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Policy Begins Today*

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Part One: Please join us as AIMS celebrates its 5th international award and its 10th anniversary with "The Celtic Tiger" dinner in New Brunswick.

Atlantic Canadians will have the opportunity to hear first hand how Ireland set the standard for economic recovery and earned the name "The Celtic Tiger". Dr. Garret FitzGerald, the former Prime Minister of Ireland and one of the architects of the Irish economic turnaround, is the guest speaker at the AIMS 10th anniversary celebrations in New Brunswick on Tuesday, May 31st. Dr. FitzGerald will provide his insights into the Irish economic model and its application to Atlantic Canada at the Celtic Tiger Dinner at the Delta Brunswick in Saint John.

The Celtic Tiger dinner promises to be another thought-provoking and entertaining evening as AIMS continues its 10th anniversary celebrations. It's also an opportunity to highlight the Institute's 5th international award for think tank excellence. AIMS is a recipient of the 2005 Templeton Freedom Award for Institute Excellence. More than 200 think tanks in 67 countries are eligible for the Templeton Award, now in its second year; AIMS is the only institute in North America to be honoured this year.

[Click here to learn more about the Celtic Tiger dinner and to order tickets.](#)

[Click here to learn more about the Templeton Freedom Award for Institute Excellence.](#)

Part Two: Aims brings its Atlantic concept to landmark roundtable on trade corridors.

Trade corridors are increasingly seen as the road to economic success for many regions; those areas that fail to get connected to the global trade network will be left behind. AIMS' Atlantica concept provides a strategy for cooperation between the Atlantic provinces and the northeastern United States to build a trade corridor south to the major east coast markets, and west to the North American industrial heartland.

On April 25th, AIMS and other leading policy, trade and infrastructure experts from across Canada, the US and Mexico were in Toronto at the invitation of federal minister Tony Valeri for a landmark roundtable on trade corridors and their importance to Canada and the continent. In addition to AIMS President Brian Lee Crowley, some of the speakers included Allan Gottlieb, Canada's former Ambassador to the United States; Wendy Dobson, former President of the C.D. Howe Institute; and Michael Gallis, renowned advisor to governments trying to position themselves advantageously in the world trade network.

Michael van Pelt of the Work Research Foundation organised the event, and published a piece in the National Post about the importance of trade corridors to Canada's economic future.

[To read more about this event and link to Michael van Pelt's article, click here.](#)

Part Three: A reputation lost, an opportunity surrendered: Atlantic Canada's offshore potential may take years to recover.

In his fortnightly column in the Chronicle-Herald and the Times-Transcript, AIMS president Brian Lee Crowley takes a look at how bad policy in Atlantic Canada has destroyed its reputation within the oil and gas industry. Once lost, a reputation takes time and hard work to rebuild, as the example of the British Columbia mining industry so eloquently demonstrates. As Crowley writes, in Atlantic Canada, it doesn't appear that our federal and provincial political leaders are even aware of the damage they have done.

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

Part Four: Failing to apply the formula for fiscal success: Nova Scotia's budget falls short.

Nova Scotia Finance Minister Peter Christie delivered his provincial budget on April 26th. He called it the "education budget", but it's clear his government has a lot to learn about the formula for fiscal health.

AIMS' Director of Research Services, [Bruce Winchester](#), examined the Nova Scotia budget and measured it against the proven formula for economic growth and fiscal health. It did not do well. Winchester's commentary is available on the AIMS website, or by [clicking here](#).

AIMS examination of the four Atlantic Canadian budgets is based on the good advice of Institute author [David Murrell](#) in his paper "[Could Do Better](#)" which outlines an innovative new method for assessing the quality of provincial budgets, particularly from the point of view of encouraging economic growth.

To read an analysis of all four Atlantic Canadian budgets, [click here for a link to "Budgets Atlantic Canadian style"](#).

Part Five: Paid to fail: AIMS president tells Saskatchewan business leaders equalization hampers economic growth.

The detrimental effects of equalization have been highlighted in various AIMS publications and the Institute was awarded one of its four Sir Antony Fisher International Memorial Awards for "The Equalization Initiative".

AIMS president Brian Lee Crowley brought that equalization expertise to an audience of business and political leaders in Regina with a luncheon speech entitled, "The Help that Hurts". He explained that Saskatchewan is being punished for doing the right thing economically.

"The government of Saskatchewan, by encouraging local sustainable growth based on Saskatchewan's natural resource endowment will make itself worse off by doing things that develop its economy and allow it to escape dependence on transfers from Ottawa," Crowley told the audience, which included the province's Finance Minister, Harry van Mulligen, and the former Leader of the Opposition, Elwin Hermanson.

To read the full text of Brian Lee Crowley's remarks, [click here.](#)

The luncheon was co-hosted by Peter Holle, President of the Frontier Centre for Public Policy. To learn more about the Frontier Centre, visit their website at www.fcpp.org.

Part Six: AIMS' Atlantica concept highlights Maine's 2005 Business Showcase.

AIMS' Atlantica concept continues to gain business, political and media attention. An example was the recent 2005 Business Showcase held in the mid-coast region of Maine at Samoset. Organizers invited AIMS president Brian Lee Crowley to make the keynote address during the opening of this popular annual business gathering.

There he explained the International Northeast Economic Region and the role of the Atlantica trade corridor in building a strong economy in the region. There was extensive coverage of the event in the local media, as well as a strong desire on the part of those attending the event to do their part to promote the Atlantica agenda.

To read about the Maine 2005 Business Showcase, [click here.](#)

Part Seven: La réputation a son importance. AIMS dans La Presse sur l'avenir du 'offshore'.

Dans sa chronique mensuelle dans La Presse, le journal francophone le plus lu de l'Amérique du nord, Brian Lee Crowley, le président de AIMS, écrit : Le problème qui survient lorsque votre réputation se gâte, c'est qu'une fois que les gens ont découvert qu'ils ne peuvent pas se fier à votre parole, lorsqu'ils se sont rendu compte que vous seul comptez à vos propres yeux et que vous n'accordez jamais d'importance aux autres, ils cessent de s'intéresser à vous. Et puis, même si vous vous amendez, il faut beaucoup de temps pour que quelqu'un s'en aperçoive. À l'heure actuelle, deux provinces canadiennes illustrent combien le climat d'investissement peut se détériorer rapidement et combien il faut de temps pour s'en remettre.

[Cliquer ici pour lire le texte intégral de la chronique parue dans La Presse dimanche le 24 avril 2005.](#)

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