

2015-16 ANNUAL REPORT/RAPPORT ANNUEL



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John Risley

Message from the Chairman

The end of our fiscal year 2015/16 allows us an opportunity to look back on the year that was. Over 20 years after its founding, AIMS has developed into an important Atlantic Canadian institution. There is a serious need for strong public policy in all jurisdictions, and AIMS has an important role as the only independent voice located right here in the region.

The mission of AIMS is to provide made-in-Atlantic Canada solutions to our most pressing questions of public policy. AIMS approaches these questions with a market-based focus, in recognition that markets can provide useful answers in areas as wide-ranging as healthcare, economic development, immigration, and education.

This past year saw AIMS do work in all traditional areas of its research and beyond. Policy papers were written on comparative tax rates and regimes, e-Government, gas opportunities for Atlantic Canada, e-Learning, and Atlantic electricity markets. Opinion pieces, media interviews, radio spots, blog posts, and social media support these policy papers. It is important for AIMS is to reach all Atlantic Canadians as ideas and their propagation have the power to change policy.

We held successful events throughout the year including two Healthcare Forums. Lead by our Senior Fellow David Zitner, the forums drew hundreds patrons interested in healthcare reform. We also hosted Michael Binnion for a discussion about hydraulic fracturing, and smaller events including our annual barbeque.

I would like to thank the board members of AIMS for their contributions over the past year. Specifically, we extend thanks to committee chairs Scott McCain, Jonathan Meretsky, Dennice Leahey, and Fae Shaw as well as Vice-Chairs Leo Power and Laura Araneda. This past year we bid farewell to departing board members David Hooley (Vice-Chair, PEI), Jason Shannon, and Max St. Pierre. I thank them for their contributions, and welcome Andrew Oland back to our board.

Déclaration du président du conseil d'administration

La fin de notre année fiscale 2015/16 nous donne l'occasion de faire une petite rétrospective. Plus de 20 ans après sa création, AIMS est devenue une institution importante du Canada atlantique. Il y a un sérieux besoin pour des politiques publiques solides dans toutes les juridictions et AIMS joue le rôle important d'être la seule voix indépendante, ici dans la région.

La mission d'AIMS est de fournir des solutions, développées dans la région, pour les questions de politiques publiques les plus pressantes. AIMS aborde ces questions avec une optique basée sur le marché, reconnaissant que les marchés peuvent donner des réponses utiles pour des sujets tels que les soins de santé, le développement économique, l'immigration et l'éducation.

Cette année, AIMS a travaillé dans tous ses domaines traditionnels de recherche et au-delà. L'Institut a produit des études sur les taux comparatifs d'impôts, le télé-service, les opportunités de développement du gaz naturel dans la région, la formation en ligne et les marchés de l'électricité dans le Canada atlantique. Les éditoriaux, les entrevues médiatiques, les vignettes radio, les blogs et les médias sociaux soutiennent ces études. Il est nécessaire qu'AIMS diffuse ses idées à tous les Canadiens atlantiques puisque les idées et leur propagation peuvent influencer la politique.

Nous avons tenu des évènements réussis tout au long de l'année dont deux forums sur les soins de santé. Dirigé par notre chercheur principal David Zitner, les forums ont attiré des centaines de personnes venues afin de discuter des réformes de notre système de santé. Nous avons également tenu une conférence avec Michael Binnion au sujet de la fracturation hydraulique ainsi que des évènements de plus petite envergure dont notre BBQ annuel.

Je voudrais remercier les membres du conseil d'administration pour leur contribution cette année. Particulièrement, nous remercions les présidents des comités Scott McCain, Jonathan Meretsky, Dennice Leahey et Fae Shaw ainsi que les vice-

Dr. Marco Navarro-Génie leads the staff at AIMS as President and CEO. He is entering his fourth year at the helm of the institute. With public policy experience in a wide range of other jurisdictions, he helps to bring an outside perspective to our thinking, while becoming well-attuned to the particularities of this region. He leads a small but ambitious staff that is dedicated to improving public policy in the region. Watch for their work at AIMS.ca and on our social media channels.

AIMS is making a difference. This year, the institute published research on education through a paper on e-Learning, on the economy through comparative tax policy, and on government service delivery via e-services.

I would also like to acknowledge friends we lost this past year, notably our Founding Chairman Cedric Ritchie. The groundwork laid by Mr. Ritchie, the late Purdy Crawford, and others allows us to continue AIMS important work some 20 years later. We are in their debt.

Speaking of Purdy, his legacy at AIMS lives on today within the Purdy Crawford Legacy Fund. The fund was established in cooperation with the Crawford family as a means of ensuring AIMS's long-term stability.

