

## Union fears review will lead federal Justice Department to outsource lawyers

Graham Lanktree, **Metro Ottawa**, September 10, 2013

A review of the federal Justice Department's litigation branch is set to examine whether more of its work could be outsourced to private law firms.

"The optics are kind of bad," said Lisa Blais, president of the Association of Justice Counsel which represents 2,700 federal lawyers. "Will you have people one day appearing in court for the Crown and another challenging the Crown?" she wondered Tuesday.

The review is part of a regular evaluation of spending every five years. Yet in tendering the \$160,736 contract, the federal government included questions about the viability of "outsourcing, where feasible, of particular files or tasks within files" along with "alternative approaches to service delivery" and the "comparison of billing rates with private bar."