

Federal government says Air Canada work stoppage unacceptable

MONTREAL (The Canadian Press) - The federal government is considering its options Monday on how to handle a renewed threat of a strike at Canada's largest airline.

However a spokeswoman for Labour Minister Lisa Raitt left little doubt that the government will intervene if Air Canada flight attendants make good on a threat to walk off the job this week.

"We will be clear that a work stoppage is unacceptable in this time of fragile economy," said Ashley Kelehear in an email late Sunday.

The 6,800 flight attendants rejected a second tentative deal and served strike notice on Sunday.

They will be able to walk off the job as early as 12:01 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, said a news release from the Canadian Union of

Public Employees, which represents the workers.

The union said 65 per cent of those who voted rejected the deal, but didn't say how many took part in the vote.

It's the second time the flight attendants turned down a tentative agreement. They turned down an offer in August, triggering a new round of contract talks last month.

Jeff Taylor, the president of CUPE's Air Canada division, said in a news release that the second rejection shows how frustrated flight attendants are with the airline after years of giving concessions.

Air Canada issued a statement indicating it hoped to avoid a work stoppage, but said it would maintain a partial schedule in the event of a strike.

Saskatchewan election 'a two-party race'

By Jennifer Graham

REGINA (The Canadian Press) - There are half a dozen registered political parties in Saskatchewan, but the Nov. 7 election is really just a two-horse race.

The writ kicking off the campaign is expected to be dropped Monday. The governing Saskatchewan Party will be looking for a second term over the Opposition New Democrats who, some observers say, will have to fight just to maintain what they have.

The Saskatchewan Party currently holds 38 of the 58 seats in the legislature, most of them in rural Saskatchewan. The NDP holds the rest.

"There really are no other parties," says Ken Rasmussen, associate director of the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of Regina. "I mean the Liberals have collapsed entirely in the

province and the Green Party is floundering as well ... I think it's safe to say after this election we'll be a two-party system."

It hasn't always been that way. The Liberals won the first Saskatchewan election in 1905 and held power until 1944, when the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, the predecessor to the NDP, swept into office.

Political power flipped between the two until 1978, when the NDP won, the Liberals were shut out and the Progressive Conservatives emerged as the official Opposition.

In 1982, the Progressive Conservatives under Grant Devine took 55 of 64 seats in the legislature, reducing the NDP to just nine members.

Two terms later, the NDP clawed its way back into the premier's office in 1991 under Roy Romanow.

WORLD NEWS

EGYPT PROBES DEADLY CLASHES

CAIRO (AFP) - Egypt's government on Tuesday began probing clashes which killed 25 people, mostly Coptic Christians, amid mounting anger at the ruling military council and calls for the prime minister to resign.

The ruling Supreme Council of the Armed Forces had tasked Prime Minister Essam Sharaf's government to immediately form a fact finding panel to investigate clashes Sunday in central Cairo, which killed 25 people and left over 300 injured.

Political and religious leaders spent Monday locked down in crisis talks, amid fears of widespread sectarian unrest, threatening an already fragile transition from the rule of president Hosni Mubarak.

MYANMAR TO FREE THOUSANDS OF PRISONERS

YANGON (AFP) - Myanmar announced a mass prisoner amnesty Tuesday, raising hope for the imminent release of hundreds of political detainees in what would be a major sign of change in the authoritarian state. More than 6,300 prisoners will be pardoned from Wednesday "on humanitarian grounds", state television announced, without saying whether political prisoners would be among them.

The fate of the country's estimated 2,000 political detainees, who include pro-democracy campaigners, journalists, monks and lawyers, has long been a top demand of Western nations that have imposed sanctions on Myanmar.

TYMOSHENKO 'CRIMINALLY' EXCEEDED POWERS: JUDGE

KIEV (AFP) - Ukraine's former prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko clearly exceeded her authority in signing a gas deal with Russia in 2009 and used her powers to "criminal ends", the judge in her trial said in the verdict Tuesday.

"Y.V. Tymoshenko... used her official powers to criminal ends and, acting consciously, committed actions which clearly exceeded her rights and powers which had heavy consequences," said judge Rodion Kireyev.