In the upcoming year AIMS will be aggressive in building upon its successes. The staff at the institute has many interesting and worthy projects in development. Nova Scotia and Atlantic Canada have numerous demographic and economic challenges, and AIMS will continue to do its part to address them.

I believe that AIMS is a critical institution because it is unique. There is no monopoly on good ideas, and that is especially true in public policy. Government thinking needs to be regularly challenged, and there is a dearth of voices doing so from a market perspective. I have long supported AIMS and I encourage others to do so as well. It is indeed an investment in our region.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of our supporters, without whose help we couldn't exist.

Sincerely,

John Risley

Chairman of the Board

présidents Leo Power et Laura Araneda. Cette année nous avons dit adieu aux membres suivants: David Hooley (vice-président, l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard), Jason Shannon et Max St. Pierre. Je les remercie pour leur contribution et souhaite la bienvenue à Andrew Oland qui est de retour.

Dr. Marco Navarro-Génie dirige le personnel à AIMS en tant que PDG. Il commence sa quatrième année aux commandes de l'Institut. Avec son expérience en politique publique dans plusieurs autres juridictions, il amène une autre perspective à notre pensée, pendant qu'il s'ajuste aux particularités de cette région. Il dirige une équipe petite mais ambitieuse qui se consacre à améliorer la politique publique dans la région. Veuillez lire leurs travaux sur le site web AIMS.ca et dans les media sociaux.

AIMS fait bouger des choses. Cette année, l'Institut a publié de la recherche sur l'éducation avec une étude de la formation en ligne, sur l'économie avec les réformes des impôts et l'offre des services gouvernementaux en ligne.

Je tiens aussi à reconnaître des amis que nous avons perdus cette année, notamment notre président fondateur Cedric Ritchie. Le travail de bâtisseur de M. Ritchie, du défunt M. Purdy Crawford et d'autres nous permet de continuer le travail important d'AIMS après plus de vingt ans. Nous leur sommes redevables.

En parlant de Purdy, son héritage persiste à AIMS sous la forme du Fonds Purdy Crawford. Nous avons établi ce fonds en collaboration avec la famille Crawford pour garantir la stabilité à long terme de l'Institut.

Dans l'année qui suit, AIMS sera agressif en se basant sur ses réussites. Le personnel à l'Institut travaille sur plusieurs projets intéressants et digne d'importance en progrès. La Nouvelle-Écosse et le Canada atlantique partagent de nombreux défis démographiques et économiques. AIMS continuera de jouer son rôle afin de les adresser.

Je crois qu'AIMS est une institution cruciale puisqu'elle est unique. Il n'existe aucun monopole sur les bonnes idées et cela est d'autant plus vrai en politique publique. Il faut mettre au défi régulièrement la pensée des gouvernements et il y a un manque criant de voix qui le fait d'un angle de libre-marché. Je soutiens AIMS depuis longtemps et j'encourage les autres à faire de même. C'est en effet un investissement dans notre région.

Finalement, je veux remercier infiniment tous nos supporters, sans qui nous n'existerions pas.

Cordialement,

John Risley

Président du conseil d'administration



Message from the President

Our 2015-16 year proved to be exciting and productive at the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies. I wish to thank the Board of Directors, AIMS staff and contributors, and most of all our readers and donors to the Institute for their support. Without it, AIMS's important task of injecting ideas and evidence on sound public policy for Atlantic Canada would not be possible. I would also like to sincerely thank John Risley, Chairman of our board, for his leadership.

The Institute published policy papers and research throughout the year that contributes to debate on Atlantic Canada's future. Gordon Weil's *Atlantic Canada and the U.S. Electricity Market* considered the many challenges facing electric companies in the region in their competition for market share in the New England states. Andrew Pickford's *Gas Opportunities for Atlantic Canada* outlined the many avenues for expansion in the natural gas industry and evaluated the damage of moratoria on hydraulic fracturing for future economic growth.

Mark Milke's *I'll Take New England Any Day!* compared the sub-national tax regimes of Atlantic Canada and its closest geographic competitor: the New England states. Dr. Milke found that with the exception of small business taxes, all types of tax in Atlantic Canadian provinces are higher than in their New England counterparts. Furthermore, he found that by some metrics, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are the highest-taxed jurisdictions in North America. In his conclusion, he recommended that greater efforts be placed on aligning tax regimes in the region with neighbours for competitive purposes.

e-Learning in K-12 Schools by Paul Bennett examines how Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador lost the e-learning initiative, why centralized top-down "21st century learning" visions run aground, and how school system constraints — common to bricks-and-mortar schooling — limit the potential for school-level experimentation and innovation.

