as public servants

and as citizens of this country to do what we feel we can to effect change if we feel that's what we need," said Taman.

But this partisan move by some bureaucrats doesn't sit well with professor Donald Savoie, the Canada Research Chair in public administration and governance at the University of Moncton. He's spoken and written extensively about the inner workings of the public service.

He said the traditional bargain was that public servants would be non-partisan and anonymous and in turn the politicians would protect the bureaucracy.

"So that traditional bargain that has glued the relationship is becoming unglued. If you want to find fault I think you can go back and point the finger at politicians and I understand the frustration of public servants," said Savoie.

Bureaucracy feels misunderstood, research chair says

Two National Capital Region candidates left government roles to run for the Conservative party.

David Piccini is running in Ottawa-Vanier. He's worked at Agriculture Canada and was a policy advisor at Service Canada. Most recently, Piccini worked with the minister of international trade, helping negotiate the Canada-European Union Trade deal.

Another Conservative candidate, Benjamin Woodman in Pontiac, comes from a job with the veterans affairs minister and formerly worked in the Prime Minister's Office.

Neither Conservative candidate agreed to an interview.

Savoie said what is really needed is a proper debate about the role of the public service in this country. He said that right now, the bureaucracy feels misunderstood, undervalued and basically pushed around.

"We made them part of the blame game," said Savoie. "Should something change? Yes. Should they be running for Parliament? I don't think that's the main issue. I think there's a deeper issue in the public service that needs to be addressed."

The 'ABC' movement declares war on Harper

Aedan Helmer, Ottawa Sun, August 22, 2015

Stephen Harper finds himself waging war on multiple fronts this election campaign.

With formidable opponents in Tom Mulcair and Justin Trudeau on either side of him, and the spectre of Mike Duffy lingering close behind, the battle looming ahead also pits the prime minister against the public service he's led since 2006.

As more and more labour unions join the 'ABC' bent -- urging their members to vote Anyone But Conservative -- even public sector unions that have traditionally remained neutral are now entering the fray.

The latest is the Professional Institute of Public Servants of Canada, who last week abandoned their long-held policy of neutrality in blasting the government's "intimidation" tactics following last week's justice department memo warning public servants against engaging in political activism during the campaign.

While PIPSC defends their members' rights to engage in all sorts of political activity outside of the workplace -- rights upheld in a landmark 1991 Supreme Court of Canada ruling -- the union didn't stop there.

In a departure from the usual union rhetoric of their brethren, PIPSC went far beyond labour woes in launching an attack on the overall Conservative record.

But some experts fear the unions are "playing with fire" by picking sides and sticking their noses where they don't belong.

The now-infamous memo circulated around government offices, sent as a not-so-gentle reminder of a public servant's duties during an election campaign, was the straw that broke the camel's back.

Reaction from the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada was swift and unflinching, with PIPSC president Debi Daviau coming out swinging with both fists.

The memo, interpreted by the union as an "intimidation tactic" to warn government employees against political activism in the lead-up to the Oct. 19 vote, "is just part and parcel to a whole package of goodies that this government has put in play to unlevel the playing field," said PIPSC president Debi Daviau, whose union, representing some 317,000 federal workers, has traditionally remained silent and steadfastly non-partisan during the writ period.

"But that's only part of the entire package of reasons why we've gotten to this place, where we're in exceptional circumstances, and exceptional measures are now required."

Other unions and special interest groups have long been on the ABC bandwagon, including the usual suspects ETFO, CUPE and PSAC, while some surprising allies are jumping aboard, including the Union of Correctional Officers and the Canadian Veterans' Campaign.

According to Daviau, while labour strife has been brewing for years within the federal public service, her membership's opposition to the Conservatives actually "all starts with non-labour issues."

She rhymes off changes to the election process through the Fair Elections Act, robocall scandals, changing of riding jurisdictions -- "All those external issues that makes you wonder about the fairness of the democratic process."

Which isn't to say that cuts the Conservatives have made to the public service aren't on the union's mind.

"The deeper these cuts went, the less able we were to deliver on these critical programs," said Daviau.

"I have people now whose life work has been completely eliminated or incapacitated, and there is a critical service that is now not being delivered to Canadians... There's been billions of dollars in cuts to programs, so there are fewer programs to protect our health and environment and the safety of families.

"So we put all that together and find ourselves somewhat in a do or die position."

