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Press Clippings for the period of January 27 – February 2, 2012  
Revue de presse pour la période du 27 janvier au 2 février 2012

### English Media

February 2

#### **Justice system should focus more on victims' rights, not criminals: ombudsman**

Canada's justice system is far too offender-centric and it's time to "shift the conversation" to ensure victims are treated more fairly, Canada's new ombudsman for victims of crime said in her first report to be released Thursday.

Noting victims have few legislated rights and entitlements compared to offenders, Sue O'Sullivan called for an "Omnibus Victims' Bill" to address the lack of access to offender information, meaningful participation at parole hearings and financial support for victims.

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2012/02/02/justice-system-should-focus-more-on-victims-rights-not-criminals-ombudsman/>

[Full Report](#)

#### **'Danger' focus of crime bill: Toews Stats don't tell whole story, Senate committee told**

In the face of criticism about the government's crime bill and mixed facts about whether crime actually has been going up or down, Public Safety Minister Vic Toews on Wednesday told senators they shouldn't focus on statistics.

Statistics, he said, are based on what is reported.

"I don't know if the statistics demonstrate that crime is down," he said.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/health/Danger+focus+crime+bill+Toews/6087962/story.html>

## **Cutting OAS costs necessary for future fiscal health of government: Flaherty**

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said Thursday he considers it imperative that the government restrain the growth of public pensions, although he stopped short of calling them unsustainable.

Flaherty made clear that changes are coming to the Old Age Security program that pays an average \$500 a month to lower-income Canadians upon turning 65, and that he will outline the government's thinking in the upcoming budget.

<http://www.canadianbusiness.com/article/69090--cutting-oas-costs-necessary-for-future-fiscal-health-of-government-flaherty>

## **Study shows bureaucrats still fear blowing whistle despite 'ironclad' protection**

Federal public servants remain fearful of disclosing wrong doing, years after Stephen Harper's Conservatives rode to power promising protection for whistleblowers.

<http://fairwhistleblower.ca/content/study-shows-bureaucrats-still-fear-blowing-whistle-despite-ironclad-protection>

## **Feds to focus on budget, economy, massive cuts, foreign policy, as House resumes sitting**

But opposition parties say they expect the majority governing Conservatives to bring down the hammer on bills and debates, again.

<http://www.hilltimes.com/news/legislation/2012/01/30/feds-to-focus-on-budget-economy-massive-cuts-foreign-policy-as-house-resumes/29431>

February 1
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## **Federal cuts will force big job losses, union says**

Canada's public service could face job losses of up to 50,000 if the Conservative government drives departments to cut deeper and faster than expected, say the union representing federal government economists.

Claude Poirier, president of The Canadian Association of Professional Employees, said the union estimates 110,000 jobs could disappear — including 50,000 in the public service — if the Conservatives press ahead with spending reductions of \$8 billion by 2014-15. The union launched a major study several months ago to get a handle on the economic impact of the government's proposed spending cuts. The final study won't be released until later this month.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/business/Federal+cuts+will+force+losses+union+says/6087839/story.html>

### **Quebec government bargained in bad faith in 2005: Labour commission**

The Commission des relations du travail (Quebec's labour board) has ruled the Quebec provincial government bargained in bad faith when negotiating with its 500,000 public sector workers in 2005.

In the Jan. 30 ruling, the board states the Quebec government, the Treasury Board and its president at the time, Monique Jérôme-Forget, negotiated in bad faith during the 2004-2005 round of bargaining.

<http://www.labour-reporter.com/articleview/12256-quebec-government-bargained-in-bad-faith-in-2005-labour-commission>

**January 31**

### **Economists say budget cuts risk more harm as Canadian economy shrinks**

Politically, it may be the perfect time for an austerity budget. But news of a sudden contraction in the Canadian economy has economists suggesting that deep cuts now risk doing more harm than good.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/economists-say-budget-cuts-risk-more-harm-as-canadian-economy-shrinks/article2322004/?from=sec431>

**January 30**

### **Consultants cash in on federal public service harassment complaints**

Public servant harassment complaints cost taxpayers more than \$2.5 million in consultant fees, according to latest federal government figures.

