



THE BEACON



Volume 17, Issue 3

*Where Tomorrow's Public Policy
Begins Today*

29 November
2010

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- Part One: Energizing News: What's happening, what could be happening & how to make it happen.
- Part Two: From the Opinion Pages: Speaking up and speaking out
- Part Three: Getting it right from the start: Early childhood care and education is worth paying for.
- Part Four: Reality Check: Vision and strategy needed to pull Nova Scotia out of the doldrums.
- Part Five: Municipal politicians beware: There are lessons to be heeded from Toronto's mayoralty race.
- Part Six: AIMS in the News: From education to deficits to common sense.

Part One: Energizing News: What's happening, what could be happening & how to make it happen

It's been an energizing season in Atlantic Canada; the Lower Churchill announcement, an MOU between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and PEI's plans for wind power.

AIMS was out in front of the announcements with a Commentary by Gordon L. Weil on the need for a regional power market. ***Freeing the Flow*** provides the steps needed to improve electric industry regulation in Canada.

After the news broke, Weil was a popular commentator with the news media, and penned ***this op-ed*** that appeared in newspapers around the region.

Also read ***It's Complicated*** a guest Commentary by AIMS Board Member Perry Newman who discusses the role the renewable energy sector has in the future of Maine's economy.

Follow ***this link*** to read more of AIMS' material on energy and Atlantica.

Part Two: From the Opinion Pages: Speaking up and speaking out

AIMS President & CEO Charles Cirtwill is often asked by editorial page editors to contribute articles for the opinion pages on pressing policy issues of the day. Follow the links below to read op-eds that have appeared recently in a variety of newspapers.

- [Common sense about universities in Nova Scotia](#)
- [Now THAT's a Gateway](#)
- [Why higher electricity prices are a good thing](#)
- [Mr. Alward, cut Nova Scotia a break](#)
- [Common sense about universities in Nova Scotia](#)
- [Welcome Back, New Brunswick](#)

Part Three: Getting it right from the start: Early Childhood Care and Education is worth paying for

Government support of early childhood education and care programs for poor and vulnerable children is a worthwhile investment. That's one of the conclusions of [See Dick Grow Old](#), [See Jane Retire](#).

[The paper](#) suggests the poorest families receive a full subsidy, but the amount be reduced as income, and therefore ability-to-pay, rise. Author Ian Munro says the evidence is clear that high-quality child care delivers long term sustained value for low income families and for society at large.

Munro points out that Canada's future prosperity will be challenged by demographic change. In the coming years and decades the ratio of working-age adults to children and seniors will drop significantly. Research shows that our standard of living will drop as well unless the birth rate rises, the labour force participation rate increases, and/or the productivity of the work force is improved.

"Early childhood care and education policies have the potential to make advances on all three of these fronts," says Munro.

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

Part Four: Reality Check: Vision and strategy needed to pull Nova Scotia out of the doldrums

Nova Scotia has a lot going for it, but somehow doesn't quite get it done.

In this guest Commentary, [Time for a Reality Check](#), businessman Don Mills takes a look at some of the province's problems and possible solutions.

He points out that Nova Scotia doesn't have a vision or plan to gain 'have' status within Canada. He says it is too dependent on government to solve our problems and Nova Scotia governments have lived beyond their means for too long.

Mills also suggests there is a discernible anti-business attitude in the province and that

consumer confidence is the lowest in the region. He says the status quo is not good enough and asks some tough questions that need to be answered to successfully move forward.

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

Part Five: Municipal politicians beware: There are lessons to be heeded from Toronto's mayoralty race

It may have been a surprise to the pollsters and the news media, but Rob Ford's victory in the Toronto mayoralty race may well be a sign of the times.

In this Commentary, AIMS Senior Fellow in Urban Policy, Patrick Luciani takes a look at the victory and suggests it's about basic municipal services, or the lack of them. He points out that Toronto's elite lost touch with the core services voters expect and are now demanding from their mayors and councils.

[Lessons in Toronto](#) explains that the Toronto election was about politicians who understand the fundamentals of running a city. That means keeping the infrastructure in good running order such as roads, sewers, efficient garbage collection, good schools, a safe community, a balanced budget and taxes that don't discourage jobs.

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

Part Six: AIMS in the news: From education to deficits to common sense

[Report: Subsidize early care, education](#) - AIMS' report on early childhood education made headlines. This article explains how assistance for at risk children will benefit the economy and society in the long run.

[Province now \\$800M in the red](#) - Days before promised budget consultations are to begin in New Brunswick, the finance minister says the deficit has increased by at least \$50M to \$800 million. AIMS President and CEO Charles Cirtwill says the government needs to cut spending, increase consumption tax, but keep the income tax reform program implemented by the previous Liberal government.

[On energy, capitalize on geography, says official](#) - AIMS' Commentary on the need to reform regulations covering the interprovincial and international transmission of electricity made the front page of the New Brunswick Telegraph-Journal.

['The numbers are pretty bad'](#) - AIMS President & CEO Charles Cirtwill suggests one way that New Brunswick can boost its employment figures is to make the province attractive for business. He says government can't spend its way to prosperity.

[Experts predict Tories will raise taxes](#) - As New Brunswick prepares to swear in a new provincial government, AIMS President Charles Cirtwill looks to the past to suggest what may happen. He says it is unlikely the Tories will keep their promise not to increase taxes.

[Gas gridlock traps N.B. users](#) - A dispute brewing over natural gas distribution and costs in New Brunswick is an example of what happens when government interferes. In

this article, AIMS President & CEO explains what went wrong.

Message to Tories: Do not abandon plan - Tax incentives are a better way to stimulate the economy than handing out money. In this article, AIMS' Charles Cirtwill suggests if the new Tory government in New Brunswick is going to adopt any of the plans of the former Liberal government it should stick with tax reform. |

Do small businesses have a fighting chance against today's challenges? - In this cover story in the Nova Scotia Business Journal, AIMS President & CEO Charles Cirtwill explains Nova Scotia has to do more to make life easier for small business. He points out taxes are too high in the province and the red tape too thick.

Cape Breton turns to Moncton for economic inspiration - Charles Cirtwill, President and CEO of AIMS will be the keynote speaker at the Cape Breton Partnership Annual General Meeting highlighted in this article in the Telegraph Journal.

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