Finally, Jan Pavel's *e-Government in Atlantic Canada: Review and Future Trends* looks at the institutions of e-services. These

Déclaration du Président-Directeur Général

2015-16 s'est révélée une année formidable et productive à l'Institut atlantique d'études de marché (AIMS). Je tiens à remercier le conseil d'administration, le personnel de l'Institut, ses contributeurs et surtout notre lectorat et nos donateurs pour tout leur soutien. Sans eux, AIMS serait dans l'impossibilité d'accomplir son importante tâche d'injecter des idées basées sur des preuves statistiques afin d'aider au développement de politiques publiques solides et adéquates. Je souhaite aussi à remercier sincèrement John Risley, directeur du C.A., pour son leadership.

L'Institut a publié tout au long de l'année une série de recherches et d'études de politique publique qui ont contribué au débat sur l'avenir du Canada atlantique. L'étude de Gordon Weil, intitulée *Atlantic Canada and the U.S. Electricity Market*, s'est penchée sur les nombreux défis auxquels font face les compagnies d'électricité de la région afin d'opérer de façon compétitive dans le marché de la Nouvelle Angleterre. *Gas Opportunities for Atlantic Canada*, écrit par Andrew Pickford, a décrit les nombreuses possibilités d'expansion de l'industrie du gaz naturel et a évalué les dommages à la croissance économique de la région causés par le moratoire sur la fracturation hydraulique.

I'll Take New England Any Day!, écrit par Mark Milke, a comparé les taux d'impôts du Canada atlantique avec ceux de ses concurrents géographiques immédiats, les États américains de la Nouvelle Angleterre. Dr. Milke a découvert qu'à l'exception des impôts aux petites entreprises, toutes les autres catégories dans le Canada atlantique sont plus élevées que chez leurs voisins du nord-est américain. De plus, en utilisant quelques indicateurs, il a trouvé que la Nouvelle-Écosse et le Nouveau-Brunswick sont les juridictions les plus taxées d'Amérique du nord. Pour conclure, il a fait la recommandation que plus d'efforts soient entrepris afin d'aligner les régimes fiscaux de la région afin d'être plus compétitifs avec nos voisins.

Le rapport *e-Learning in K-12 Schools* de Paul Bennett examine comment la Nouvelle-Écosse, le Nouveau-Brunswick, l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard et Terre-Neuve et Labrador ont perdu l'initiative dans le téléapprentissage, les raisons pour lesquelles les visions centralisées, hiérarchisées de haut en bas ne fonctionnent pas et

are government services delivered through the internet and mobile technology to facilitate convenience, efficiency, and a more direct relationship between citizen and state. He found that while some experimentation and investment with e-government has occurred in all Atlantic provinces, none has advanced to higher degrees of sophistication. He also adduces the case of Estonia, a small Eastern European country that has become a world leader in e-government. Mr. Pavel concludes that investment in better e-services could help to trim Atlantic Canada's bureaucracies and give the region a competitive advantage, perhaps to become a continental leader in e-government.

Our success this year encompassed more than our policy studies alone. AIMS contributes regularly to public debates with professionally-written and data-driven op-ed commentaries. This year we published 81 commentaries that were published in our region and beyond. These articles traversed the many areas of policies that AIMS deals with, from conventional AIMS subjects like taxes, healthcare, education, and public finance to new topics such as Supreme Court appointments, electoral reform, and regulating sugar.

Often, our studies and articles produce interest from regional and national media outlets for our comments. AIMS staff and research associates have been available throughout the year, addressing audiences through print, television, and radio media. AIMS also stands out as a regional think tank in offering commentary in both official languages, thus reaching a greater audience and contributing to the Institute's standing as a leader in ideas for public policy.

Our radio project has also continued successfully, publishing 60-second radio spots on public policy issues on local outlets throughout the region, with a weekly reach of over 400,000 people. This is a project without parallel among think tanks in Canada, and we are very pleased with its success. All of our pieces are also archived through Soundcloud and on our website. We have been scrupulous in aligning our radio topics with current events to make them relevant to our listeners. We've also sought to spread our topics around the many AIMS research envelopes, ensuring that the public hears about the many areas of our research.

2015-16 was also a successful year for AIMS events. We held two standing-room-only healthcare forums with Drs. David Zitner and John Ross. We also heard from Michael Binnion in Moncton on the impacts of hydraulic fracturing. Our smaller annual events also took place such as the Friedman summer barbeque and the Hayek wine and cheese.