B.C. teachers return to court to review class size decision

By Dirk Meissner

VICTORIA (The Canadian Press) - The B.C. Teachers Federation is going to court Tuesday in a gamble that it will gain more legal weight to throw behind slow-moving negotiations in the ongoing strike at B.C. schools.

But one labour expert says the return to court is a risky move for the union.

The 40,000-member BCTF will ask B.C. Supreme Court Justice Susan Griffin to clarify what she meant in April when she ruled the Liberal government violated the union's constitutional rights to negotiate their workplace conditions.

Griffin rapped the government's knuckles for passing legislation in 2002 that stripped the rights of teachers to negotiate class size and composition. She gave the Liberals until April 2012 to resolve the situation.

Bill 27, the Public Education Flexibility and Choice Act, prohibited the inclusion of certain items in teacher collective agreements, including staffing, class size and composition limits.

Bill 28, the Education Services Collective Agreement Act, amalgamated school districts and local bargaining units, imposing one collective agreement on teachers in newly amalgamated districts that had previously been covered by two or three local agreements.

Dunderdale looks to become first woman elected premier in N.L.

By Sue Bailey

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. (The Canadian Press) - Expectations weren't exactly high when Kathy Dunderdale became the hand-picked replacement for one of the most popular premiers Canada has ever seen.

"One of the greatest challenges is going to be that I'm not Danny Williams," she said last December as her force-of-nature boss suddenly quit politics in Newfoundland and Labrador to resume his business career.

"However, I'm confident that I'll make my own mark."

Those last words could turn out to be prescient. Recent polls signal that Dunderdale, 59, is poised to make history Tuesday as she tries to become the first woman elected to the province's top political job.

It would be a sweet triumph for the daughter of a Burin Peninsula fisherman, one of 11 children, who was only supposed to lead the Progressive Conservatives until an heir apparent stepped up to fill the chasm Williams left.

US DUO WINS ECONOMICS NOBEL

STOCKHOLM (AFP) - Two US researchers won the 2011 Nobel Economics Prize Monday for research on how different events affect economies and which could help find answers to the current crisis, the Nobel jury said.

Thomas Sargent and Christopher Sims, both 68, have developed methods that untangle "the causal relationship between economic policy and different macroeconomic variables, such as GDP, inflation, employment and investments," the Nobel jury said.

"Their combined work constitutes a solid foundation for modern macroeconomic analysis. It is hard to envisage today's research without this foundation," it added.

Economies are constantly affected by both anticipated events, like long term fiscal policy and shifts in monetary policies, and unanticipated events like sudden hikes in the price of oil or an unexpected drop in household consumption.

The laureates' work, carried out in the 1970s and '80s, provides methodologies that facilitate understanding of how both systemic policy shifts and so-called "shocks" affect the macroeconomy in the short and long run.

No one did. Dunderdale declared within weeks that, with the backing of her cabinet and caucus, she would run for the leadership.

Hearings try to explain why system failed Pickton's victims

By James Keller

VANCOUVER (The Canadian Press) - Families of serial killer Robert Pickton victims have known the answer to who killed their loved ones for years.

On Tuesday, the process aimed at understanding why he was able to do it, how he was able to conduct such a prolific killing spree for so long, will get underway.

The families have been calling for public hearings since before Pickton was arrested and eventually convicted of six murders. For them, the convictions represent a frustratingly small number of victims and belies the scale of his crimes and the failings of the police and justice system to stop him.

Pickton's trial brought out the gruesome details of the killings themselves, but it only revealed what happened, not why.

Those answers are more complicated, and so too is the task of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, ordered by the B.C. government last year after Pickton's final appeals were exhausted.

BlackBerry outage hits Europe, Middle East, Africa

NEW YORK (AFP) - The maker of the BlackBerry smartphone said Monday that all services had been restored to users in Europe, the Middle East and Africa after widespread service outages.

Many users had reported not being able to receive or send email, use instant messaging or browse the Internet, though the problems did not appear to be the same for each user, or affect all users.

Research In Motion (RIM) said in a statement late Monday that all services had been restored and apologized again for any inconvenience.

The company has not said what caused the problem.

