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Policy Begins Today*

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Part One: Good things come in small packages: New Brunswick's smallest communities fare best in AIMS' Municipal Performance Report

Bigger does not always mean better and it appears for New Brunswick municipalities sometimes less really is more. AIMS' first **New Brunswick Municipal Performance Report** shows the top three communities have fewer than 900 residents.

The report consistently sees smaller municipalities appearing to be more efficient and effective than larger centres; the top 10 have populations less than 2,500. The top positions are held by Florenceville, Cambridge-Narrows, and Port Elgin, finishing one, two and three; all with overall "B+" grades. St. Martins and Grand-Manan finish the top five in fourth and fifth with an overall "B".

To view the Municipal Performance Report for New Brunswick, [click here](#).

To view a summary of the results, [click here](#).

AIMS Municipal Performance Report for New Brunswick re-opened the public discussion about municipal service and efficient spending. It also prompted the Telegraph Journal to request an op-ed from AIMS Executive Vice President Charles Cirtwill. He called it ***After the Performance Report, What Comes Next?***

A columnist in the Bathurst Northern Light explained that while he may not agree with AIMS on many things, he does believe the Institute is on the right track with the Municipal Performance Report. He says public access to information is critical to accountability within government. Read

more in *The Way I See It: Making the grade from the right viewpoint*.

Other news coverage in New Brunswick included the following stories:

- [Small towns score big](#)
- [Smaller N.B. communities more efficient: report](#)
- [Report card gives city 'C'](#)
- [Reading the AIMS municipal performance report](#)
- [Tips on efficiency from N.B.'s small towns](#)
- [Reading the AIMS municipal performance report](#)
- [Hampton scores above Sussex, mayor pleasantly surprised](#)

Part Two: Fare thee well, not quite: Nova Scotia municipal performance neither great nor terrible

Size doesn't seem to matter for municipalities in Nova Scotia. Big or small; there are some good and some bad.

AIMS' first annual [Nova Scotia Municipal Performance Report](#) shows the top 10 municipalities in the province range from 650 to almost 370,000 people; the bottom 10 from 450 to 14,000 people.

None are great; no municipality receives an overall grade of "A". But then none are terrible; no municipality receives a failing grade.

However, there's a lot of information missing. To view the Municipality Performance Report, [click here](#).

To view some of the news articles on this report follow the headlines below.

- [What the leaders have to say](#)
- [Inverness County makes grade in report on municipalities](#)
- [All data, no information](#)
- [Where we stand](#)
- [Municipal report card](#)
- [Amherst performing below provincial average, says AIMS report card](#)
- [Lockeport tops municipal report card](#)
- [A passing grade - Stewiacke, East Hants earn decent marks](#)

Part Three: Lessons from Abroad: Cost and consequences of Government health care decision making

As leaders in the United States again talk about publicly funded health care, many experts suggest the U.S. should first look at public health care in other countries.

In that light, the International Policy Network and the Galen Institute gathered leading health care policy experts from around the globe for a conference in Washington, D.C., called "*Lessons from Abroad for Health Reform in the US*".

This Commentary is based on the remarks to the conference by the lone expert representing

Canada, AIMS President Brian Lee Crowley.

In *Canadian Health Care: Coming soon to a republic near you*, Crowley uses a mix of in depth research and personal experience to show the faults within Canadian care and the lessons Americans should draw from our experience. He provides insight of how the Canadian system has become a monopoly where people think publicly-funded services have to be government run.

[Click here](#) for the complete Commentary.

Crowley's presentation generated quite a number of website postings and e-newsletter articles. Follow the headlines below to read more.

- [Cost and Consequences of Government Health-Care Decision Making](#)
- [What's Wrong with Canada's Healthcare System?](#)
- [Evidence-Based Legislation? Lessons From Abroad](#)
- [Lessons from Abroad](#)

Part Four: Quantitative Easing 'Dementia': A cure worse than the crisis

It is a cure that is far worse and more pernicious than the economic slowdown we are trying to escape. That's the conclusion in this latest Commentary from AIMS Fellow in Financial Markets Harry Koza.

Koza, who is Senior Analyst for Canadian markets at Thomsonreuters' IFR Markets, calls Quantitative Easing, or QE, the flavour of the day and one that will leave a very sour taste very soon.

"The latest mania is Quantitative Easing, or QE. It's basically printing money," writes Koza. "The Federal Reserve is already buying US Treasury Bonds in the market, paying for them with cash created out of thin air. The Fed plans to buy US\$300 billion worth of bonds, plus another \$750 billion worth of agency (Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae) mortgage-backed securities, plus another \$100 billion in Freddie and Fannie bonds, for a total of US\$1.15 trillion. That's a lot of clams."

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

An op-ed written by Koza was featured on opinion pages across the country, including the Montreal Gazette and Calgary Herald. Koza, in his direct fashion, dismisses 'quantitative easing' as a solution to the economic crisis, saying it will cause more problems than it solves.

To read the op-ed based on this Commentary, [click here](#).

Part Five: Taking the Road Less Taxing: New Brunswick's new tax scheme a 'bold stroke'

Earlier this month, New Brunswick enacted a new tax program that will significantly reduce taxes in that province over the next three years. It's not surprising that the news media turned to AIMS for comment on the new tax program. The Institute has researched and published various papers on tax reform. Last summer, we appeared before a New Brunswick legislative committee to present an overview of that research. Follow [this link](#) to the Commentary based on that research.

AIMS Executive Vice-President Charles Cirtwill was called on to explain the significance of the tax reform. [Click here](#) to read more on this story.

Part Six: AIMS in the Headlines: From Wind Energy and Healthcare to Canadians Moving East

Upping the ante to attract workers - The beginning of the labour shortage has started as New Brunswick travels to Toronto to recruit workers back to the province. AIMS Executive Vice President Charles Cirtwill explains this is the reality of a demographic shift.

Helping or Hurting? - AIMS Executive Vice-President Charles Cirtwill says the federal announcement to develop an energy gateway is positive and New Brunswick shouldn't worry they are losing. He says New Brunswick still leads the way.

Atlantic wind energy projects experiencing slowdowns - There's little doubt that wind energy companies in Atlantic Canada, are also starting to feel the pinch of this recession. However, within Atlantica there is a growing market for renewable energy, and the region is positioning itself to be ready when the economy turns around.

Unemployed Canadian Workers Flock to Atlantic Provinces - As Canada's unemployment rate rises, jobless Canadian workers are looking the Atlantic Provinces for work. AIMS Executive Vice-President Charles Cirtwill explains why the Atlantic Provinces were hit by the financial crisis on a smaller scale.

Jobless clamouring to go east - AIMS Executive Vice-President Charles Cirtwill says there appears to be a new slogan in the job market, "Move east, young person." In this article in the Globe and Mail, Cirtwill explains how Atlantic Canada's economy is more diversified, so there are still jobs in the region begging to be filled.

Kelly gets Irish advice - Tom Hartley, the Lord Mayor of Belfast, made a stop in Halifax to discuss how he feels the city can benefit from the Belfast experience. AIMS Executive Vice-President Charles Cirtwill says Halifax will not grow, as Belfast did, until all levels of government stop holding the city back.

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