Daviau cites the recent devastating oil spill in Vancouver's English Bay, where a well-equipped Coast Guard station minutes away from the site had already fallen victim to government cutbacks.

"There were emergency response teams set up to effectively contain those types of spills, but those teams don't exist anymore," said Daviau. "The people on those teams were dispersed to other programs and they watched on the sidelines as this spill could not be contained."

As Daviau makes clear, the union has never engaged in political activism in a federal election -- "until this one."

"And we find ourselves, in light of all of the circumstances, with no choice but to try to affect a change, so that we can have a government that reflects our values, our concerns and interests as federal employees."

But experts and longtime political observers warn public sector unions are "playing with fire" in an election campaign foreshadowed by unprecedented acrimony and strain between federal employee and employer.

"Are there things the government did that the unions find offensive? Yes, of course," said Donald Savoie, Canada Research Chair in public administration and governance. "But those issues should be sorted out at the collective bargaining table. I don't think they should become political issues.

"The public service, including unions, are there to serve the public interest. That's what public service is all about -- it's not there to serve their own interests.

"They're playing with fire and they ought to be very careful. Because when you're dealing with politicians, if you ask for trouble, you will get trouble."

Savoie said it's a "recent phenomenon" for public service unions to take their fight to the public sphere.

"When they did it before, they did it quietly," he said. "But to go out on a limb and become public actors and to stake out a position, I think it's inappropriate, and I would caution them to be careful. Because if I've learned anything about politicians over a lifetime of studying them, it's that politicians of all stripes, they have long memories. They do know who helped them and they do know who tried to hurt them.

"On the day after the election, if the party they don't support happens to win power, (the union) ought not to expect a friendly welcome."

Daviau insists PIPSC remains non-partisan, and unlike some of the usual union suspects, will not be endorsing a candidate.

"I want to be totally clear. We are non-partisan and we are completely in line with what has been for a long time our non-partisan policy," said Daviau.

"But that policy enables me to let our members and Canadians know about important evidence and information they need to make an informed choice about who their government should be. And we are leveraging that part of our policy to the max.

"We had the opportunity to be a leading country in wellness of public services," said Daviau. "And that is just being denigrated so far, so fast, that we are truly concerned that even a complete change in government is not going to fix what is now in a shambles."

It might be a losing battle, Savoie says.

If the union supports a party that wins election, the unions may feel that party is now in their debt, said Savoie.

On the flip side, if the party opposed by the unions wins re-election, that government could then be "hostile" to union interests.

"How do you serve the public interest if you're working for a government whose party you opposed or if you're working for a government whose party you supported?" said Savoie.

"Do you want a government that's in your debt? Or do you want a government that is hostile to your interests? Do you not think there will be some sort of ramifications?"

"I think it's ill-conceived and I would issue a warning: Be careful what you wish for."

Carleton University political science professor Conrad Winn shares that sentiment.

Union campaigning, according to Winn, affects more than just the union membership.

"It contributes to an atmosphere where (the voter thinks) 'Well, maybe everyone is criticizing Harper.'

"On the other hand, if the voters get to realize that unions are paying for this, it could well give Harper a majority," said Winn.

"If it gets into the electorates' consciousness, they may well say, 'If my choice is between these anonymous union leaders running the country and Stephen Harper, I'll stick with the devil I know.'"

Savoie believes the unions "are trying to influence much more than their members."

"And to say they oppose cuts in spending, well, we have democracy, we have a Parliament, we have a Cabinet, we have a government shaped by the will of the people," said Savoie.

"A duly elected government with a majority has every right to introduce spending cuts, and they don't have to ask anybody's permission.

"If the leaders of public sector unions feel so strongly about it, then take a leave, run for office, get elected and then shape the public agenda."

Christian law school fights B.C. law society's refusal to call grads to the bar

CTV News, The Canadian Press, August 24, 2015

VANCOUVER -- A Christian university that forbids sexual intimacy outside heterosexual marriage is arguing the Law Society of British Columbia is violating the right to religious freedom of those who would graduate from its proposed law school.

Trinity Western University is asking B.C. Supreme Court to overturn the society's decision to deny accreditation to graduates due to the institution's so-called "community covenant," which prohibits sex outside of marriage between a man and a woman.

The society accredited the proposed law school in April 2014, but reversed that decision last October after a vote by its members.

The B.C. government subsequently revoked its own support, barring the school from enrolling students.