RIM has struggled this year with weaker sales of the BlackBerry smartphone against rivals like Apple's iPhone, various models from HTC, and other handsets running Google's Android software.

Fire crews find body in home packed with junk

VANCOUVER (The Canadian Press) - Fire crews have found a body in a Vancouver home that was so packed with clutter they couldn't get safely inside to put out the flames.

The home caught fire early Sunday, and crews rushed to extinguish the blaze but could only pour water on it from the outside.

When they were finally able to use heavy equipment to dismantle the home and look inside, they found a victim.

Fire captain Gabe Roder says there are no details yet about the person's identity, as they are awaiting the coroner to arrive and give instructions.

He says the cause of the fire hasn't be determined.

Man dies from injuries after car hits moose

RED CLIFF, N.L. (The Canadian Press) - Police say a man has died from injuries sustained after the car he was driving struck a moose on a Newfoundland highway Saturday.

Three passengers in the car were taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries after the accident on the Trans-Canada Highway near Red Cliff.

Police say the car hit a moose that was standing in the lane.

The driver, a 66-year-old Lewisporte man, was airlifted to St. John's in serious condition where he later died.

MONDAY'S SCOREBOARD

CFL

Montreal 29, Toronto 19
Edmonton 17, Saskatchewan 1

NHL

New Jersey 4, Carolina 2
Colorado 1, Boston 0
N.Y. Islanders 2, Minnesota 1
St. Louis 5, Calgary 2
Dallas 2, Phoenix 1 (SO Dallas 2-1) 20T
Washington 6, Tampa Bay 5
(SO Wash. 2-0) 20T
Vancouver 3, Columbus 2

MLB CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

ALCS

Texas 7, Detroit 3 (11 Innings)

NLCS

St. Louis 12, Milwaukee 3

NFL

Detroit 24, Chicago 13

CFL STANDINGS

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pts	PF	PA
x-Montreal	9	5	0	18	435	348
x-Winnipeg	9	0	0	18	350	326
Hamilton	7	7	0	14	395	389
Toronto	3	11	0	6	282	400

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pts	PF	PA
B.C.	8	6	0	16	400	304
Calgary	8	6	0	16	395	381
Edmonton	8	6	0	16	329	318
Saskatchewan	4	10	0	8	276	402
x-clinched playoff berth						

His name has not been released.

Conservation plan for northern Quebec still needs to be worked out: Charest

BARCELONA, Spain (The Canadian Press) - Quebec Premier Jean Charest says he hasn't hammered out the details of a plan to environmentally protect half the territory in the province's north.

Speaking in Barcelona on Monday, Charest told reporters his goal of preserving half the area north of the 49th parallel is ambitious and still somewhat rough.

The premier, who is in Spain promoting his Plan Nord development project, wouldn't rule out having forestry work in the protected zone.

The idea was brought up last week by Leopold Gaudreau, the province's deputy minister of environment.

But Charest shut the door on any mining operations in the area, a possibility raised last week by his environment minister, Pierre Arcand.

The Plan Nord project was announced in May and promises environmentally sustainable development for northern Quebec.

B.C. moving to put a vice on metal recyclers

By Terri Theodore

VANCOUVER (The Canadian Press) - Metal thieves will take just about anything to make a few bucks at the nearest recycling company, from telephone and power wires to manhole covers and memorial plaques.

Those brazen acts have now gained the attention of the British Columbia government, which intends to stem rampant metal theft with new legislation this fall.

B.C. Solicitor General Shirley Bond said her government recognizes that the issue has a huge economic impact, but it's public safety that is behind the planned new law.

"Any time we see 911 going down as a result of metal theft, we have to do something about it," she said.

Shawn Hall, a spokesman with Telus, said there has been 200 incidents this year alone of copper cable stolen from the telephone company and in each incident the phone lines are down for up to 36 hours.

Bjork's new album fuses music, technology and nature through iPad apps

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (The Canadian Press) - Icelandic star Bjork says her new album fuses the natural world and iPad apps to invent a music genre she calls an "apbox."

"Biophilia" - and a host of applications representing specific tracks on the album - are out Monday, and are meant to immerse listeners in a complete audio-visual experience.