Public Works and Government Services costs obtained by the Ottawa Citizen show that 27 consulting companies — most of them in Ottawa — are on the standing order list of contractors brought in when harassment complaints can't be resolved internally.

In the fiscal years 2009-10, the latest full year available, 477 harassment cases were handled by outside consultants.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/national/Consultants+cash+federal+public+service+harasment+complaints/6074797/story.html>

## **Ontario labour board upholds union's complaint about 'secret arrangement'**

The Ontario government deliberately misrepresented a contract settlement with its largest public-sector union by awarding employees an additional one-per-cent wage increase as part of a "secret arrangement" to keep labour costs down, the province's labour board has ruled.

[http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/ontario-labour-board-upholds-unions-complaint-about-secret-arrangement/article2320446/?utm\\_medium=Feeds%3A%20RSS%2FAtom&utm\\_source=Politics&utm\\_content=2320446](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/ontario-labour-board-upholds-unions-complaint-about-secret-arrangement/article2320446/?utm_medium=Feeds%3A%20RSS%2FAtom&utm_source=Politics&utm_content=2320446)

## **MP pensions, all Commons spending face cuts, Tories say**

The federal Conservative government says it's willing to review House of Commons spending and lucrative MP pensions as it tightens the purse strings on Canadians.

The Harper government is searching for billions of dollars in cuts as part of a sweeping spending review and also is considering changes to Canada's retirement income system, including possibly increasing the age Canadians can receive Old Age Security to 67 from the current 65.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/business/pensions+Commons+spending+face+cuts+Tories/6074963/story.html>

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## **More resources needed for jammed court system**

### **Lack of judges puts pressure on other members of justice process**

The Jan. 27 editorial "Court system needs overhaul" suggested the root of the long delays in provincial court could be alleviated by administrative reforms rather than by providing additional resources.

The editorial pointed out that delays have become so acute that 35 criminal cases have been thrown out of court on Vancouver Island as a result of the excessive delays last year.

<http://www.timescolonist.com/news/More+resources+needed+jammed+court+system/6067056/story.html>

January 27

## **Focus Canada 2011 - Highlights Report on Crime & Justice**

This report provides key highlights from the 2011 Focus Canada survey, based on a telephone survey conducted November 21 to December 14, 2011 with a representative sample of 1,500 Canadians (18+). A sample of this size drawn from the population produces results accurate to within +/-2.5 percentage points in 19 out of 20 samples. Reference to previous data comes from Environics Focus Canada surveys (1976 – 2010).

Full Report: <http://www.environics.ca/uploads/File/Environics-Institute-Focus-Canada-2011---Hiighlights-Report-on-Crime-and-Justice---Jan-26-2012.pdf>

## **Stats show Canadians are changing their minds about crime... sort of**

More Canadians than ever believe that crime is on the decline, according to Environics Focus Canada poll results released this week.

As the Globe and Mail reports, 46 per cent of those surveyed believe that crime rates are decreasing — up nine per cent from last year. And while 46 per cent said they felt crime was on the rise that number is down six per cent from the previous year.

The poll also showed growing support for crime prevention over punishment — 63 per cent responded that they would prefer better preventative measures rather than law enforcement.

<http://ca.news.yahoo.com/blogs/dailybrew/stats-show-canadians-changing-minds-crime-sort-204908484.html>

## **Court system needs overhaul**

Today, we scrutinize another area of the public sector that faces similar pressures - the court system. The comparison is timely, because judges across the province are complaining they lack sufficient resources to do their job.

Yet instead of streamlining their operations, they've thrown up their hands. Last year, 35 criminal cases were chucked out on Vancouver Island alone, due to an alleged lack of resources.

<http://www.timescolonist.com/news/Court+system+needs+overhaul/6060896/story.html>

## **Justice system reaching crisis point**

**Christy Clark government under attack from left and right as funding shortfall leads to court delays, criminals walking free**

B.C. Premier Christy Clark and her government are being justifiably hammered from the right and the left for failing to maintain the legal system.

