



# THE BEACON



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*Where Tomorrow's Public  
Policy Begins Today*

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## **Part One: Blueprint for Atlantica: Request for Proposals issued for major binational study.**

It could prove to be the blueprint for Atlantica. A Request for Proposals (RFP) has been issued for a major infrastructure study of Atlantica, the international northeast economic region. The study encompasses both sides of the US-Canada border and is a significant step forward for AIMS' Atlantica concept.

The RFP closes on Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> for a major Atlantica infrastructure study that encompasses both sides of the US - Canada border.

This is a major step forward for AIMS' Atlantica concept. The study will examine the relationship between transportation and economic conditions across the region of central Maine and the northern tier of New Hampshire, Vermont and New York State, as well as along the adjacent Canadian provinces of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec and eastern Ontario.

*Northeast CanAm Connections: Integrating the Economy and Transportation* is the title for the study originally called the Northeast Border Corridor Transportation and Economic Development Study. US Transportation Secretary Norm Mineta ordered the work following requests by the US Atlantica congressional delegation to launch a major new study of Atlantica's transportation infrastructure. What makes his decision particularly daring is the fact that the study is not limited to US territory. The project is an international initiative, encompassing the active involvement of four US states

and four Canadian provinces.

The study will look at the untapped potential of our ports and an expanded role for Atlantica as a gateway to the North American heartland. The study will encompass all modes of transportation links within the region and with other regions, extending from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Seaboard.

To read the Request for Proposals, [click here](#).

To read AIMS news release on the project, [click here](#).

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## **Part Two: Completing the map: Second RFP issued for second Atlantica study.**

For some time, AIMS has been promoting its Atlantica concept with the help of a few others in the region. There have been dozens of talks throughout the region, hundreds of conversations across luncheon tables and numerous meetings with the power elite on both sides of the border. This month it appeared some of that work is moving Atlantica forward.

For the second time in as many weeks, a Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued for a significant Atlantica study. Enterprise Saint John issued the RFP for the Bangor - Saint John International Trade and Growth Corridor Asset Mapping Project. This project will complement the Halifax to Moncton asset map which was completed several years ago. ([Click here](#) to view site.)

The Saint John - Bangor relationship is a critical link in the broader Atlantica picture. It is anticipated close to \$500 million will be spent over the next five to seven years on improvements to highway, bridge, border crossing, natural gas pipeline, rail, intermodal, and power transmission infrastructure between Saint John and Bangor.

To read the RFP, [click here](#).

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## **Part Three: Unrealistic: The reality of the Kyoto Treaty.**

For all its lofty goals, the Kyoto Treaty is a non-starter. In his fortnightly column, AIMS president Brian Lee Crowley examines the treaty and its political reality. He concludes neither the economy nor the environment is well served by a policy that maximizes uncertainty. He writes:

*Hypocrisy is often an attractive policy for governments that want to look good while downplaying unpleasant truths. Neither the environment nor the economy is well served, however, by a policy that maximizes uncertainty (will we implement Kyoto? At what cost? Who will pay?), and rewards inaction (countries that fail to live up to their Kyoto commitments will be advantaged compared to those who try) while distributing the burdens of virtue inequitably.*

To read the complete column, [click here](#).

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## Part Four: It's still all about Quebec.

In this op-ed that appeared in numerous newspapers, including The Toronto Star, AIMS president Brian Lee Crowley explains that the federal government has sacrificed many of the country's larger interests in an attempt to buy the respect and affection of Quebecers. Written just prior to the election call, Crowley questions what will drive the issues in this campaign, and comes up with one answer, one province.

*"Ottawa is in a bidding war with Quebec city for the loyalty of Quebecers. Both sides regard it as axiomatic that, while emotion and sentiment will play their role, the most powerful ties between citizen and government are ties of self-interest. That, in turn, they define as dependence. A citizen dependent on a flow of benefits from one government will likely not vote to quit that government's jurisdiction. Thus Ottawa ramped up EI, regional development, equalization, marketing boards and a host of other programs."*

To read the complete article, [click here](#).

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## Part Five: The Codfathers: AIMS reviews new book about Atlantic Canadian business culture for the Globe.

The Globe and Mail turned to AIMS first when it needed someone to review a book about Atlantic Canada's business elite.

Brian Lee Crowley takes a look at the latest offering from Gordon Pitt called *The Codfathers* and suggests the book has the vices of its virtues. He suggests that stripped of its self-aggrandizing rhetoric, the book is really about family business.

*"While the dynastic challenges of great business families are all very interesting, however, the great questions Maritimers and Newfoundlanders have to wrestle with are why their business successes are so heavily concentrated in natural resources, manufacturing and retail, why so many waves of industrial revolution pass us by, why, for a place with allegedly such a great quality of life our population is in decline, and why two thirds of the paltry number of immigrants who arrive leave again within three years. The answer is partly contained in the silences of Pitt's book."*

To read what those silences are, [click here](#).


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## Part Six: Atlantic, the newsletter.

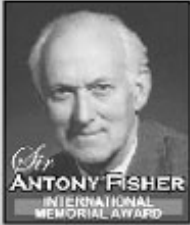
Last month AIMS launched *Atlantica, News of the International Northeast*, a newsletter to keep readers abreast of developments of Atlantica's evolution. In the last edition, readers found out what Vancouver and British Columbia are doing as part of the Asia Pacific Gateway strategy – and took a trip from Miami up the east coast stopping at the ports along the way to see how others are preparing for the increase in container traffic.

To read the latest Atlantica newsletter, [click here](#).  
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AIMS has the distinction of winning the Sir Antony Fisher International Memorial Award four times. No other think tank in the world has won the Fisher more times than AIMS.



AIMS was awarded the 2005 Templeton Freedom Award for Institute Excellence, the only think tank in North America to receive the distinction this year.



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