Speaking to AP ahead of the launch, Bjork said she sees "the structure and shapes of songs" during the creative process.

That led her to work with a team of iPad app designers and musicians. She describes the app technology as "more like an accessory," and says many fans will listen to the album in a traditional way.

The beauty of Bjork's homeland is an inspiration. The singer says the link between the environment and music is "effortless and natural."

NBA CANCELS FIRST TWO WEEKS OF SEASON

NEW YORK (AP) - Two weeks of the NBA season are gone and more are in jeopardy because of what Commissioner David Stern calls "the gulf that separates us" in labor negotiations.

Sticking to his deadline, Stern wiped out the first two weeks of the season - exactly 100 games - after more than seven hours of negotiations failed to produce a new labor deal and preserve the Nov. 1 season openers.

The cancellations mark the NBA's first work stoppage since the 1998-99 season was reduced to 50 games.

Stern said players and owners were "very far apart on virtually all issues. ... We just have a gulf that separates us."

"With every day that goes by, I think we need to look at further reductions in what's left of the season," he added.

He had said last week that he would cancel the first two weeks of the season Monday without a new collective bargaining agreement to end the lockout. The two sides expect to remain in contact, but no additional formal talks have been scheduled.

"I started out by saying I'm sorry to report, and I'm sad to report that we've cancelled the first two weeks," Stern said. "We certainly hoped it would never come to this. I think that both sides worked hard to get to a better solution. We think that we made very fair proposals. I'm sure the players think the same thing. But the gap is so significant that we just can't bridge it at this time."

SPORTS NEWS

Calvillo sets all time passing mark, leads Als over Argos

By Bill Beacon

MONTREAL (The Canadian Press) - Anthony Calvillo became pro football's all-time passing leader in spectacular fashion with a 50-yard TD pass to Jamel Richardson that cemented the Montreal Alouettes' 29-19 win over the Toronto Argonauts on Monday afternoon.

Calvillo went into the game needing 258 yards to break Damon Allen's all-time record of 72,381 yards. And it took until the final play of the third quarter for Calvillo to eclipse it when he found Richardson open over the middle for the touchdown.

 WEATHER

	Min	Max	Weather
Calgary	0	14	clear
Edmonton	5	12	ptcl ody
Halifax	9	12	cloudy
Montreal	15	22	ptcl ody
Ottawa	10	18	ptcl ody
Toronto	13	22	cloudy
Vancouver	10	13	rain
Winnipeg	13	21	clear

(Temperatures in Celsius)

The 39-year-old also had a 19-yard TD run while backup quarterback Adrian McPherson also scored for the Alouettes (9-5). Sean Whyte added two field goals as the two-time defending Grey Cup champions clinched a playoff spot for a 16th straight year and remained tied with Winnipeg atop the East Division.

Chad Owens scored on a punt return and Noel Prefontaine booted four field goals for the Argonauts (3-11), who were eliminated from playoff contention.

Eskimos in three-way tie for lead in CFL West

EDMONTON (The Canadian Press) - The Edmonton Eskimos don't mind winning an ugly game now and then, especially when it gets them into the post-season.

Jerome Messam scored the game's lone touchdown as the Eskimos secured a playoff spot and a share of first place in the CFL's West Division with a 17-1 victory over the Saskatchewan Roughriders on Monday.

The Riders have been outscored 99-9 in their last three games.

The Eskimos, who snapped a three-game losing streak at home, improved to 8-6 on the season, moving into a tie for first with both the B.C. Lions and the Calgary Stampeders.

Pietrangelo leads Blues to 5-2 victory over Flames

ST. LOUIS (AP) - Alex Pietrangelo had a goal and an assist to lead the St. Louis Blues to their first win of the season, a 5-2 victory over the Calgary Flames on Monday afternoon.

Alex Steen, Chris Stewart, Kevin Shattenkirk and Jason Arnott also scored, and Andy McDonald added a pair of assists for the Blues, who got 15 saves from Jaroslav Halak.

Curtis Glencross and Jarome Iginla scored for the Flames, who have dropped their first two games of the season. Henrik Karlsson got the start instead of Miikka Kiprusoff and stopped 30 shots.

