



Volume 15, Issue 17

*Where Tomorrow's Public  
Policy Begins Today*

09 September 2009

[How you can support AIMS](#)

*Having trouble reading this email? View our online version at:  
[www.aims.ca/library/beacon090909.pdf](http://www.aims.ca/library/beacon090909.pdf)*

- **Part One: The *Freedom Dinner*: Come celebrate 15 years of making a difference with AIMS.**
- **Part Two: True Roots: Canada's forgotten political tradition of individual liberty, limited government, self-reliance and personal accountability.**
- **Part Three: The future of unions: Are they a dying breed?**
- **Part Four: There's no hiding from it: Handling the deficit will define Nova Scotia's NDP government.**
- **Part Five: In the headlines: Columnists, editors and reporters quote AIMS' research.**

---

### **Part One: The *Freedom Dinner*: Come celebrate 15 years of making a difference with AIMS**

Join friends and supporters of AIMS on October 5<sup>th</sup> at the Halifax Marriott Harbourfront for our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala. Guest speaker is the Honourable Anson Chan, former Chief Secretary to the Administration of Hong Kong and considered one of the most powerful women in China.

Tickets are \$250, tables of eight are \$2000, and sponsorship starts at \$500.

For more information on the event, [click here](#).

For a biography of Anson Chan, [click here](#).

For sponsorship information, [click here](#).

To order tickets, [click here](#).

---

### **Part Two: True Roots: Canada's forgotten political tradition of individual liberty, limited government, self-reliance and personal accountability**

This Commentary, based on his remarks to the opening session of the 2009 Civitas National Conference, AIMS President Brian Lee Crowley traces Canada's political roots and shows our attachment to our 'kinder self' is a recent incarnation - and not at all what the founding fathers had in mind.

He explains far from being a welfare state, for much of Canada's early life dependence on the

government or on charity was abhorred, not chiefly because of the cost it imposed on those who paid, but because of the damage it did to those who "benefited." He explains:

"Contrary to an article of faith of our revisionist age, for years one of the things that distinguished Canada from the US was Canadians' unbreakable attachment to a demanding work ethic and a strong distaste for any kind of dependence on the public purse. In fact, one of the ways in which the founders of the Dominion thought that the new country distinguished itself from the United States was in the higher levels of welfare dependence to be found in the populist republic to the south, where voters could and did vote themselves benefits at the expense of the rich, a danger of American populist democracy . . ."

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

---

### **Part Three: The future of unions: Are they a dying breed?**

As major unions across the country were making concessions at the bargaining table, reporters were asking whether it was just a sign of the times or the beginning of the end for unions. CBC Radio's national phone-in show *Cross Country Checkup* contacted AIMS Executive Vice President Charles Cirtwill to help set the scene. This Commentary is a transcript of Charles' interview with Anne Medina.

To read more, [click here](#).

Other articles that explore the same policy include –

[Are unions in trouble?](#)

[What's the deal with union benefits?: Unions in PR battle for benefits in bad times](#)

---

### **Part Four: There's no hiding from it: Handling the deficit will define Nova Scotia's NDP government**

As though there would be any doubt – an independent audit shows the deficit left by the previous Tory government in Nova Scotia is much larger than initially projected. In this op-ed published by The Chronicle-Herald, AIMS Executive Vice President Charles Cirtwill says it's not what was left the new government that will define NDP Premier Darrel Dexter four years from now, but what he does with it. Cirtwill says they need to move beyond pointing fingers, and quickly take action to ensure they will not repeat the mistakes of the previous Tory government.

He writes: "Our government, and our government spending is huge: \$8963 on a per capita basis, with 97 public servants for every one thousand Nova Scotians. Spending has grown over and above inflation for seven of the last nine years. This is both good news and bad news for Premier Dexter. It is good news in that with a government this large in a province this small there are lots of ways to reallocate resources to priorities without increasing overall spending. It is bad news in that "reallocating spending" means cutting programs, programs that matter at the very least to the people delivering them and to the people receiving them – regardless of whether or not they matter to the rest of us."

To read the complete op-ed, [click here](#).

---

### **Part Five: In the headlines: Columnists, editors and reporters quote AIMS'**

## research.

**Standard & Poor's reaffirms province's AA- credit rating** - AIMS Executive Vice President Charles Cirtwill explains that the latest credit rating for New Brunswick is a reasonable endorsement of the province's financial plan.

**Calls renewed for fiscal update** - There are calls in New Brunswick to release a fiscal update. AIMS Executive Vice President Charles Cirtwill explains there should always be openness and transparency in government finances, but cautions fiscal forecasts, are just that - forecasts. (Note – The New Brunswick government took the advice and moved its traditional budget date to December.)

**Down, but not out** - As confidence in the economy returns, so too should private sector spending. The Telegraph-Journal called on AIMS Executive Vice President Charles Cirtwill to provide insight.

**New deficit killers prepare to hack** - This editorial in the Cape Breton Post uses research from AIMS to analyze the fiscal choices of Nova Scotia's new provincial government.

**Atlantic Canada study group: HST helped bring prices down** - The harmonized sale tax may be coming to more provinces across Canada. As the debate heats up in British Columbia, AIMS was asked to explain the impact of the HST in three of the four Atlantic provinces.

**Recession is over for some** - This article in an international electronic newsletter for ex-pats from the Philippines, uses Burnaby's results in AIMS' National Municipal Performance Report to promote the city.

**Greying Canada to turn job market upside-down** - An AIMS paper on the population crunch prompts this Ottawa columnist to talk with experts about strategies to counter-act the pending demographic shift.

**London's star is finally rising** - The AIMS National Municipal Performance Report is used in this column to generate a discussion about accountability in London's City Hall.

**Effectiveness of city hall measured by residents** - The city hall reporter for the Barrie Examiner suggests AIMS National Municipal Performance Report is a valuable tool to make people think about the municipal services they receive and the taxes they pay for them. However, he says it's up to residents to decide whether the service is good at a good price.

**Positive Next Generation survey a plus for Halifax** - The AIMS National Municipal Performance Report continues to generate public discussion. This business column points out that such reports can be used to help improve cities so they are more attractive to the next generation of workers.

---

Permission is given to reproduce material from this newsletter or from the AIMS website, as long as both AIMS and the author, where appropriate, are given proper credit. Please notify us when using our material.

Some of the materials in this newsletter will require Adobe® Reader® to access. If you do not have Adobe® Reader® installed on your computer, click here to download the full program.

If you have received this message in error, please accept our apologies. To unsubscribe from the Beacon, please visit [www.AIMS.ca](http://www.AIMS.ca) and follow the links at the right hand corner of the homepage. Follow the links to subscribe to the newsletter and there is an option to unsubscribe. To subscribe, follow the same instructions but use the subscribe option.

We welcome your comments at [communications@aims.ca](mailto:communications@aims.ca).

[Privacy Policy](#)