"I expect over the next week you'll hear a lot about conflict of rights," said university lawyer Kevin Boonstra in court on Monday.

"If anything ... the membership of the law society shows that if anybody's rights need protection, its religious minorities."

The judicial review, scheduled for five days, is the third time the university has fought provincial law societies in court for refusing accreditation.

The cases pit religious freedoms against same-sex equality rights, with each side arguing discrimination.

Boonstra said Trinity's covenant is central to the private university's identity as an evangelical Christian institution. Trinity enrolls about 4,000 students annually and is located in the Fraser Valley community of Langley.

He said students are not screened for sexual orientation but must abide by the code of conduct.

"It asks students to make a choice. If they come, they should understand what being part of an evangelical Christian educational institution is about, to make sure they understand what they are getting into."

He said the covenant includes provisions for treating all students with respect, and there is no evidence of sexuality-based harassment within the university.

Students can be disciplined for breaking the covenant, but Boonstra said there is no specific mechanism for reporting sexual-related breaches of the code.

In its written reply, the society argued the covenant is discriminatory and runs contrary to equality rights of LGBTQ people set out in the charter. The code "seriously undermines the integrity and the foundation of the administration of justice," it said.

Earl Phillips, executive director of Trinity's law school, said the case is about whether there is room in Canada for a minority group to exercise its beliefs together. About 12 per cent of Canadians identify as evangelical Christian, he said.

"That's what we are seeking, space in Canada to live and work and study together as an authentic Christian university," Phillips said outside court.

Kendra Milne, who represents intervener West Coast LEAF, said religious freedoms can be exercised in private, but graduates called to the bar become officers of the court and have public obligations.

"I don't think anyone here is saying that Trinity Western should not be able to have a law school," she said outside court. "The issue is when we get to the public accreditation process."

The university won a similar case in Nova Scotia earlier this year, but an Ontario court upheld the Law Society of Upper Canada's refusal to accept graduates.

The Federation of Law Societies of Canada and the Alberta and Saskatchewan's bar associations have approved accreditation, while Manitoba and Saskatchewan have put decisions on hold.

The school was originally slated to open in the fall of 2016, but Phillips now expects classes to be delayed at least two years.

The case is expected to conclude in the Supreme Court of Canada.

TWU litigation begins in B.C.

By Glenn Kauth, Legal Feeds blog, Canadian Lawyer, August 24, 2015

The question of whether to accredit Trinity Western University's planned law school is back on the agenda with the B.C. Supreme Court considering a judicial review application in the case this week.

Proceedings begin today in Vancouver of the university's challenge of the Law Society of British Columbia's decision to deny it accreditation. The LSBC went back on its original approval following pressure by members of the legal profession that led to a June 2014 special general meeting on the issue and a referendum held last fall.

Among the interveners is West Coast LEAF, which says it's seeking to advance a less talked-about issue in the case: women's equality.

The university's community covenant, says director of law reform Kendra Milne, creates "another access barrier" to women through language requiring students to "treat all persons with respect and dignity, and uphold their God-given worth from conception to

death.” The language around conception, she says, is a concern given the implications for reproductive rights and access to abortion care.

The hearings in Vancouver will run for five days before Chief Justice Christopher Hinkson. In its submissions in the case, Trinity Western says “in the context of an evangelical Christian community,” its community covenant is “neither surprising nor offensive.”

“It is part of TWU’s Christian philosophy of education, which integrates academic learning, spiritual formation and moral character development in a manner consistent with TWU’s view of biblical faith.”

It also argues the law society’s decision to deny accreditation was contrary to the Legal Profession Act.

While 74 per cent of B.C. lawyers who participated in the October 2014 referendum voted against accreditation, Trinity Western argues it wasn’t in line with s. 13 of the act that deals with implementing resolutions of special meetings.

Among other things, it provides that a resolution of a special meeting of the LSBC isn’t binding on the benchers unless several conditions are present. One of them, according to the section, is a referendum in which one-third of all members in good standing vote and two-thirds of those participating voted in favour of the resolution. But the law society doesn’t have to conduct such a referendum unless it hasn’t implemented the resolution within 12 months of a general meeting on the issue and it receives a petition signed by at least five per cent of the members asking for a vote.

In this case, 12 months hadn’t passed from the June 2014 resolution directing the benchers to declare Trinity Western not an approved faculty of law, Trinity Western noted in its submissions.

