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English Media

March 1

Effective communication key to selling upcoming austerity budget to Canadians

As the Harper Government is now weeks away from tabling its spring budget and implementing its Deficit Reduction Action Plan (DRAP), a solid communications strategy will be critical to building and maintaining public confidence for what is most certain to be the beginning of a long and sustained battle with public sector unions, the opposition, the media and a wide-range of stakeholders.

<http://www.ipolitics.ca/2012/03/01/chris-froggatt-effective-communication-key-to-selling-upcoming-austerity-budget-to-canadians/>

Flaherty says budget won't be that painful

The federal government will unveil its much-awaited austerity budget on March 29, although Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said those expecting a detailed schedule of spending cuts may be disappointed.

Flaherty said yesterday the budget will not lay out in specifics where the government plans to find between \$4 billion and \$8 billion in annual savings over the next three years.

<http://www.benefitscanada.com/news/flaherty-says-budget-wont-be-that-painful-25996>

Public sector warns of job cuts with 'day of action'

Public sector unions have scheduled a "day of action" for today to protest what they warn could be widespread job cuts across the country.

The planned demonstrations come a day after Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announced he will unveil the next federal budget March 29.

<http://www.thespec.com/news/canada/article/679551--public-sector-warns-of-job-cuts-with-day-of-action>

February 29

Federal austerity budget landing March 29

The Conservative government will demand some "moderate" public sector belt-tightening in a federal budget to be delivered Thursday, March 29, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said Wednesday.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/news/Federal+austerity+budget+landing+March/6230012/story.html>

61,000 private-sector jobs at risk: union

The union representing economists working in the federal government is predicting the loss of 61,000 jobs in the private sector if the Conservative government reduces federal spending up to \$8 billion.

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/business/private+sector+jobs+risk+union/6226140/story.html>

Crown-counsel cuts affecting criminal charges

Police have no help on weekends to draft criminal-charge paperwork

In the context of the debate about whether it would be wise for police to have the authority to lay criminal charges, without the approval of Crown counsel, one of the informative pieces of evidence is how successful the police have been at this task on weekends when, due to funding cuts, they no longer have the assistance of Crown counsel.

<http://www.timescolonist.com/news/Crown+counsel+cuts+affecting+criminal+charges/6227461/story.html>

Feds' lack of information on upcoming spending cuts as Canada heads into budget 'unique'

The federal government should “do the right thing” and make sure that the details of billions of dollars of the coming cuts to the public service are given to the public and Parliamentarians, says Liberal Treasury Board critic John McCallum.

<http://www.hilltimes.com/civil-circles/2012/02/27/feds%E2%80%99-lack-of-information-on-upcoming-spending-cuts-as-canada-heads-into/29726>

Expect a ‘watershed’ federal budget, say experts

Canada faces a “watershed” budget this spring, as the government stares down a variety of choices for the country’s financial direction in the wake of cuts and instability abroad, say experts and those with ties to the government.

“It’s the fine line that they’re having to walk between continuing to try and make sure the economic recovery continues, and at the same time obviously trying to rein in some of the rising costs that we’ve had over the last few years,” said Christopher Stoney, professor of public administration at Carleton University and co-editor of *How Ottawa Spends*.

<http://www.hilltimes.com/news/news/2012/02/27/expect-a-%E2%80%98watershed%E2%80%99-federal-budget-say-experts/29723>

“Access to justice is a basic right.” Chief Justice of Canada speaks on how “our justice system has failed our middle class”

In front of approximately 200 students (admittedly mostly from the faculty of law), Kamloops city councillors and members of the B.C. law community, The Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin, P.C., Chief Justice of Canada, gave a talk entitled, “Legal Education and the Challenges of Access to Justice,” in Thompson Rivers University’s Irving K. Barber Centre on Feb 27.

<http://theomega.ca/2012/02/29/access-to-justice-is-a-basic-right-chief-justice-of-canada-speaks-on-how-our-justice-system-has-failed-our-middle-class/>

Tories release spending estimate without revealing upcoming spending reductions

The Harper government released spending estimates Tuesday for the upcoming 2012-13 budget year that already project sizeable spending reductions in several departments — without factoring in potentially billions of dollars in looming expenditure cuts.

