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**Part One: \*60% SOLD OUT\* Insights from Bank of Canada Governor Mark Carney  
- A Special AIMS Luncheon**

Join the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies at a special AIMS Luncheon featuring Insights from Bank of Canada Governor Mark Carney.

**Thursday, 21 June 2012**

**Cunard Centre**

**Halifax, NS**

**11:30 am Registration / 12:00pm Lunch**



Per person \$75 | Table of ten \$750

Premium seating | SOLD OUT

[Click here](#) to read his full biography.

[Click here](#) to register.

If you are experiencing trouble registering online, please call (902) 429-1143.

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## **Part Two: Picard on Health - Mixed Medicine and Messages**

AIMS President and CEO Charles Cirtwill recently attended a lecture in Halifax delivered by Andre Picard entitled "Medicare: can it survive 25 more years". This op-ed, originally published in The Hill Times, reflects on his experience at the talk:

To a large extent, I got exactly what I expected from a "Canadian intellectual". There was the jingoistic anti-Americanism, the snide jibes at republicans, a euro-centric love-in, repeated references to Canadian history and core Canadian values, and, of course, the de-rigueur slams of Prime Minister Harper and "this" federal government. The crowd ate it up (note to self, need to hate on Americans more when speaking in Canada).

But I also heard some very interesting things about evidence based decision making in health care and the fundamental instability of our current 1950's approach. I heard a clear condemnation of the Canada Health Act as a barrier to needed reform. I heard a call to

stop talking about two-tier health care because we, like everyone else around the globe, already have multi-tiered health care. I heard a litany of what we should add to publicly funded services in Canada but it was accompanied by an equal, if not longer, list of what we should remove from that publicly covered pool.

In Picard's view it seems, if we improve how we spend we will get more for what we spend, and over the long term will likely then need to spend less.

Central to this thesis was a surprising point (at least for me). Picard offered a strong endorsement of mixed public-private delivery, a relatively strong approval of at least mixed private management where appropriate, and an unequivocal endorsement of private insurance as a means to enhance services available through public funding: "it has always been there and always will be".

With talks like this one it is no wonder that Mr. Picard prefaced his remarks by highlighting he gets attacked from both left and right. If you attack both left and right, neither are likely to love you all the time. Fortunately, it also increases your odds of being right, as, on this evening, Mr. Picard largely was.

[Click here](#) to read the full op-ed.

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### **Part Three: Robbing Peter to Pay...Peter?**

[\*Robbing Peter to Pay...Peter?\*](#), by AIMS Senior Fellow Don McIver, describes several of the distortions that are a result of equalization in Canada. Low-income federal taxpayers in "have" provinces indirectly contribute revenues that benefit high income earners in recipient provinces. Equalization also encourages higher levels of government spending in general. Indeed, many public servants will benefit from wages partially subsidized by lower-income taxpayers in non-recipient provinces.

McIver proposes some solutions to these distortions, like the reassignment of taxing powers or debt obligations, and providing for explicit tax relief for individuals in affected regions—which could target goals such as low income assistance, education allowances or

mobility grants. The “enshrinement” of the principles of equalization might create constitutional questions, but McIver argues that the program can, and should, be redesigned.

[Click here](#) to read the full paper.

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#### **Part Four: Financial Reality is Needed in Maritime Canada**

[David MacKinnon, AIMS Fellow in Common Sense in Confederation, The Ontario Perspective](#), takes issue with the approach the federal government, P.E.I., NS, NB, Quebec and Manitoba have been taking in relation to the regional subsidies the government provides, in this speech delivered to the Charlottetown Rotary Club. He refers to the classic AIMS take that these subsidies are “the help that hurts.”

The considerations put forth in [Financial Reality is Needed in Maritime Canada](#) are important for the economic path that PEI is on, and where it will lead. Beginning with the case of Ontario, a province which has not found its footing amongst today’s emerging markets, MacKinnon explains why subsidies are keeping provinces down instead of lifting them up to prosperity. Leaders often observe that equalization and other regional subsidies are required by the constitution. They are not. What is required is a commitment to the principle of equalization to achieve comparable programming across Canada. This isn’t exactly the result of equalization in Canada. For example, P.E.I. has 50% more nurses in relation to population than Ontario, and university funding per student is 28% higher in P.E.I. than it is in Ontario.