Besides West Coast LEAF, other interveners in the B.C. case include the Canadian Council of Christian Charities; the Christian Legal Fellowship; the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms; and OUTlaws.

In a news release ahead of the hearing, Trinity Western expressed confidence it would prevail in light of a recent Nova Scotia court decision in its favour.

“While the Nova Scotia decision is now under appeal, it has set an important precedent in protection of freedoms for all religious communities in Canada,” it said.

In Ontario, however, the court recently upheld the Law Society of Upper Canada’s decision to deny accreditation, and Milne expresses confidence the result will be similar in her province. There’s a “strong case,” she says, “to have that decision upheld.”

Constitutional challenge set for New Brunswick court in cross border beer battle

CAMPBELLTON, N.B. – A New Brunswick man is preparing to launch a constitutional challenge over the right to buy his beer in Quebec, a case the defence says could have wider implications for interprovincial trade.

Gerard Comeau, 62, will appear in court Tuesday for the start of a four-day hearing in Campbellton, N.B., after being charged with illegally importing alcohol into his home province.

The Tracadie resident was charged following an RCMP sting operation in October 2012.

Comeau was stopped by police with 12 cases of beer and three bottles of liquor, which he bought in Point-a-la-Croix, Que., across the river from Campbellton.

Comeau said he's confident he has a strong case heading into court.

“I think so,” he said in a telephone interview. “According to the Canadian Constitution you can go do your shopping anywhere you want in the country.”

Constitutional lawyer Arnold Schwisberg will be part of a team arguing against Section 134 of the New Brunswick Liquor Control Act, which limits individuals to 12 bottles of beer purchased outside the province.

Schwisberg contends the provincial law is unconstitutional.

“Section 121 of our Constitution Act ... specifies goods, produce and manufacture should be admitted free into all the other provinces,” said Schwisberg.

He said in Comeau's case the liquor wasn't admitted to the province, nor was it admitted free because it was confiscated by police and his client was fined.

“That's what makes this particular case such a cause celebre and such a wonderful test case for the purposes of making this (constitutional) argument.”

Comeau is also supported by the Canadian Constitution Foundation, which believes the case will eventually result in a challenge before the Supreme Court of Canada.

Karen Selick, the foundation's litigation director who will be in Campbellton as an observer, said a favourable ruling in Comeau's case would have implications beyond the trade of alcohol.

“There are lots of other ways the provinces have over the years set up trade barriers that prevent goods from flowing from one province to another and we'd like to see those fall as well.”

Selick said regardless of how the New Brunswick court rules, there will likely be an appeal process launched that could end up before the nation's highest court.

“I can't imagine any kind of compromise decision that would satisfy both parties,” she said.

Should the case make it to Canada's top court, Selick said it would have to deal with a 1921 decision that essentially upholds laws such as the one in New Brunswick.

Comeau said his two-hour trip to buy Quebec beer was no different from than those trips made daily by people who live just across the border. He went two or three times a year to buy alcohol that is up to 50 per cent cheaper than in New Brunswick.

“I don't see any reason for buying surtax beer here just to give the government revenue,” said Comeau. “If the province wants people to buy beer here then they can put the price down.”

Former federal prosecutor will head review of bail procedures

Jason van Rassel, Calgary Herald, August 21, 2015

The Alberta government has named a former federal Crown prosecutor to lead a review into how provincial court bail hearings are conducted.

Justice Minister Kathleen Ganley announced Thursday that Nancy L. Irving will lead the review, which was prompted by the killing of an Edmonton-area RCMP officer by a man with a lengthy criminal record who was out on bail.

Irving, who also worked as a legal adviser to the RCMP, was most recently employed by the Public Prosecution Service of Canada at its headquarters in Ottawa. Ganley said it was not only important to have an experienced litigator head the review but also someone from outside the provincial Crown prosecution service.

“The bail review is a critical piece, because it has to set a balance between the rights of accused people not to have their liberty revoked from them (against) fundamental principles of justice. But at the same time, it needs to not only protect the safety of officers, but the safety of the public,” Ganley said in Calgary.

“It’s a challenging balance to strike and I think we’ve managed to identify an individual who has an enormous amount of experience.”

The review is expected to take until February.

Ganley launched the review in response to a report into a Jan. 17 shooting at a casino in St. Albert, where RCMP Const. David Wynn was killed and auxiliary member Const. Derek Bond was wounded. The officers were responding to a stolen vehicle complaint when Shawn Rehn shot them.