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/news/Tories+release+spending+estimate+without+revealin+g+upcoming+cuts/6224218/story.html>

A self-serving report

The end is at hand. Federal government economists have predicted it.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/opinion/editorials/self+servicing+report/6229815/story.html>

February 28

Corrections Canada slashes temp-worker program as budget cuts loom

Federal departments are bracing their employees in advance of the 2012 budget, and at least one, Correctional Service Canada, is suspending a program that allows term employees to qualify for permanent jobs.

Don Head, the commissioner of CSC, informed employees this week that the rules for term employees have been suspended immediately.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/corrections-canada-slashes-program-for-temp-workers-as-budget-cuts-loom/article2353268/>

Government's right to do business trumps public servants' need to know of job cuts in advance: HR boss

The need for public servants to know if they will lose their jobs in the upcoming budget takes a back seat to the Conservative government's right to secretly finalize its spending cuts and the "messaging" around them, says Treasury Board's chief human resources officer.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/business/Government+right+business+trumps+public+servants+need+know+cuts+advance+boss+says/6224295/story.html>

Spending already lean before budget cuts

The federal government spending for the coming fiscal year is expected to be tightly controlled even before the implementation of planned budget cuts aimed at reducing the deficit, official figures released on Tuesday showed.

Ottawa's initial estimates are that total budgetary spending will decline 3% to \$251.9 billion in the fiscal year starting April 1, from \$259.6 billion in the current fiscal year.

<http://www.lfpres.com/money/2012/02/28/19436361.html>

Job cuts will be modest: Baird

Cuts to the public service will occur “overwhelmingly” by attrition — and not by deep cuts, Foreign Affairs Minister and Ottawa West-Nepean MP John Baird told the Sun on Tuesday.

Trying to send a calming message to skittish civil servants, Baird said federal budget cuts will be “like nothing” that took place in the 1990s.

<http://www.torontosun.com/2012/02/28/ps-job-cuts-will-be-like-nothing-baird>

Ontario Supports Budget Cuts

A new poll by Nanos Research has found that Canadians overwhelmingly support the federal government’s plan to cut spending by five or 10 per cent. Three quarters of us want the larger cuts.

Nearly a third of Canadians would go even further than the Harper government suggests and cut spending by 20 per cent or more, the big survey (1,000 people) found.

Fifty-two per cent of the country wants cuts deeper than 10 per cent, and a whopping 19 per cent really want to start the chainsaws and cut federal spending by 30 per cent or more.

<http://blogs.windsorstar.com/2012/02/28/ontario-supports-budget-cuts/>

[Full Survey](#)

How we're modernizing B.C.'s justice system

A well-functioning justice system is fundamental to our democracy. British Columbians trust those who manage the system to ensure justice and safety are of paramount importance.

While significant progress has been made in recent years, there are some fundamental questions that need to be addressed.

<http://www.thenownewspaper.com/news/modernizing+justice+system/6220746/story.html>

It costs \$113K a year to lodge a federal prisoner: Report

Canadians taxpayers dished out an average of \$113,974 to lodge an inmate in a federal prison last year - a 30% increase from four years ago.

The annual \$2.3-billion bill for the country's 53 penitentiaries works out to \$312 per prisoner, per day, according to the latest annual report from Corrections Canada.

<http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca/sunnews/canada/archives/2012/02/20120228-103403.html>

February 27

Troubled pension plans sticking points in CP Rail and Air Canada contract talks

The growing problem with costly and increasingly untenable pension plans has become a factor in labour contract negotiations.

The Globe and Mail reports pension reform is a major issue in talks at Canadian Pacific Railway and Air Canada.

<http://ca.news.yahoo.com/blogs/dailybrew/troubled-pension-plans-sticking-points-cp-rail-air-215151819.html>

No need for Canada's Jim Flaherty to be aggressive in budget: BMO

BMO Nesbitt Burns wonders today why there's so much fuss over the need by Canada's finance minister to slash aggressively in his upcoming budget.

