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Press Clippings for the period of August 12-20, 2011
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English Media

August 20

Canada's justice system could use some toughening

I was in Vancouver recently right after Statistics Canada released its annual crime rate report in late July. Radio and television news in that beautiful city breathlessly reported that crime is down yet again in Canada.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/news/Canada+justice+system+could+some+toughening/5282822/story.html>

Bureaucrats, brass spar over cutback plan Report calling for big reduction in civilian staff faced interference

Bureaucrats tried to stymie a report by Lt.-Gen. Andrew Leslie that calls for deep cuts to civilian ranks at National Defence Headquarters, interfering in his study months before his still secret transformation document was finished.

"The team was directed to stop further work on the civilian structures in late November," says the report, parts of which were shared with Postmedia News on Friday.

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/Bureaucrats+brass+spar+over+cutback+plan/5282593/story.html>

August 19

Workers can expect minimal raises, study says Salary hikes in 2012 expected to range from two per cent to 3.5 per cent

Companies' optimism about their prospects for growth and profitability in 2012 isn't translating into significant wage gains for their employees, according to the findings of a survey of 250 Canadian companies who suggest the projected increase in their salary budgets for next year is less than the inflation rate.

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/health/Workers+expect+minimal+raises+study+says/5277319/story.html>

August 18

Fewer letters, more retirees cost Canada Post

Decline in mail volume and a massive pension burden has led Canada Post to suffer a pre-tax earnings drop of 27 per cent in 2010 from the previous year, according to its 2010 annual report.

For the fourth consecutive year, Canadians sent fewer letters, while the mail service had to service more homes, leaving the company paying \$18 million more than in 2009 to deliver less mail.

The pension problem at Canada Post may be its biggest concern.

In 2010, the Crown Corporation was forced to inject an additional \$425 million - on top of the \$321-million regular payment - into the pension plan to cover a shortfall of more than \$3 billion.

<http://www.timescolonist.com/business/Fewer+letters+more+retirees+cost+Canada+Post/5271787/story.html>

August 17

Governor General picks his spot

Gov. Gen. David Johnston walked a fine line this week when he characterized the law profession in Canada as an uncaring group that is breaking its social contract with the public by bogging down the courts with unnecessary delays.

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/news/Governor+General+picks+spot/5265204/story.html>

Don't rob judges of their judgment

When it came to law and order, the ancient Babylonian king didn't mess around. His law code, written in 18th century BC, was clear on how to punish criminals. For instance, if a builder builds a house that collapses and kills its owner, he shall be put to death; if a man puts out the eye of another, he shall have his eye put out; if a slave strikes a patrician man, his ear shall be cut off; if a man robs another, he shall be put to death.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/judges+their+judgment/5264653/story.html>

David Johnston's welcome words to lawyers

It may have seemed as if Governor-General David Johnston was taking a shot at lawyers. But he spoke as one who loves the law and has spent a lifetime teaching young people how to be lawyers. Using the authority of his office to exhort the powerful to do a better job of standing up for justice, and for the powerless, is a good use of that authority.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/editorials/david-johnstons-welcome-words-to-lawyers/article2132725/>

August 16

Lawyers beg Tories to temper crime bills

Lawyers and judges on the front lines of the criminal justice system pleaded with the federal justice minister Monday to tone down some of his upcoming anti-crime measures, saying they will only clog the courts and prisons with the mentally ill and other vulnerable people.

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/health/Lawyers+Tories+temper+crime+bills/5259923/story.html>

Cuts are coming: Fisheries Minister

FREDERICTON, N.B. The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans says his department could soon reduce its workforce of 14,000 employees across Canada.

<http://www.nationalpost.com/news/Cuts+coming+Fisheries+Minister/5259147/story.html>

August 15

Law system out of order: Johnston

Lawyers, judges must regain trust of citizens, Governor General says

Canada's lawyers and judges are losing sight of their commitments to justice and the public good, and the profession must reform itself and rebuild the trust of ordinary citizens, Gov. Gen. David Johnston says.

In a rare, forceful speech at the opening of the Canadian Bar Association's annual meeting in Halifax on Sunday, Johnston issued a stinging assessment of the legal profession and pleaded with it to change.

"We need a new model for professionalism in law," he said.

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/news/system+order+Johnston/5255308/story.html>

August 14

Basic rights at risk, chief justice warns

Civil justice becoming unaffordable for many working-and middle-class Canadians, McLachlin tells lawyers

Millions of middle-class Canadians are routinely denied basic legal rights because access to everyday civil justice is unaffordable for too many, says the country's most senior judge.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/business/Basic+rights+risk+chief+justice+warns/5252787/story.html>

Lawyers attack Harper's tough-on-crime agenda

The country's foremost legal organization has delivered a grim assessment of the Harper government's get-tough-on-crime agenda, attacking mandatory minimum sentences and questioning Ottawa's eagerness to put offenders behind bars.

With a series of blunt statements and policy resolutions, the Canadian Bar Association's annual conference bristled at inaccessible courts, inappropriate jailing of mentally ill offenders and costly measures that threaten to pack prisons.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/lawyers-attack-harpers-tough-on-crime-agenda/article2129321/>

Médias francophones

19 Août

Des fonctionnaires trop bons pour être honnêtes

Les fonctionnaires fédéraux, comme les écoliers, ne sont pas à l'abri de la tricherie : depuis quatre ans, plus de 35 d'entre eux ont été reconnus coupables d'avoir commis de la fraude en tentant de gravir les échelons de l'appareil gouvernemental, révèlent des documents obtenus par Le Droit.

<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/le-droit/actualites/fonction-publique/201108/18/01-4427113-des-fonctionnaires-trop-bons-pour-etre-honnetes.php>

18 Août

Le couperet tombera bientôt à Ottawa

Dans la lutte qu'il entreprend pour éliminer le déficit d'ici 2014-2015, le gouvernement Harper a épargné d'emblée trois vaches sacrées: les transferts aux provinces, les transferts aux particuliers et les impôts qui ne seront pas augmentés.

<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/actualites/quebec-canada/politique-canadienne/201108/18/01-4426906-le-couperet-tombera-bientot-a-ottawa.php>

17 Août

Le couperet tombe sur le Bureau de la traduction

Après Environnement Canada, le couperet tombe sur le Bureau de la traduction du gouvernement fédéral, a appris Le Droit. Quarante salariés du plus important employeur langagier au pays perdront leur poste à partir du 1er septembre.

Le Bureau de la traduction mettra fin aux contrats de 17 employés nommés pour une période déterminée à compter du 1er septembre, alors que 23 postes permanents seront abolis à compter du 3 octobre, a confirmé hier Sébastien Bois, porte-parole du ministère des Travaux publics et des Services gouvernementaux (TPSGC).

<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/le-droit/actualites/fonction-publique/201108/16/01-4426495-le-couperet-tombe-sur-le-bureau-de-la-traduction.php>

15 Août

Le ministre de la Justice défend les peines minimales

Le ministre fédéral de la Justice a rejeté lundi une suggestion de l'Association du Barreau canadien portant sur les peines minimales, et a réaffirmé que les juges canadiens jouissaient déjà d'une marge de manœuvre suffisante pour faire leur travail adéquatement.

<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/actualites/quebec-canada/politique-canadienne/201108/15/01-4426187-le-ministre-de-la-justice-defend-les-peines-minimales.php>