Rehn, who later shot and killed himself, had a lengthy criminal record and was wanted on outstanding warrants. He was facing 29 Criminal Code charges at the time of the shooting, and his criminal record included convictions for violent offences and several charges for breaching bail conditions and failing to appear in court.

Despite that record, a justice of the peace released Rehn on bail last September. The shooting prompted questions about provincial bail procedures because the hearing was conducted without a Crown counsel representing the prosecution. In Alberta, it’s

common for a police officer — in this case, an Edmonton police member — to act as the de facto prosecutor at a suspect's first court appearance following arrest.

The practice has been a long-standing concern among law enforcement agencies in Alberta, with police force brass and union leaders calling for trained prosecutors to take over the duty from officers.

“Our view is that it really falls within the mandate of the provincial Crown prosecutor's office,” said Calgary Police Association president Howard Burns, who represents 2,100 rank and file officers.

“Prosecutors are much better equipped to ask the right questions.”

In Edmonton, officials estimated police officers in the capital conducted 15,000 bail hearings in 2014.

Uber facing a gamut of legal challenges

Tali Folkins, The Law Times, August 24, 2015

In the wake of the City of Toronto's unsuccessful attempt this spring to get a court injunction against ride-booking service Uber, many people will be waiting to see a report on a public consultation process that could lead to a new bylaw regulating it.

The drafting of such a bylaw, however, seems unlikely to end the legal wrangling around Uber, at least given the opposition the service has stirred up among taxi drivers. According to Marc Andre Way, president of the Canadian Taxi Association, the company or its drivers are flouting a range of laws. “At a minimum, there are four levels where something is not properly done,” he says.

The City of Toronto, Way notes, failed to get a court injunction requiring Uber to apply for a licence to operate as a taxi or limousine company. However, Toronto has been laying charges against individual Uber drivers for failing to have the proper licence to own a limousine and failing to have their vehicles approved by the city's licensing and standards division. Other Ontario cities have been laying similar charges.

Way also contends that Uber drivers are wrongfully avoiding paying the harmonized sales tax.

“Your [Uber] receipt will indicate only the amount on the trip” and not include tax, he says. By riding with Uber, he says, “you're basically in a sense facilitating an underground economy.”

Way also believes Uber drivers lack adequate insurance, a concern shared by the Insurance Bureau of Canada, which has said it's unclear whether they have commercial coverage, a more expensive and comprehensive offering that taxi drivers must carry. Finally, says Way, Uber drivers also risk charges under Ontario's Highway Traffic Act that forbids drivers of vehicles other than buses from picking up passengers for a fee unless they have either a public vehicle licence or a municipal licence to operate a taxi.

In response to Way's allegations about Uber or its drivers violating bylaws and the Highway Traffic Act, Uber spokeswoman Susie Heath says Superior Court Justice Sean Dunphy's decision on Uber this July shows the company "is a legitimate model operating legally and is a unique business that is distinct from [a] taxi." As for the insurance carried by its drivers, Heath says: "Every ride on the UberX platform in Canada is backed by \$5 million of contingent auto liability insurance covering bodily injury and property damage.

"In the event of an accident during an UberX trip, passengers, pedestrians, other drivers, and the community at large can rest assured knowing that ride-sharing partners are well covered by commercial auto insurance in addition to any insurance coverage maintained by the driver."

Uber, Heath insists, pays all of its applicable taxes and instructs its drivers to do so as well.

However, she says as UberX drivers are independent contractors, it's their responsibility to remit the tax as applicable once they reach the \$30,000 minimum threshold required by the Canada Revenue Agency.

Adrian Myers, a commercial lawyer with Torkin Manes LLP and a professed Uber customer, says the company may soon be facing another legal challenge. A ruling this June in California in which a court found Uber drivers are really more employees of the company than private contractors "could open the door to a larger class action by Uber drivers who think they should be given the same legal protection as employees," he says.

Whatever the result of these legal disputes, the ball is now in the court of governments to decide what sort of policy they should adopt around a type of company that wasn't on the radar when they drew up existing laws and regulations, says Myers. It's a decision, he says, that should involve balancing how much of Uber's business model depends on skirting the regulatory burdens facing its competitors and how much its service benefits consumers.

