



Association of Justice Counsel Association des Juristes de Justice

1545 av. Carling Ave., #406, Ottawa, ON Canada K1Z 8P9

TEL: 613-798-9900/866-218-3310

FAX: 613-564-0606

www.ajc-ajj.com

admin@ajc-ajj.com

Press Clippings for the period of July 1-7, 2011
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English Media

July 7

Budget cuts won't put Canadians at risk, Clement says

Treasury Board president Tony Clement has pledged the Harper government will not endanger the health and safety of Canadians once it decides where to slash \$4 billion in annual spending from the federal budget.

In an interview Wednesday with Postmedia News, Clement spoke candidly about the approach he will take to the job as he leads a government wide review of 67 departments and agencies.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/business/Budget+cuts+Canadians+risk+Clement+says/5060764/story.html>

Why the fuss over pensions

Two of Canada's largest unions (Air Canada and Canada Post) recently went on strike to save their defined-benefit pension plans against the wishes of the employer to switch new employees to defined-contribution plans.

What are these plans all about and why all the fuss?

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/opinion/westview/why-the-fuss-over-pensions-125129359.html>

It's time to end or improve self-regulation of lawyers

Self-regulated professions do a far better job of protecting their own members' interests than they do of protecting the public.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/time+improve+self+regulation+lawyers/5062939/story.html>

July 6

Charges stayed against B.C. man over seven-year court delay

In a strongly worded ruling, B.C.'s highest court says "the system failed" in the case of a man whose criminal case took seven years to get to court.

<http://www.theprovince.com/news/Charges+stayed+against+over+seven+year+court+delay/5060592/story.html>

Complacent private sector a research laggard

While the Harper government successfully brings unions to heel, eliminates public sector jobs and warns "spoiled" arts groups not to depend on future federal support, it has hardly a critical word to say about Canada's underperforming private sector.

<http://www.timescolonist.com/business/Complacent+private+sector+research+laggard/5057095/story.html>

July 5

Backing Out of Plea Agreements

The Supreme Court of Canada has upheld Crown prosecutors' right to back out of negotiated plea deals. This decision came after an Alberta woman was given an \$1800 fine for careless driving in a collision that killed two people, and left a third injured. Defence lawyers say that going back on the plea agreement violates the driver's constitutional rights, and the ability to renege on this type of negotiated settlement could put the Crown's credibility at risk. Should prosecutors be allowed to back out of plea agreements? Is their credibility at risk if they do, and does doing so violate the rights of those on trial? Joining us for this discussion is D'Arcy DePoe, President of the Alberta Criminal Trial Lawyers' Association; and Marco Mendicino, President of the Association of Justice Counsel.

<http://www.albertaprimetime.com/Stories.aspx?pd=2530>

Government can work smarter

Is innovation in government an oxymoron? We don't think so, but we understand why others might. The best examples of government innovation are often well-kept secrets, known only by a few.

Recently, the Public Policy Forum and Deloitte conducted one-on-one conversations with 100 public sector leaders from all jurisdictions across Canada - cabinet secretaries, deputy ministers and city managers - about the challenges facing Canada's public service. We wanted to gauge the state of government innovation and understand the barriers preventing successful innovation.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/Government+work+smarter/5050144/story.html>

[Innovation in government? Conversations with Canada's public service leaders](#)

The urgency of pension reform

The recent labour disputes at Air Canada and Canada Post are just another signal that Canada's pension system needs fundamental reform. Only a quarter of working Canadians are now covered by workplace pension plans that promise defined benefits at retirement, and many employers, like those at Air Canada and Canada Post, are finding these plans unsustainable.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/opinion/the-urgency-of-pension-reform/article2086379/>

Despite Conservative promise, user fees set to rise across the country

The Harper government may have vowed that cutting the deficit would not lead to higher user fees, but documents show that as many as a dozen federal departments plan to raise those fees – including Parks Canada.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/despite-conservative-promise-user-fees-set-to-rise-across-the-country/article2086594/>

[Conservatives' deficit plan](#)

July 4

Turning back the clock on labour

Many people are cheering the new look of Canada's labour landscape. Some of them, people who have always despised unions and their potential, are vocal in their enthusiasm.

Others are more subtle. These would be the people who support unions, sort of, but can't help guiltily applauding back-to-work legislation that sees them getting their mail again and avoiding lineups - that is, lineups longer than usual - at Air Canada counters.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/business/Turning+back+clock+labour/5038452/story.html>

Many public servants aren't standing up to political interference in access act: Drapeau

Many of Canada's federal public servants aren't standing up against political interference in access to information requests and are continually "looking over their shoulders" because there is no support from their senior public service leaders or from their political masters, says one of the country's leading experts on access to information.

<http://hilltimes.com/page/view/accesstoinfo-07-04-2011>

July 2

Back-to-work orders are an admission of failure by employers

Years ago, I told my sister, who is a public servant, once people realized how much they were paying government workers, there would be a full scale revolt.

Factoring in the short work days, thrice-annual long vacations, professional development days, retirement at age 55, and wildly generous pensions, no one of comparable education makes nearly as much on an hourly basis.

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/business/Back+work+orders+admission+failure+employers/5039009/story.html>

July 1

Perfume, soap made him sick, civil servant claims Forced to use up his benefits when colleagues ignored scent-free zone

A federal civil servant who says he took 11 weeks of sick leave because his colleagues wore too much perfume and cologne wants all of his sick time allotment restored, claiming his employer failed to accommodate him.

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/life/Perfume+soap+made+sick+civil+servant+claims/5034760/story.html>

Médias francophones

6 Juillet

Vérification et fonction publique - Une décision irresponsable

Le président du Conseil du Trésor, Tony Clement, cherche à couper pour retrouver l'équilibre budgétaire le plus rapidement possible et l'accalmie estivale permet d'opérer les compressions sous le radar. Au ministère des Travaux publics et des Services gouvernementaux (TPSGC), des 687 serviteurs de l'État dont les postes seront éliminés, on retrouve 92 vérificateurs de Services de vérification Canada (Le Devoir, 21 juin 2011).

<http://www.ledevoir.com/politique/canada/326830/verification-et-fonction-publique-une-decision-irresponsable>

5 Juillet

Les coupures ne seront pas brutales, promet Clement

Le président du Conseil du Trésor, Tony Clement, assure qu'il ne réduira pas brutalement les dépenses publiques comme les libéraux l'ont fait dans les années 1990 dans le but d'équilibrer le budget.

Les syndicats de la fonction publique sont sur le qui-vive depuis que le ministre Clement est responsable d'une grande révision stratégique des dépenses, car ils craignent que des milliers de fonctionnaires fédéraux perdent leur emploi.

<http://lejournaldemontreal.canoe.ca/actualites/national/politiquefederale/archives/2011/07/20110705-191801.html>