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Press Clippings for the period of September 2-8, 2011
Revue de presse pour la période du 2 au 8 septembre 2011

English Media

September 8

Manitoba leaders hit campaign trail with crime as major issue

Manitoba has the highest violent crime rate in Canada, so it's no surprise party leaders are talking about how to deal with the problem as they begin campaigning in earnest for the Oct. 4 provincial election.

The Opposition Progressive Conservatives and the governing NDP are both offering some traditional law-and-order solutions.

Premier Greg Selinger's New Democrats have made tackling crime No. 4 on their list of five key issues. They are promising "more police, faster prosecutions and tougher consequences," although their plans have yet to be fleshed out.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/provincial-elections/manitoba-leaders-hit-campaign-trail-with-crime-as-major-issue/article2157330/>

September 7

Business owners provide sound voice on CPP matters Bad math quickly catching up to us

The response to last month's column on CFIB's "Canada's Pension Tension" campaign from many quarters has been incredible. We've received more than 5,500 signed petitions from small business owners across Canada outlining their concern with underfunded and unsustainable public sector pensions and opposition to the union proposal to double Canada Pension Plan (CPP) benefits.

But there is one group even more engaged than small businesses on this issue: the public sector unions. CFIB has been around for 40 years, so we know there are two issues that will draw

smoke from the ears of union bosses faster than any other. The first is any discussion about changing the Rand formula - designed to ensure no employee will opt out of the union simply to avoid dues - and second is any modification to public sector worker "entitlements."

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/Business+owners+provide+sound+voice+matters/5363006/story.html>

Out of control

Re: "Everyone benefits from strong unions," Bishop Fred Henry, Opinion, Sept. 5.

I would not argue with Bishop Henry about unions with private sector employers. They are governed by the market. They know if they demand and get too much, they put their employers out of business, and everybody ends up with nothing.

Public sector unions are another matter entirely.

They have virtually ungoverned access to a bottomless pot of gold - the Canadian taxpayer, and they control services on which many place critical reliance, thereby enabling them to exact virtual blackmail.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/news/control/5362917/story.html>

September 6

CTF rips public service pensions, salaries

The gap between government employees and the rest of the working world is widening, says the Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF).

In response, the CTF has launched a campaign advocating for changes to public sector pensions and salaries. Quoting data from Statistics Canada, the Frontier Centre for Public Policy, the Fraser Institute, and the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, the CTF says the average weekly earnings of government workers has increased from \$756.01 to \$1,023.20 from 2001 to 2011 (an increase of 35.3%), while average weekly earnings for the private sector have only increased from \$598.81 to \$777.69 (an increase of 29.9%).

<http://www.benefitscanada.com/news/ctf-rips-public-service-pensions-salaries-20217>

A wake-up call for the legal profession

The recent, well publicized, keynote address of Governor-general David Johnston at the Canadian Bar Association annual meeting in Halifax established two important points, both of which deserve greater reflection.

The first is that the governor-general occupies a special position in our society. Leaving aside the political question of whether he or she is the de facto head of state whenever the sovereign is outside the country, the governor-general sets a national tone and standards of conduct, removed from partisan considerations.

The second point is that the role of the legal system in Canada and the administration of justice are fundamental to a society governed by the rule of law, as opposed to arbitrary administrative discretion. It is the rule of law that sets democracy apart from dictatorship. The rule of law is not simply a matter of having laws on the statute book. Instead, it is the challenge of making certain that the laws adopted by Parliament and provincial legislatures operate as they were intended, in response to the view of what society, clothed with such legislation, should be.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/wake+call+legal+profession/5356630/story.html>

September 5

Everyone benefits from strong unions

Upon reading both the signs of the times, and the 2009 encyclical, Charity in Truth, you might be tempted to conclude that Pope Benedict was offering a prophetic description of the 2011 labour scene in Canada.

He noted: "Through the combination of social and economic change, trade union organizations experience greater difficulty in carrying out their task of representing the interests of workers, partly because governments, for reasons of economic utility, often limit the freedom or the negotiating capacity of labour unions."

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/Everyone+benefits+from+strong+unions/5353843/story.html>

September 4

What has gone wrong for working Canadians?

Labour Day a chance to reflect on how our society has changed

There was a time in Canada, not that long ago, when a working person could expect to have a family-supporting job throughout his or her life.