The NDP and the provincial Conservatives are having a field day with more and more alleged criminals strolling free because it takes too long to bring them to trial - not to mention Clark's obsession with televising the fate of the Stanley Cup rioters.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Justice+system+reaching+crisis+point/6060278/story.htm>  
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## **Small spending cut wields big axe on government jobs**

The federal government's plan to cut program spending by \$4-billion doesn't sound like much on the face of it. That's less than 2 per cent of total federal spending, and a fraction of a percentage point of GDP. Reductions of that size look tiny in comparison to the cuts of the Chrétien-Martin years, in which spending was cut by more than 2.7 per cent of GDP in two years (source is the Department of Finance's Fiscal Reference Tables). So why are public sector unions kicking up such a fuss?

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/economy/economy-lab/stephen-gordon/small-spending-cut-wields-big-axe-on-government-jobs/article2317248/>

## **Provincial pleas for federal crime bill funding dismissed**

**Rob Nicholson says Ottawa will increase transfer payments by \$2.4 billion**

The federal justice minister is rebuffing calls from provinces to foot the costs of implementing the omnibus crime bill.

Rob Nicholson told his provincial counterparts at the final day of meetings for provincial justice ministers in Charlottetown that Ottawa has already committed to increase transfer payments by \$2.4 billion.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/story/2012/01/26/pei-crime-bill-justice-minister-meeting-584.html>

## **Ottawa on track to beat deficit target**

The federal government is well ahead of schedule in reducing the size of the deficit, even as it is preparing to cut back on pensions and the size of the public service.

The Finance Department reported Friday that November's shortfall totalled \$1.9-billion, well shy of the \$4.5-billion of red ink penned in the same month in 2010.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/ottawa-on-track-to-beat-deficit-target/article2317307/>

## **Time for a public-sector pension wake-up call**

### **Canadians grappling with slim pickings can't afford rich payouts to MPs, bureaucrats**

It's getting mighty tough for Ottawa to keep justifying plummy pensions that are exclusively reserved for public servants and MPs.

Ordinary Canadians footing most of the bill for those pay-outs increasingly are having to postpone their own retirements for lack of financial resources. More are entering retirement with debt. Interest rates are rock-bottom. Too few have private pension plans. And companies are snipping away at pension offerings.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/business/Time+public+sector+pension+wake+call/6060313/story.html>

## **Parliament returns with massive shakeups to pension, federal budget expected**

Parliament resumes Monday for what could be one of the most acrimonious sessions in years with arguably the most important federal budget in a political generation.

Thousands of public-sector jobs, billions of dollars in federal spending cuts and the popularity of the Conservative regime are all potentially on the line in a spring session of the House of Commons that will be dominated by the first Harper majority-government budget and a multibillion-dollar operating review.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/business/Parliament+returns+with+massive+shakeups+pension+federal+budget+expected/6065066/story.html>

## Médias francophones

2 Février

### **Le projet C-10 en fait trop peu pour les victimes, dit l'ombudsman des victimes d'actes criminels**

Le Canada doit accorder davantage d'attention aux droits des victimes et moins aux contrevenants, et le projet C-10 sur la criminalité n'en fait pas suffisamment pour entreprendre ce virage, estime l'ombudsman fédérale des victimes d'actes criminels.

<http://www.radio-canada.ca/nouvelles/National/2012/02/02/001-ombudsman-rapport-victime.shtml>

31 Janvier

### **Négociations du secteur public en 2005: de la mauvaise foi du gouvernement**

Le gouvernement Charest a agi de «mauvaise foi» lors de la ronde de pourparlers qui a abouti aux décrets imposant les salaires aux employés de l'État, en 2005, et les liant au dossier de l'équité salariale.

<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/le-soleil/actualites/politique/201201/30/01-4490962-negociations-du-secteur-public-en-2005-de-la-mauvaise-foi-du-gouvernement.php>