

Ethics NewScan

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The Ethics Practitioners' Association of Canada



www.epac-apec.ca

Ethics NewScan provides you with links to articles about ethics in the Canadian media that might be of interest to you as a member of EPAC.
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Governmental Ethics

Watchdog Group Accuses Canadian Gov. of Being Weak on Ethics Reform

OTTAWA

An Ottawa-based watchdog group has filed a formal complaint against the Conservative government for allegedly breaking campaign promises to tighten ethics and accountability measures in the new prime minister's proposed Accountability Act....

Full story: <http://www.globeethics.org/newsline/members/currentissue2.tpl#05300623015485>

Gov. Official Sanctioned Fraud in Promotional Campaign, Jurors Told

MONTREAL

Charles Guite, a former Canadian government bureaucrat on trial for fraud in what has been dubbed the nation's Sponsorship Scandals, approved bogus contracts for work that was never performed, according to a series of witnesses who testified against him last week....

Full story: <http://www.globeethics.org/redirect/nl.html?d=5/22/2006&id=05210622053877>

WHISTLE-BLOWER FIGHTS COURT BATTLE TO BE REINSTATED

April 10, 2006 (CFO.COM)—(*This U.S. precedent is presented because of the potential influence on Canadian Justice and in the Federal Accountability act context)

The first Sarbanes-Oxley whistle-blower has won a legal fight to be rehired, but the dispute has been long. The Department of Labor's Administrative Review Board affirmed a judge's order that a bank must reinstate David Welch, who had been fired as CFO of Cardinal Bankshares, a holding company, whose subsidiary is the Bank of Floyd in Virginia. Welch had been fired in 2002. Welch and the bank offered different reasons why Welch was fired, but an administrative law judge recommended in early 2004 that Welch return to his job at Cardinal. The bank said rehiring Welch would be "too onerous." The review board's recent decision in favor of Welch did not stop Welch's attorney, Bruce Shine, from criticizing Sarbanes-Oxley. He said SOX "is certainly not working in terms of reinstatement."

For more: http://www.cfo.com/article.cfm/6794111/c_6792225

Paying Whistle-Blowers Sends the Wrong Message: Canada Official

OTTAWA

A proposal to pay government whistle-blowers \$1,000 for reporting wrongdoing is a bad idea,

according to Canada's public service integrity officer.

"You will hopefully see it as your duty to report wrongdoing rather than doing it because of a reward," Edward Keyserlingk testified, according to the Toronto Star.

Full story: <http://www.globoethics.org/redir/nl.html?d=5/15/2006&id=05150617522523>

Social Ethics

Immigration Debate Expected to Resume in U.S. Senate

(*This U.S. issue is presented because of the potential influence on Canadian Immigration Policy).

WASHINGTON

Debate over one of the most politically and ethically divisive issues on the current political agenda was set to begin again this week, as the U.S. Senate prepared to renew consideration of immigration reform.

The House bill is tougher than the Senate's, United Press International noted, and would make being an illegal immigrant a crime and stiffen penalties against those who employ them. Passage of the House measure set off a chain of demonstrations across the United States, which in turn seems to have promoted some measure of backlash against pro-immigration groups.

Full story: <http://www.globoethics.org/redir/nl.html?d=5/15/2006&id=05150617532869>

Business Ethics

WestJet admits to spying

Brent Jang
Globe and Mail

WestJet Airlines Ltd. has admitted to spying on Air Canada in an out-of-court settlement, ending the two-year legal fight. Industry sources say the two airlines hammered out a deal late Sunday and later obtained an apology for unethical behaviour.

"This practice was undertaken with the knowledge and direction of the highest management levels of WestJet and was not halted until discovered by Air Canada," the release said. "This conduct was both unethical and unacceptable and WestJet accepts full responsibility for such misconduct. WestJet sincerely regrets having engaged in this practice and unreservedly apologizes to Air Canada and Mr. Robert Milton."

As part of the settlement, WestJet will pay Air Canada's investigation and litigation costs of \$5.5-million. As well, WestJet has accepted an Air Canada request that it make a \$10-million donation in the name of both airlines to children's charities across the country. "Both parties have expressed a desire to turn the page on this unfortunate chapter with finality and are pleased that children's charities across Canada will also benefit from this settlement arrangement," the statement said.

Full story:

http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20060529.waircanada0529/BNStory/Business/?cid=al_gam_nletter_maropen

Ethics and Public Health

Ethicists Challenge U.S. and Canadian Priorities for Flu Shots

WASHINGTON

Who should get the first doses of available flu vaccine -- a grandfather with a weak heart, for whom the flu shot might literally be a lifesaver, or a healthy teen likely to survive the flu but with decades of life ahead of him? Such questions are at the forefront of an ethical debate as health officials confront the moral dimensions of a possible pandemic.

But bioethicists writing in the journal *Science* last week argued that the "save the most lives" principle behind U.S. and Canadian flu-shot policies should be re-thought, according to the CanWest News Service. Bioethicists Ezekiel Emanuel and Alan Wertheimer say scarce flu vaccine should be rationed based on "the amount the person has invested in his or her life balanced by the amount left to live."

According to a report from the CBC, Emanuel and Wertheimer say health care workers and vaccine makers should be the first to receive the shots, followed by teens and young adults. They based their argument, according to the CBC, on what they call the "life-cycle" principle, under which a person's value is balanced between how many years he expects to have left and how many years he has lived already.

Full story: <http://www.globoethics.org/redir/nl.html?d=5/15/2006&id=05150617512340>

This is all for now!

If you are a "news addict" and keep up to date on news about ethics, maybe you can help by becoming our next media analyst...

Contact-us at: E-Bulletin@epac-apec.ca

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Ethics NewScan

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Cette livraison d'Ethics NewScan est toute fraîche :

Comme vous le voyez, nous avons besoin de lecteurs francophones pour nous aider \ mieux vous renseigner sur ce qui se publie dans les médias francophones concernant l'éthique!

Les autres sites vous offrent des textes uniquement en anglais. Désolé pour cet inconvénient... Voir ci-haut pour les sommaires...

J'espère que vous aimerez la nouvelle livraison d'Ethics NewScan et que vous nous direz ce que nous pouvons faire pour vous aider encore davantage.

Soyez assuré de l'expression de notre considération.

C'est tout pour l'instant!

Si vous dévorer et lisez tout ce qui a trait à l'éthique, peut-être vous pourriez faire partie de nos analystes médiatiques...

Contactez-nous à : service@epac-apec.ca

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Vous peut-être, analyste médiatique francophone