"I think the two things that legislatures have to weigh when thinking how to regulate Uber is how much of Uber's business model is premised on avoiding the costs of regulation . . . and how much of the business model is successful because there's an artificial restriction on the supply of taxicabs in the city," he says.

"We should be sympathetic to a government that wants to make sure that everybody who gets into a taxicab or a vehicle that's driving them somewhere is going into a safe vehicle. . . . People are less sympathetic to the idea that if somebody can get insurance, if

they can get licensed, they should not be allowed to do so because there's a supply restriction being placed on this industry by the government."

Days after Dunphy's decision, representatives from Uber and the taxi industry met in Toronto and agreed they were willing to compromise on the issue of ground transportation in the city. Two days later, Toronto city council voted to launch a review of the city's bylaws with the intention of drafting regulations that would cover traditional taxis and limousines as well as companies like Uber. Already, the Region of Waterloo has provided a potential way forward with a new proposed bylaw to regulate drivers for companies like Uber.

A consultation process involving members of both the public and the industry is now underway, says City of Toronto spokeswoman Tammy Robinson.

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“After that, if required by council, draft regulations would be written.”

7 steps to managing law school debt

Written by Kelsey Rolfe, 4Students blog, Canadian Lawyer, August 23, 2015

For most students, taking on debt is an expected but unwelcome part of the law school experience — and many start out with a handicap in the form of debt from their undergraduate degree. But how can you keep your debt from getting unmanageable?

We asked financial advisers, managers at law school financial aid offices, and a few law students about how to keep student debt in check.

1) Know your loans and your costs

It’s a small thing, but understanding the terms of your student loans — what you owe, when, and to whom, and what the interest rates are — is important, if for nothing else than to reduce your own stress, says Jeff Schwartz, executive director of Consolidated Credit Counseling Services. “The first thing that we would suggest so [students] don’t get discouraged or frustrated with the fact that they’re carrying this debt load or that they see it mounting along the way is to get organized,” Schwartz says.

Still, student debt is something that Hinal Ghelani, a University of Ottawa law student going into her second year, says is an ever-present concern. “The first year of law school is what they say is the hardest of all of your three years, and then having the stress of debt on top of it, it just adds to it and it creates more stress,” she says. “It’s not very conducive to doing better in school because you’re worried about everything.”

Christine Hunter, the manager of admissions and student financial services at Osgoode Hall Law School, agrees with Schwartz. “[Students should] understand the costs really well, so that includes understanding the costs of not just one year of law school but the full three years,” she says. “Just planning ahead and understanding what are the tuition costs and what are the living costs and making a budget and a plan for the three years.”

2) Price out law school options

The cost of law school tuition varies from school to school, and going with the less expensive option of your top choices can help to cut back the amount of debt you’ll need to pay off. At the University of Windsor, for example, tuition is \$9,000 a semester, and, at the University of Ottawa, it costs just more than \$8,000 per semester. At the University of Toronto, it’s \$15,000.

“I didn’t apply to [the University of] Toronto — their tuition is over and above anywhere else,” says Vanessa Frey, a University of Windsor student starting her second year. “When I graduate from law school, I don’t want to be in the situation where I’m taking any and every law job just because I have this debt that’s putting a time pressure on me.”

3)Make a budget

It can be an intimidating process, but making a budget — even an informal one — is essential. “Many Canadians don’t budget, and, in many cases, it’s really because they’re afraid. Either they’re afraid of not knowing how to do it, or they’re afraid of what they might find,” Schwartz says. But, he adds, budgeting “is a great opportunity to take a step back, once you’ve put that all down on paper, to really understand how you’re spending your money.” With that knowledge comes the power to change spending habits that might be aggravating your debt load.

To cut down on the cost of food, Christina Bender, another University of Windsor law student going into her second year, says she has a food budget. “I do meal planning to make sure I don’t spend more on food than I need to, and I don’t ever eat out. I just can’t afford it,” she says.

4)Be frugal

Living expenses such as food, and course requirements such as textbooks, are unavoidable, but there are ways to cut down on the costs of both. At the beginning of the year, check used bookstores and textbook exchange groups on Facebook for reduced pricing. When buying groceries, Frey pays attention to grocery store sales. “I use flyers when I go grocery shopping. I’m just very price conscious,” she says. “Some of my friends don’t do this, but if strawberries are really expensive one week, I’m not going to buy them. It’s just not in the budget.”

