

Justice is facing layoffs

Re: Conservative Budget Takes The Long View, March 30.

National Post – Full Comment – April 2, 2012

After months of speculation, the 2012 budget unveiled last Thursday included a \$77-million cut to the federal justice portfolio over three years. This represents a significant 10% slash, despite chronic court delays and the recent passage of the crime omnibus bill (C-10).

Opinions are sharply divided on C-10, but experts agree on one thing: this legislation will further tax the justice system, which is already at the brink. The number of charges and trials has risen dramatically over the last decade. Those trends are not declining.

Canadians will have a hard time reconciling this austerity budget with all the tough talk on law and order. Six months ago, C-10 was the legislative centrepiece in the first 100 days of government. Today, not only is there a lack of sufficient funding for the bill, justice is facing layoffs.

When it comes to community safety, many will conclude that the 2012 Budget is penny wise and pound foolish, leaving the crime omnibus bill nothing but a distant memory.

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