Burrows' goal lifts Canucks over Blue Jackets, 3-2

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) - Alexandre Burrows' power-play goal midway through the third period capped the Vancouver Canucks' 3-2 comeback victory on Monday night that saddled the Columbus Blue Jackets with their first 0-3 start in franchise history.

Chris Higgins and Cody Hodgson also scored for the Canucks. Cory Schneider had 23 saves, almost half of which came in the opening period.

Cam Atkinson scored his first NHL goal and Vinny Prospal also scored for Columbus, which had opened seasons 0-2 twice before in their 11 seasons.

The Blue Jackets were 0 for 5 on the power play and are now 0 for 16 with a man advantage on the season.

Ribeiro lifts Stars to 2-1 SO win over Coyotes

DALLAS (AP) - Mike Ribeiro beat Phoenix Coyotes goalie Mike Smith with the final shot of the first shootout round, giving the Dallas Stars a 2-1 victory Monday night.

Loui Eriksson's first goal of the season tied the game with 28 seconds remaining in regulation and he scored on Dallas' first shootout attempt.

The shootout remained 1-0 until the Coyotes' last of three shots, when Shane Doan's shot deflected off Stars goalie Kari Lehtonen and into the top of the net. Ribeiro followed with a shot under Smith's right arm.

In the third period, Eriksson had deflected Sheldon Souray's drive from the left point over Smith's left shoulder to tie the score.

The game was scoreless until 5:55 of the third period, when Radim Vrbata scored 9 seconds into the Coyotes' sixth power play of the game.

Varlamov stops 30 shots, Avalanche beat Bruins 1-0

BOSTON (AP) - Milan Hejduk scored with 12:03 left in the third period and Semyon Varlamov stopped 30 shots for his fifth career shutout, lifting the Colorado Avalanche to a 1-0 win over the Boston Bruins on Monday.

The Stanley Cup champion Bruins have lost two of three to start the season.

Hejduk scored the Avalanche's first goal of the season. They lost 3-0 at home to Detroit in their opener Saturday night.

Varlamov was acquired from Washington for a pair of draft picks during the summer. He had 36 saves in the loss to the Red Wings.

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Tel: +44 151 236 4124 (UK)
and +1 954 492 2292 (US)
E-mail: news@headlandmedia.com
Website: www.headlandmedia.com

Hejduk collected a loose puck along the boards, cut to the right circle and sent a wrist shot that slipped inside the right post by Tuukka Rask, who appeared to be partially screened on the shot by defenseman Zdeno Chara.

A few minutes later, Varlamov dove across the crease to make a blocker save on Milan Lucic's wrist shot from in close.

Cruz hits grand slam in 11th, Texas beats Tigers

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) - Nelson Cruz hit the first game-ending grand slam in postseason history, lifting the Texas Rangers over the Detroit Tigers 7-3 in 11 innings Monday for a 2-0 lead in the AL championship series.

Cruz also hit a tying home run in the seventh inning. His second homer of the game was a high drive to left field off Ryan Perry with nobody out in the 11th, and came after a misplay in the Detroit outfield loaded the bases.

Cruz connected for the fourth grand slam in the playoffs this year. Ryan Roberts and Paul Goldschmidt of Arizona and Robinson Cano of the Yankees also hit them.

STATS LLC confirmed that Cruz's shot was the first slam to end a postseason game - with a postscript. Robin Ventura sent a tiebreaking drive over the fence to finish a New York Mets victory against Atlanta in the 1999 NLCS, but was swarmed by teammates between first and second.

Pujols has 5 RBIs, Cards beat Brewers 12-3 in NLCS

MILWAUKEE (AP) - Your turn, Albert Pujols. The St. Louis slugger had one of the biggest postseason nights of his career in Game 2 of the NL championship series, going 4 for 5 with a home run, three doubles and five RBIs to lead the Cardinals past the Milwaukee Brewers 12-3 on Monday.

Pujols belted a two-run homer in the first, a two-run double in the third and an RBI double in the fifth, then added another double in the seventh. The crowd cheered sarcastically when the Brewers finally retired him in the eighth.