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Press Clippings for the period of June 17-23, 2011 Revue de presse pour la période du 17 au 23 juin 2011

English Media

June 23

Monetizing The Charter

Now it is a different world. The 1982 Charter of Rights and Freedoms gave the courts power to strike down federal and provincial legislation for a wide variety of reasons. The Charter is part of Canada's constitution, and cannot be changed without great difficulty.

<http://www.nationalpost.com/news/Monetizing+Charter/4990812/story.html>

June 22

Private-public wage disparities

According to a CFIB 2008 study, taxpayers would save \$19-billion a year if public sector wages were equalized with private-sector ones. And that only includes those civil servants with direct private sector equivalents -in other words, no police, firefighters, etc. were included.

<http://www.financialpost.com/news/Private+public+wage+disparities/4984421/story.html>

Tories cite deficit in eliminating auditing jobs

Public servants were called to meetings Monday afternoon at Public Works where the cuts – totalling \$172.2-million and affecting 687 jobs over three years – were explained.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/axe-falls-at-public-works-amid-wave-of-government-purchases/article2067855/>

AJC Presentation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights

[Bill C-2 - An Act to amend the Criminal Code \(mega-trials\)](#)

[\(Audio file – 10MB – Duration 7 minutes\) \(Approx. download time: 5-6 minutes\)](#)

PS cuts no reason to panic, bureaucrat says

90-95% of budgets available to do vital work: Public Service Commission president

Maria Barrados has a message for federal public servants spooked by doomsday talk of impending budget cuts: there's no need to panic.

In an interview, the president of the Public Service Commission acknowledged that the federal bureaucracy will be smaller in future.

"We have to downsize and there are going to be some budget reductions," Barrados said. But, she added, "I worry that there's going to be an overreaction to some of these things."

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/cuts+reason+panic+bureaucrat+says/4984469/story.html>

Tory axe hits 'muscle and bone' of climate science, Elizabeth May says

Green Party Leader Elizabeth May is accusing Stephen Harper of letting ideology dictate job cuts to climate scientists at Environment Canada. And she is calling on Environment Minister Peter Kent to reverse them.

"What is clear to me is that the cuts are not in fat," Ms. May said. "This is cuts into muscle and bone."

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/ottawa-notebook/tory-axe-hits-muscle-and-bone-of-climate-science-elizabeth-may-says/article2070874/>

June 21

Pensions get bigger in contract negotiating room

The labour disputes at Air Canada and Canada Post are powerful reminders of a deepening pension crisis. Both companies are facing an unhappy future unless something is done. They have billions of unfunded pension obligations and an ever-expanding base of retirees.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/commentary/barrie-mckenna/pensions-gets-bigger-in-contract-negotiating-room/article2066857/>

Pension changes demand debate

It's significant that the current labour battles at Air Canada and Canada Post are over pensions, not wages or job losses. And the conflicts are evidence of government failure to deal effectively with what could become a pension crisis.

<http://www.timescolonist.com/business/Pension+changes+demand+debate/4979533/story.html>

Public Works to slash 700 jobs

Three-year forecast sees 550 jobs lost in Ottawa, PSAC president says. First to go: 92 auditors nationwide

As many as 700 jobs at Public Works Canada could be slashed within the next three years.

The news came Monday, when the department alerted unions of the specific employees who are at risk of losing their jobs, union presidents said.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/business/Public+Works+slash+jobs/4978241/story.html>

June 20

Province adds more sheriffs in courtrooms

Attorney general reverses cuts after criticism from judges, trial delays

More sheriffs will be placed in B.C. courtrooms to cover a shortage that had delayed trials and made judges uncomfortable, Attorney General Barry Penner said Monday.

<http://www.timescolonist.com/Province+adds+more+sheriffs+courtrooms/4978052/story.html>

June 19

Budget cuts carry a high cost

It is easy, from Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's office, to describe finding \$4 billion in spending cuts to balance the federal budget as "no big deal." The cuts, about five per cent of \$80 billion in program spending to be reviewed, are critical to the plan to eliminate the deficit by the 2014-15 fiscal year.

<http://www.timescolonist.com/technology/Budget+cuts+carry+high+cost/4971543/story.html>

Collective bargaining rights at risk

NDP vows to fight back-to-work legislation for postal workers

The NDP might filibuster the Conservative government's effort to send postal workers back to work.

"We will use the parliamentary tools that we have at our disposal in order to see the legislation fully debated," party leader Jack Layton said in Vancouver, where the NDP is holding its national convention. "We don't agree with the approach (Prime Minister Stephen Harper) is taking here."

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/business/Collective+bargaining+rights+risk/4970876/story.html>

June 18

Public sector union to mount campaign against job cuts

Canada's largest federal public sector union is mobilizing for a nationwide summer offensive against the Harper government's plans to cut public service jobs.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/Public+sector+union+mount+campaign+against+cuts/4968884/story.html>

Court clerks fill sheriffs' shoes Union sees security gaps, stresses lack of training

Court clerks in B.C. say they're being assigned the responsibility of courtroom security because of a shortage of sheriffs.

A new government policy, dated earlier this month, asks court clerks to fill out a security threat assessment form when sheriffs aren't physically present in a courtroom.

<http://www.timescolonist.com/news/Court+clerks+fill+sheriffs+shoes/4969501/story.html>

June 17

Washing their hands of pension risk

You can understand the anger, at least to a point: in recent labour disputes at both Canada Post and Air Canada, one of the major sticking points is pension funds. In both instances, the companies involved want new hires to get a different kind of pension plan than current employees.

<http://www.thetelegram.com/Opinion/Columns/2011-06-18/article-2593559/Washing-their-hands-of-pension-risk/1>

CANADIAN CIVIL LIBERTIES ASSOCIATION

[Letter to The Honourable Lisa Raitt, Minister of Labour](#)

Médias francophones

22 juin

Mégaprocès: pas d'amendement pour le projet de loi

Déterminés à faire adopter leur projet de loi sur les mégaprocès d'ici la fin de la session parlementaire, les conservateurs ont expédié en à peine une heure son étude en comité hier et refusé tout amendement.

<http://www.ledevoir.com/societe/justice/326035/megaproces-pas-d-amendement-pour-le-projet-de-loi>

21 juin

Travaux publics perd ses chiens de garde Ottawa supprime 687 emplois dans le ministère, dont les 92 vérificateurs

L'exercice de réduction des dépenses du gouvernement fédéral fait une victime imprévue: toute l'équipe de vérification interne du ministère des Travaux publics sera abolie. C'est la capacité du gouvernement de s'assurer que ses contrats sont bien administrés qui passe ainsi à la trappe.

<http://www.ledevoir.com/politique/canada/325947/travaux-publics-perd-ses-chiens-de-garde>

19 juin

À quand les procureurs de la Couronne?

Quatre mois après l'adoption d'une loi spéciale, l'Association des procureurs aux poursuites criminelles et pénales constate l'absence de volonté de régler le dossier

L'Association des procureurs aux poursuites criminelles et pénales (APPCP) se réjouit de l'entente intervenue la semaine dernière entre le gouvernement du Québec et les médecins omnipraticiens et spécialistes mais constate l'absence manifeste de volonté de régler le dossier de la Couronne.

http://www.appcp.ca/images/communiqu/Com_presse_20_06_2011.doc