For an honest day's labour, a worker could raise kids, buy a house, pay off the mortgage, take vacations, have weekends off, help send the kids through college and retire with a modest but livable pension. Jobs were relatively secure and employers showed loyalty for good work.

This Labour Day, as we celebrate the contributions of working people in building a better Canada, we have to ask: What has gone so wrong in our country?

<http://www.timescolonist.com/business/What+gone+wrong+working+Canadians/5352276/story.html>

A way forward for labour

This summer I visited Lawrence, Mass. It was once a bustling textile town. No more.

The imposing mills still stand and stretch for blocks, but they stopped production decades ago. Now they house condos and boutique shops. There are even museums commemorating the 40,000 largely immigrant workers who once toiled in Lawrence for \$9 a day. One in three of them died before reaching the age of 25.

<http://www.thestar.com/opinion/editorialopinion/article/1048870--a-way-forward-for-labour>

September 2

Environment Canada cuts 'not political'

Kent claims 'misreporting' about job losses

Hundreds of job cuts announced over the summer at Environment Canada were not politically motivated and will not affect core services in the department, federal Environment Minister Peter Kent said Thursday.

Speaking at length about the issue for the first time since the cuts - affecting nearly 800 positions - were confirmed in July, Kent also rejected accusations from opposition parties that the decision was deliberately imposed to muzzle scientists conducting research that contradicts government policies.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/technology/Environment+Canada+cuts+political/5343877/story.html>

ACFO Report Examines Business Case for Unions

In recognition of Labour Day, ACFO has released a special report which assesses the relevance of unions in modern society, titled Assets or Liabilities? A Business Case for Unions in the 21st Century.

ACFO published this white paper in response to public debate questioning the value of unions following the recent economic downturn.

Given the conflicting viewpoints surrounding this issue, the Association felt it was important to take emotion out of the discussion and review relevant facts in a dispassionate manner. This

business case brings solid evidence back into the discussions.

Full Report: http://www.acfo-acaf.com/sites/default/files/assets_or_liabilities_final.pdf

Médias francophones

8 septembre

Le syndicat continue de contester

L'Institut professionnel de la fonction publique du Canada (IPFPC) appuie la demande de révision judiciaire dans l'affaire des scientifiques dénonciateurs de Santé Canada congédiés pour insubordination en 2004.

<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/le-droit/actualites/fonction-publique/201109/07/01-4432426-le-syndicat-continue-de-contester.php>

7 septembre

Enquête de Mercer - Les employeurs prévoient des hausses salariales modestes en 2012

Il faudra prendre son mal en patience. La situation financière de la population active canadienne n'est pas près de s'améliorer, selon ce qui ressort de l'enquête 2012 de Mercer sur la planification de la rémunération. Les données recueillies par cette entreprise de services-conseils en ressources humaines indiquent en effet que les employeurs prévoient offrir une faible augmentation de salaire à leurs employés l'an prochain.

<http://www.ledevoir.com/economie/actualites-economiques/330825/enquete-de-mercier-les-employeurs-prevoient-des-hausses-salariales-modestes-en-2012>

Dettes: mise en garde contre l'austérité

Genève — La CNUCED (Conférence des Nations unies pour le commerce et le développement) a lancé hier une mise en garde, dans son rapport annuel 2011, contre les dangers d'une politique budgétaire trop restrictive.

Selon les économistes de la CNUCED, la «meilleure stratégie pour réduire la dette publique consiste à promouvoir la croissance», avec une politique budgétaire expansive. «Une politique d'austérité budgétaire pourrait freiner la croissance du PIB et ses recettes budgétaires et serait donc contre-productive sur le plan de l'assainissement budgétaire», poursuit le rapport.

<http://www.ledevoir.com/economie/actualites-economiques/330817/dette-mise-en-garde-contre-l-austerite>

2 septembre

Messages de la fête du Travail

Deux visions s'affrontent

Dans leur message soulignant la fête du Travail, les syndicats défendant les employés du secteur public et d'autres organisations du secteur privé s'opposent sur la manière de gérer les finances publiques.

L'Alliance de la fonction publique du Canada (AFPC), le plus important syndicat de fonctionnaires fédéraux avec 172 000 membres, profite ainsi de la fête du Travail pour dénoncer « les compressions téméraires et dangereuses qui menacent les services publics ».

<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/le-droit/actualites/fonction-publique/201109/01/01-4430900-deux-visions-saffrontent.php>