MacKinnon proposes changes to help alleviate these problems, beginning with the elimination of the mindset that Maritimers need to get more money from Ottawa.

[Click here](#) to read the full commentary.

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#### **Part Five: An Atlantic Canadian Perspective on the Drummond Report**

Ontario is facing a severe deficit/debt crisis - a reality that led to the appointment of a commission to identify appropriate measures to reduce the growth of public spending to a course that would allow fiscal balance by 2017-18.

The recommendations produced by the committee have a natural relevance to circumstances that prevail in Atlantic Canada and many could be usefully adopted as a means of addressing severe shortfalls in the region. This commentary emphasizes the importance of Atlantic Canada adopting similar measures to those recommended in the Drummond Report. The result could be a dramatic turnaround in the region.

The most important underlying recommendations are that measures undertaken should be consistent with sustaining excellence in public sector service delivery and that the actions taken should be designed to achieve a permanent shift in the delivery service model that would not be liable to catch-up unwinding after initial achievement. The report emphasizes that there are numerous ways of providing quality service at lower costs and that identifying these will result in a lasting restructuring of government services.

In [\*An Atlantic Canadian Perspective on The Drummond Report\*](#), AIMS Research Director Don McIver highlights the most important conclusion of the report for both Ontario and Atlantic Canada: when it comes to addressing the problems of debt and deficits, achieving objectives by "growing out" of the problem is not possible.

**Click here** to read the full commentary.

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### **Part Six: AIMS is Hiring: Research and Operations Manager**

Do you have a passion for public policy, a varied skill set, and a desire to make a difference?

The Atlantic Institute for Market Studies (AIMS) is seeking a Research and Operations Manager to support the executive team at the Institute's head office in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The successful candidate will have an excellent policy mind, a gift for written and oral communications and a drive to improve the quality of public policy in Atlantic Canada and across the country. As a key support for the executive team, the successful candidate will play an important role in carrying out the research, publication, education, conference, media and other activities of one of the country's most successful public policy think tanks.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Applications will be accepted until 11 May 2012.

Interested candidates please email [aims\[at\]aims.ca](mailto:aims[at]aims.ca) with Research and Operations Manager in the subject line.

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### **Part Seven: AIMS on Campus Student Fellowship Application Deadline Extended until June 1st**

The AIMS on Campus Student Fellowship is the newest, boldest student program designed to connect, inform and empower students who wish to learn more about liberty and the free market, and share that knowledge on campus. We uniquely bridge academia and advocacy to provide the ultimate student experience. Fellows will have the opportunity to gain networking, education and travel; to highlight themselves and watch their careers bloom; to have their voices heard and influence others.

- **Networking:** Build relationships through an exclusive interactive forum through which fellows can exchange ideas, tips and contacts surrounding academia and advocacy
- **Education:** Monthly webinars with leading thinkers and doers, and access to AIMS scholars and networks
- **Advocacy:** Fellows will host at least one event on their campus and bring AIMS speakers to their campus
- **Travel:** Paid admission/costs for all fellows as AIMS on Campus delegates to the 2013 Manning Centre Networking Conference, and paid admission/costs for

outstanding fellow to liberty-based conference of choice in the United States

- **Highlight yourself:** Two AIMS on Campus blog posts per month on topic of fellows' choice, submission of at least one post as op-ed to regional or national newspaper, outstanding posts featured on AIMS blog, website and newsletter
- **Incentives matter:** Fellows will receive \$500 stipend for the academic year to compensate their efforts

[Click here](#) to learn more about the 2012/2013 AIMS on Campus Student Fellowship.

The application deadline is 1 June 2012 - [APPLY TODAY!](#)



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AIMS on Campus will help students understand and share the ideas of the free market, ensuring success on campus and after graduation.

[Click here](#) to learn more about AIMS on Campus.

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## Part Eight: AIMS in the Media

[A lost generation of workers:](#) AIMS Senior Fellow Don McIver argues that workers in Newfoundland and Labrador deserve better than the current equalization structure allows.

[Farmer resists EI plan for local workers:](#) AIMS Director of Research Don McIver comments on EI changes suggested by Ottawa, that may require people to take local jobs now filled by foreign labourers.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**21 June 2012**

Insights from Bank of Canada

Governor Mark Carney

*A Special AIMS Luncheon*

Cunard Centre

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Application deadline is June 1st, 2012. **APPLY TODAY!**

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