The AIMS on Campus program was rebooted in 2016. In advance of our first full semester beginning in September, we held two successful outreach events on Atlantic campuses in

comment les contraintes du système scolaire — similaires à une méthode d'enseignement traditionnelle de style brique et mortier — limitent le potentiel d'innovation et d'expérimentations au niveau des écoles.

Finalement, l'étude intitulée *e-Government in Atlantic Canada: Review and Future Trends* de Jan Pavel, se penche sur l'implantation des télé-services gouvernementaux. Ces services, offerts via internet et des technologies mobiles, facilitent une relation plus directe entre le citoyen et l'état, sont pratiques et plus efficaces. Pavel a découvert qu'alors que quelques investissements et essais ont été entrepris dans le domaine des télé-services dans les provinces atlantiques, aucune initiative ne s'est développée à un degré de sophistication supérieur. Il présente le cas de l'Estonie qui, malgré sa petite stature d'état d'Europe de l'est, est devenu un chef de file mondial en matière de télé-gouvernement.

Notre succès cette année va au-delà de nos études de politiques publiques. AIMS contribue régulièrement au débat public avec des commentaires éditoriaux professionnels basés sur des données concrètes. Cette année, 81 de nos articles ont été publiés dans notre région et ailleurs. Ces commentaires ont touché à tous les aspects de politique publique auxquels AIMS s'intéresse de façon habituelle tels les taxes, les soins de santé, l'éducation, les finances publiques mais nous avons aussi abordé de nouveaux domaines comme les nominations à la Cour suprême du Canada, les réformes du système électoral et la réglementation du sucre.

À plusieurs occasions, nos articles et études déclenchent un intérêt médiatique régional et national résultant en des demandes de commentaires et entrevues. Le personnel d'AIMS et ses chercheurs associés se sont montrés disponibles pendant toute l'année pour s'adresser au public par le biais des médias imprimés, de la télévision et de la radio. AIMS se démarque aussi en tant qu'un groupe de réflexion régional offrant ses commentaires dans les deux langues officielles, atteignant ainsi une audience élargie et soutenant la réputation de l'Institut en tant que leader dans le domaine des idées de politiques publiques.

Notre projet radio s'est poursuivi avec succès en publiant des vignettes radio de 60 secondes sur des sujets de politique publique à l'antenne de diffuseurs locaux à travers toute la région, atteignant une audience hebdomadaire de plus de 400 000 personnes. Ce projet est sans précédent parmi les autres groupes de réflexion au Canada et nous très satisfaits de son succès. Toutes nos vignettes sont archivées sur Soundcloud et notre site internet. Afin de rendre nos messages pertinents pour les auditeurs, nous avons scrupuleusement associé les sujets de nos vignettes radio avec l'actualité du jour. Nous avons aussi cherché à varier les sujets autour des nombreuses enveloppes de recherche d'AIMS s'assurant ainsi que le public soit familier avec tout l'éventail de notre travail.

2015-16 a aussi été une année de réussites pour nos événements. Nous avons fait salle comble à deux forums sur les soins de santé avec les docteurs David Zitner et John Ross. Nous avons également

March. The first was at the University of Prince Edward Island in the Political Science class of Jeff Collins, an AIMS Research Associate. The next was held at St. Mary's University with the St. Mary's Economics Society, a group that includes graduate and undergraduate students.

We have also recruited our 2016-17 cohort of AIMS on Campus student fellows. They hail from four universities: Salman Dostmohammad of Dalhousie, Mariana Carrera of St. Thomas, Chris Sallie of UPEI, and Justin Hatherly (a Nova Scotia native) at McGill. Throughout the year they write for the AIMS student blog, host outreach events on their campuses and attend AIMS speaking engagements.

Finally, we have succeeded in growing our network of staff and research associates, contributing to a robust research team with expertise in the most important policy areas for Atlantic Canada. In the coming year, we are releasing papers on the traits of successful First Nations communities, private capital investment in Atlantic Canada, the size and cost of the public sector, the history of program spending and austerity in the region, a valuation of the liquor control commissions in the four provinces, the rate of debt and personal savings, the region's demographic outlook, and immigration retention. These topics will prove to make the coming year at AIMS a challenging but productive one.

As always, a special thank you to the readers of AIMS's material and to the donors for their contribution to the Institute's success. Together we look forward a great 2016-17 year.

Sincerely,

Marco Navarro-Génie

President & CEO

accueilli Michael Binnion à Moncton qui est venu discuter des effets de la fracturation hydraulique. Nos autres événements de plus petite envergure tels le BBQ estival Friedman et la soirée vin et fromage Hayek ont été de grands succès.

