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Press Clippings for the period of August 21-25, 2011
Revue de presse pour la période du 21 au 25 août 2011

English Media

August 25

Tax and Federal Courts' turf war goes public

The Federal Court is accusing the Tax Court of Canada of attempting a power grab behind the Federal Court's back.

The long-simmering rivalry between the two national trial courts erupted into public view at the annual meeting of the Canadian Bar Association (CBA)'s governing council in Halifax on Aug. 13.

<http://www.lawyersweekly.ca/index.php?section=article&volume=31&number=15&article=1>

August 24

Why public sector leadership demands innovation

Canada's public sector is facing pressure on multiple fronts. On one hand, challenges are mounting for agencies across all levels of government - from fiscal cutbacks, rising deficits and crumbling infrastructure to resource constraints that hamper their efforts to meet the evolving needs of an aging population. On the other hand, Canada's governments are often thwarted in their attempts to address these issues through decisive action due to a combination of political manoeuvring, limited public engagement and, in some instances, an aversion to risk. As such, Canada's public sector leaders run the risk of falling behind the innovative achievements of their global counterparts.

<http://www.nationalpost.com/news/public+sector+leadership+demands+innovation/5297957/story.html>

Our public service in evolution

Like most private companies, Canada's public sector organizations are being asked to do more with less, at a time when they are under greater public scrutiny and financial pressure than ever before. Having just come through a significant economic crisis in 2008, it continues to be subject to volatile financial markets, environmental challenges and significant social change. While Canada has been well-positioned to weather this storm, all levels of government across the nation are now facing substantial deficits and increasing demands for services and support.

<http://www.nationalpost.com/news/public+service+evolution/5297956/story.html>

Salary increases still lagging: survey Newfoundland and Labrador expected to lead wage growth

Newfoundland and Labrador will lead the country this year when it comes to wage growth, according to a report released Tuesday which shows that, two years into the recovery, salary increases still lag well behind advances projected before the recession.

The national average salary projection is 2.6 per cent for 2011 and 2.8 per cent for 2012, states to Hay Group, a global management consulting firm. The pre-recession projection for 2009 had been for an average increase of 3.7 per cent.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/business/Salary+increases+still+lagging+survey/5297513/story.html>

August 22

Government institutions don't respect access to information laws

The Federal Court's decision that the government should release the information it has on former NDP leader Tommy Douglas is an important ruling that shows federal institutions have a lack of respect for access laws, say experts.

<http://hilltimes.com/page/view/-08-22-2011>

Nicholson rebuffs CBA critics Minister rejects concerns about judicial discretion

Federal Justice Minister Rob Nicholson brushed off a barrage of criticism for his tough-on-crime policies during his annual appearance at the Canadian Bar Association's conference in Halifax last week.

Earlier, the CBA's council passed a string of resolutions sponsored by its criminal justice section calling for the federal government to tone down legislation expanding mandatory minimum sentences for certain offences by inserting a so-called safety valve in Criminal Code amendments.

It also asked Nicholson to reconsider the policies in the light of their costs through increased imprisonment and their effects on the aboriginal community and mentally ill offenders.

<http://www.lawtimesnews.com/201108228613/Headline-News/Nicholson-rebuffs-CBA-critics>

August 21

Tim Harper: Labour's new reality under majority rule

Only days after convening Parliament as a majority prime minister, Stephen Harper chose unionized workers as the first to face his newfound muscle.

He moved with lightning-quick speed to threaten back-to-work legislation for striking Air Canada ground agents and force workers to settle.

Then he legislated postal workers back to their rounds. His use of the big club has worked.

<http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/politics/article/1042837--tim-harper-labour-s-new-reality-under-majority-rule?bn=1>

Médias francophones

25 Août

Le Barreau du Québec veut des juges bilingues à la Cour suprême

Le Barreau du Québec estime qu'il est impératif que les prochains juges nommés à la Cour suprême du Canada soient bilingues et en mesure d'entendre une cause sans l'aide d'un interprète.

Le bâtonnier du Québec, Me Louis Masson, a réitéré sa position jeudi alors que le processus visant à pourvoir les postes qui se libéreront avec les départs prochains à la retraite des juges Ian Binnie et Louise Charron se poursuit.

<http://www.radio-canada.ca/nouvelles/National/2011/08/25/002-barreau-bilinguisme-juges.shtml>