Being frugal also means cutting back on what Brent Vandermeer, a portfolio manager with HollisWealth, calls the “social budget,” which encompasses expenses such as eating out regularly and partying.

5)Consider your housing

Where you live can have a huge impact on the amount of debt you’ll shoulder. If it’s possible to live at home, the amount of money you can save is worth forgoing the freedom of living away from mom and dad. For students living away from home, Teresa Alm suggests they consider shared accommodations.

“The greatest cost students are going to have outside of their direct education-related expenses are their living expenses, and those are the ones they have the most control over,” says the associate university registrar of student awards at Queen’s University. “So my advice is to try to be moderate in their accommodation choices.”

Frey lives with another law student, which she says, in addition to providing a “mini support system in my own home,” helps keep her living expenses lower. “To live in a one-bedroom, it’s like an extra \$200 a month,” she says.

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Law schools often have an incredible amount of money for merit- and need-based scholarships and bursaries. “I apply to a lot of scholarships and bursaries so I can supplement the funds that I have to pay for my schooling,” says Ghelani.

Even though the awards are highly competitive, it’s worth it to throw your hat in the ring. According to Alm, Queen’s Faculty of Law gives away more than \$1 million in non-repayable financial assistance to students. Osgoode, Hunter says, allocates \$4 million per year in scholarships, bursaries, and prizes.

“Really just make sure that you’re applying to all of those different programs and maximizing your chances of getting funding,” she says. “Bursaries are not repayable, they’re just free money, so that is an amazing burst of funding.”

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Having a part-time job during the school year, while juggling demanding class schedules and fitting in time for studying, is a challenging task for students, and many opt to dedicate fully to their studies.

“The key [to debt management] really is their ability to earn an income to help offset it while they’re in school, and that’s such a personal thing,” Vandermeer says. “Some people are able to manage that and some people, the workload is so intense it’s impossible to do, and no judgment either way on their abilities.”

The summer months can be the best time to save some money to help mitigate the cost of next year’s tuition and, Frey says, gain some professional work experience to boot. “Right now, I’m working at a legal clinic here in Windsor,” she says, “so I have a little bit of income and I have the bonus of really getting valuable legal experience.”

Adviser-recommended apps

Mint (mint.com): Backed by the same company that makes TurboTax, Mint is a free budgeting app and web interface that pulls together all your financial information in one place. You can connect your accounts, bills, and cards, and it will categorize them to show you where your money’s going. It also allows you to set budgeting goals for yourself, and it will update you with your status throughout the month. “It tries to help you be proactive in the budgeting side so it actually affects your behaviour, which is the key thing to budgeting,” Vandermeer says.

Budget Tool: Consolidated Credit’s free iPhone app tracks your total expenses and helps you create a budget to manage your finances. You can compare your current budget to the “ideal” budget, and find out if you’re living within your means or if there’s room to cut. “You can track your expenses on the go and you can download it to a spreadsheet after the fact,” Schwartz says.

You Need A Budget (YNAB.com): The YNAB app, which is free for students, encourages you to consider where each dollar you earn is going, and lets you know when you’ve gone over-budget. Overspending is deducted from the next month’s budget, to keep you on track.

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The summer months can be the best time to save some money to help mitigate the cost of next year’s tuition and, Frey says, gain some professional work experience to boot. “Right now, I’m working at a legal clinic here in Windsor,” she says, “so I have a little bit of income and I have the bonus of really getting valuable legal experience.”

Adviser-recommended apps

Mint (mint.com): Backed by the same company that makes TurboTax, Mint is a free budgeting app and web interface that pulls together all your financial information in one place. You can connect your accounts, bills, and cards, and it will categorize them to show you where your money’s going. It also allows you to set budgeting goals for yourself, and it will update you with your status throughout the month. “It tries to help

you be proactive in the budgeting side so it actually affects your behaviour, which is the key thing to budgeting,” Vandermeer says.

Budget Tool: Consolidated Credit’s free iPhone app tracks your total expenses and helps you create a budget to manage your finances. You can compare your current budget to the “ideal” budget, and find out if you’re living within your means or if there’s room to cut. “You can track your expenses on the go and you can download it to a spreadsheet after the fact,” Schwartz says.

You Need A Budget (YNAB.com): The YNAB app, which is free for students, encourages you to consider where each dollar you earn is going, and lets you know when you’ve gone over-budget. Overspending is deducted from the next month’s budget, to keep you on track.