Deputy chief economist Douglas Porter notes that Canada's finances are in much better shape than anticipated in its current fiscal year, its deficit narrowing by almost \$10-billion in the first nine months to \$17.7-billion from \$27.4-billion a year earlier.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/top-business-stories/no-need-for-canadas-jim-flaherty-to-be-aggressive-in-budget-bmo/article2351195/>

February 25

Deficit may be smaller than predicted But federal budget still expected to target \$8B in savings, despite opposition from unions

The federal government's budget deficit is on pace to be significantly smaller this fiscal year than expected - potentially \$24 billion compared with earlier estimates of \$31 billion - putting the Conservatives back on track to balance the books by 2014-15 or sooner.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/Deficit+smaller+than+predicted/6207901/story.html>

Don't expect details on cuts in federal budget

The Conservative government's detailed plans to slash federal spending may not be revealed until months after the much-anticipated budget expected in the first week of April, CBC News has learned.

Government sources say the budget will provide a broad overview of Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's fiscal blueprint for getting the country's books out of the red over the next four years.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/story/2012/02/24/pol-vp-greg-weston-budget-delay.html>

Ottawa takes its anti-deficit pill while Ontario holds out for a miracle cure

There are two distinct attitudes towards Canada's economy now playing out in Ontario, one reflected in Stephen Harper's determination to reduce spending and balance the budget, the other represented by Dalton McGuinty's aim to achieve the same goal without touching any of the goodies he's handed out over the years.

<http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2012/02/24/ottawa-takes-its-anti-deficit-pill-while-ontario-holds-out-for-a-miracle-cure/>

Harper needs to end the special pension deal for government employees

The federal public service pension plan had 561,395 members in 2010 – 317,088 active members and 179,670 retirees collecting pension. Newly retired government workers collected an average of \$35,644 annually, retiring as early as 55. Total pension payments were \$5 billion.

<http://www.canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/44808>

Recession was a he-cession – but with public sector jobs on the line, watch out for a she-cession

When governments cut, women bleed.

In the last recession, in 2008 and 2009, it was men who disproportionately lost their jobs as the private sector downsized.

Now, with both the federal and Ontario governments looking to reign in their spending, there's talk of a looming "she-cession" as services, like education and health care, and administrative support jobs come under fire.

<http://www.thestar.com/business/article/1136345--recession-was-a-he-cessesion-but-with-public-sector-jobs-on-the-line-watch-out-for-a-she-cession?bn=1>

Non-unionized employees to average 3% pay raises in 2012: study

Canadian workers who aren't in a union can expect an average pay hike of three per cent this year, according to a study released Friday.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/life/unionized+workers+average+raises/6203951/story.html>

Flaherty signals moderate cutbacks in budget

Ottawa will take a moderate approach to government cost-cutting in the budget instead of following in Europe's austerity-driven footsteps, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said Thursday.

"I think Canadians should realize our context, this is not an austerity situation in Canada," Flaherty said when asked about his upcoming spending blueprint.

<http://thechronicleherald.ca/canada/66572-flaherty-signals-moderate-cutbacks-budget>

Médias Francophones

1er mars

Ne mettons pas le frein

Dans le sillage d'avertissements lancés par les firmes de notation de crédit Fitch et Moody's, des voix s'élèvent pour demander au gouvernement fédéral de mettre un frein aux compressions budgétaires anticipées dans son prochain budget. Pourtant, au même moment, un sondage Nanos révèle que les Canadiens appuient largement l'idée de ces compressions et souhaiteraient peut-être même que celles-ci soient encore plus sévères que ce qu'envisage le gouvernement. L'opinion publique aurait-elle tort contre les analystes?

<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/opinions/201202/29/01-4501119-ne-mettons-pas-le-frein.php>

29 février

Le budget fédéral attendu le 29 mars

Le ministre des Finances, Jim Flaherty, déposera son prochain budget à la Chambre des communes le jeudi 29 mars.

Le grand argentier a confirmé la date du budget mercredi à l'issue de la période de questions. Devant les journalistes, M. Flaherty s'est voulu rassurant en affirmant que le prochain budget ne contiendra pas de coupes draconiennes qui pourraient mettre en péril la reprise économique.

<http://lapresseaffaires.cyberpresse.ca/economie/canada/201202/29/01-4501103-le-budget-federal-attendu-le-29-mars.php>

Le secteur privé perdrait 61 000 emplois

Plus de 61 000 emplois dans le secteur privé risquent de disparaître si le gouvernement conservateur va de l'avant avec ses mesures d'austérité, selon une analyse de l'Association canadienne des employés professionnels (ACEP).

<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/le-droit/actualites/economie/201202/28/01-4500790-le-secteur-prive-perdrait-61-000-emplois.php>