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MEDIA RELEASE

Media Advisory: 2011 important but most underreported stories by media

November 29, 2011



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Canadian companies, an international agreement and care for the elderly are targeted on NewsWatch Canada's 2011 list of the 25 top important most underreported stories by media nationally.

The media watchdog group, based in the School of Communication at Simon Fraser University, will release its annual report at a presentation on Wed., Nov. 30, 1:30 p.m. at SFU's Burnaby campus. The half hour presentation will be held in Room 5025 in the Academic Quadrangle. Map: http://www.sfu.ca/main/campuses/maps-and-directions.html.

It's the first list produced by the watchdog group, which began in 1993 as Project Censored Canada, in 15 years, though its news-monitoring research has continued.

Among the top 25 important stories:

- 1. Canada is conducting negotiations with the European Union for a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) in secret, even though the negotiations could impact Canadians.
- 2. Canadian mining companies are causing human rights and environment abuses abroad, but lack accountability.
- 3. Corporate lobbying is shaping Canadian and U.S. laws and regulations.
- 4. There is a crisis in long-term care for Canada's senior citizens.
- 5. Violence against Aboriginal women in Canada is endemic.

NewsWatch Canada researches the diversity and thoroughness of news coverage in Canada's media with a focus on identifying blind spots and double standards. The independent group is comprised of 13 student researchers working under the supervision of SFU School of Communication lecturer Kathleen Cross.

Their choice of the year's import most underreported stories by media is based on the stories' significance nationally and internationally on issues related to health, safety and democracy.

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