



Association of Justice Counsel
Association des Juristes de Justice

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Myles Kirvan
Deputy Minister and Deputy Attorney General
Department of Justice
284 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
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Dear Mr Deputy Minister,

RE: Federal Budget 2011 and the Department of Justice

Earlier this week, the federal government introduced the 2011 Budget. The fiscal path laid out in that document is one marked by further austerity measures and anticipated cuts to the public service, even while the government's law and order agenda continues to grow at an unprecedented rate.

We also noted yesterday the release of the Department of Justice's Report on Plans and Priorities for 2011-2012. The RPP projects an ominous reduction in funding to Justice Canada, chopping more than \$60 million in financial resources through to 2014. That figure foreshadows an additional 8% cut from an operational budget which has already been subject to strategic review and frozen since 2010.

We have two questions. First, how can the Department avoid layoffs of federal lawyers if it is to reduce its budget by \$60 million? And second, even assuming layoffs can be avoided, how can the Department maintain confidence in the justice system and quality legal services to the government if we have fewer lawyers with substantially less experience or strength?

These are difficult times for the Department, but if recent history within the LA community has taught us anything, it is that the Association cannot be absented from any discussion about the tough choices that lie ahead without further consternation and erosion of morale.

We should meet at the earliest opportunity.

Yours truly,

Marco Mendicino
President