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Part One: The Muskrat Falls Hydro Project: Opportunities and Risks

In his latest AIMS commentary, *The Muskrat Falls Hydro Project: Opportunities and Risks*, Gordon Weil examines the project, proposed by Nalcor and Emera with the support of the provincial governments, to develop Muskrat Falls. Weil identifies the benefits, costs and risks of the Muskrat Falls hydroelectric project, to both Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

Weil suggests a series of measures that could be carried out in Newfoundland and Labrador that would reduce the chances of the project becoming a financial burden. In evaluating the project, he suggests that Newfoundland and Labrador conduct a regulatory-type review, even if it is not now required by law.

An in-depth review should include careful scrutiny of the cost and a more comprehensive analysis of the impact on provincial customers and the value of power sales outside of Newfoundland and Labrador. Such a review would go beyond the limited report requested previously from the province's Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities (NLPUB).

For Nova Scotia, Weil concludes that the project would have an important but more limited effect and must undergo regulatory review. Not only would the project assist the province in dealing

with air quality, but it would also give utilities access to needed power supply and improved interconnections with Atlantic Canada.

[Read the full commentary here](#)

Part Two: Eye on the Economy: Health care monopoly 'under fire'

In the health care industry in Canada, it can be argued that the single-tier, single-channel delivery model is not working the way it needs to in order to ensure the sustainability of the system. There are those who argue for the need for a two-tiered system where citizens have the right to choose private sector health services and pay for that privilege.

In this commentary, ***Eye on the Economy: Health care monopoly 'under fire'***, AIMS board member Don Mills examines the possibility of an alternative system worth considering — the introduction of privately delivered, but publicly funded health care in Canada. Mills suggests that it is time to try an alternative to our current healthcare service delivery, still funded by government, where no one can skip the queue and everyone has equal access to the health care services they need.

[Read the full commentary here](#)

Part Three: Who can the government trust? In Italy they think the government can trust YOU!

Alessandro Columbo, Director of the Strategic Unit at the Éupolis Lombardia Institute for Research, Statistics, and Training, will join us as part of his Canada wide tour on **Monday, October 29, 2012.**

Alessandro is an expert on the “Lombardy Model” an approach to the delivery of public services modelled on the principles of “subsidiarity” or empowerment at the lowest level possible. In his talk, Columbo will explain the Lombardy model and how it represents an alternative to the (still)

centralistic / state-centered Italian system. The Lombardy model is used to deliver a broad range of public services: health care, education, social services, economic development. Columbo will share with us their achievements so far, the lessons they have learned and the limits they have discovered.

Alessandro will be joining us for a talk hosted by AIMS in partnership with The Chronicle Herald at the Halifax Club from 2-4pm.

Alessandro will also join us for a talk hosted by AIMS in cooperation with Dalhousie University's School of Public Administration at the Kenneth C. Rowe Management Building Room 1020 from 10:35-11:35am.

[Click here to register for this free event](#)

Part Four: Open for Business: Creating Wealth Through Better Health

Join AIMS November 15th for a conference that will change the way you look at healthcare.

Presenters from here at home and around the globe will share their expert knowledge and experience on issues of medical tourism, ITC in healthcare, profiting from healthcare and health research, venture capital and alternative payment models.

The conference aims to bring together health professionals, policy makers and the business community to discuss innovative ways to turn health care from a cost to society into an economic benefit for all Canadians.

This is more than a diagnosis of what's wrong with healthcare. This is a showcase of proven strategies and solutions we can adopt here and now that will result in enhanced service, innovative treatments and a healthcare industry that generates new employment and revenue in our region.

[Learn more about this conference here](#)

[Register for this conference here.](#)

Part Five: Michael Zwaagstra op-ed

How to make math education worse in N.S

In this op-ed, AIMS Fellow in Common Sense Education Michael Zwaagstra examines the new math education curriculum adopted by the NS government in an attempt to improve math instruction. Zwaagstra concludes that this with this new curriculum we can expect math education to get worse in Nova Scotia. The province must adopt a rigorous curriculum that emphasizes the necessary knowledge and skills.

Part Six: AIMS in the Media

Open House Debate to Experts: Opposition

VOCM Newfoundland Radio reports on the Newfoundland House of Assembly response to the recent report released by AIMS examining Muskrat Falls.

Consultant calls for more oversight on Muskrat Falls

Taxpayers in Newfoundland and Labrador should be offered more information and more protections when it comes to the Lower Churchill development, according to energy consultant and AIMS contributor Gordon Weil.

Muskrat Falls Desirable but Risky: Report

A new report on the merits of developing Muskrat Falls, calls the project desirable but risky. Author Gordon Weil, at the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies (AIMS), suggests a series of measures that would reduce the financial burden on the province.

Report calls for full regulatory review of Muskrat Falls

NTV News reports on the latest AIMS commentary 'The Muskrat Falls Project: Opportunities and Risks'

Lower Churchill will benefit region, with fewer risks for N.S., report says

Energy consultant from Maine and AIMS contributor Gordon Weil says the Atlantic region will benefit from the Lower Churchill energy project, but Newfoundland's risks are greater than those for Nova Scotia.

[Is Your Care The Same As An Olympic Athlete?: You can do better](#)

AIMS board member David Zitner argues that patients in Nova Scotia should have access to their laboratory results to ensure that results are not lost, ignored or not communicated.

[Why should location affect education?](#)

In this article, AIMS President and CEO Charles Cirtwill comments on the open boundary public school model and notes that the adoption of an open boundary system in Halifax would lead to less division along socio-economic lines than Halifax already has.

[School size debate tackles primary views](#)

The trend of closing smaller schools and building supersized facilities in their place is ill-advised says AIMS President and CEO, Charles Cirtwill.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

AIMS is a non-partisan social and economic policy think tank based on Halifax, Nova Scotia. AIMS is a registered charity in Canada and the United States, and takes no money from government to maintain the independence of the institute.

CURRENT ISSUES

[Open for Business: Creating Wealth Through Better Health:](#) On November 15th AIMS will host a ground breaking health conference at Halifax's World Trade and Convention Centre.

[The Case for Queue Jumping:](#) It's time to PROFIT from Health Care: AIMS explores all of the ways to make money from health care and the implications greater revenues have for sustaining and expanding health services.

[Nova Scotia's Tuition Support Program:](#) AIMS proposes expanding support for students with learning disabilities

[AIMS on Campus:](#) An exciting opportunity for students! Check out the new AIMS on Campus website to read what our next generation of thinkers have to say.

[AIMS:](#) Check out our website for the latest updates from AIMS!

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