Le programme AIMS au campus a redémarré en 2016. En préemption du semestre de septembre, nous avons tenu, avec succès, deux événements de sensibilisation sur des campus des maritimes en mars. Le premier s'est déroulé dans la classe de science politique de Jeff Collins, un chercheur associé d'AIMS, à l'université de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard. L'autre s'est tenu à l'université St. Mary's en compagnie de la société économique de St. Mary's, un groupe composé d'étudiants du premier et deuxième cycle.

Nous avons aussi recruté notre cohorte 2016-17 d'étudiants-membres d'AIMS au campus. Ils viennent de quatre universités: Salman Dostmohammad de Dalhousie, Mariana Carrera de St.-Thomas, Chris Sallie de UPEI et Justin Hatherly (un néo-écossais) de McGill. Au cours de l'année, ils écriront pour notre blog étudiant, organiseront des événements de sensibilisation sur leur campus et participeront aux conférences d'AIMS.

Enfin, nous avons réussi à développer notre réseau de personnel et de chercheurs associés, tous contribuant à une équipe de recherche robuste et experte dans les domaines de politique publique les plus importants pour le Canada atlantique. Dans l'année qui suit, nous allons publier des études sur une panoplie de sujets incluant les caractéristiques que partagent les communautés autochtones prospères, l'investissement privé dans la région, la taille et les coûts du secteur public, l'histoire des dépenses publiques et de l'austérité dans la région, l'évaluation des commissions des liqueurs des quatre provinces, les taux d'endettement et d'épargne personnel, un pronostique sur la démographie de la région et la rétention des immigrants. Ces sujets promettent de faire de l'année qui s'en vient une période pleine de défis pour AIMS mais aussi productive.

Comme toujours, un merci particulier au lectorat d'AIMS et aux donateurs pour leur contribution au succès de l'Institut. Ensemble, nous anticipons une merveilleuse année 2016-17. Cordialement,

Marco Navarro-Génie

Président-Directeur Général

AIMS wishes to express our thanks to Patrice Deschênes, who offered his assistance with translations.

Papers and Studies

The following is a synopsis of the papers and studies authored by AIMS staff, research fellows, and contributing authors in 2015-16. These publications focus primarily on education, energy and environment, and public finance, which comprise the most pressing issues facing Atlantic Canada in the last 12 months.

[E-Government in the Atlantic Provinces](#)

By Jan Pavel

In *e-Government in the Atlantic Provinces: Review and Future Trends* Jan Pavel assesses the delivery of 31 e-government services. Overall, Nova Scotia ranked first, followed by New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Prince Edward Island. These provinces were ranked using four classifications, with each level representing a higher level of e-service sophistication, as identified by the United Nations. Nova Scotia is the only province to offer some e-services at the highest level.

The study also proposes Estonia, located in Eastern Europe, as a model for governments in Atlantic Canada to emulate. Estonia is a world leader in this field, as noted by the *Wall Street Journal* and others. The report concludes with recommendations for the Atlantic Canadian provinces.

[E-Learning in K-12 Schools](#)

By Dr. Paul Bennett

E-Learning in K-12 Schools examines how Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador lost the e-learning initiative, why centralized top-down “21st century learning” visions run aground, and how school system constraints — common to bricks-and-mortar schooling — limit the potential for school-level experimentation and innovation. Dr. Bennett discusses the history of E-Learning and argues the need for disruptive innovation to occur at the school level. The goal of such change would be to introduce new stimulating learning and teaching techniques that result in more engaging, quality education.

[I'll Take New England Any Day!](#)

By Dr. Mark Milke

This report analyzes the differences in major tax rates between Atlantic Canada and its nearest regional competitor — the New England states — for investment, jobs, and tax revenues. In general, these six U.S. states have a significant tax advantage on most measurements. The report examined high and low income tax brackets, top marginal income tax thresholds, sales taxes, corporate taxes, and personal taxes. It also made recommendations designed to create a road map for Atlantic Canada to allow for tax reduction.

[Gas Opportunities for Atlantic Canada](#)

By Andrew Pickford

Restricting the expansion of natural gas in Atlantic Canada could make electricity more expensive, less clean and increasingly subject to decisions and events outside the region. By optimizing their natural gas resources with the view to export, the four provinces will benefit from both the major changes in the energy market that are occurring in North America and the increasing uses of natural gas. The current, narrow debate over some forms of gas extraction needs expanding so that jobs, clean energy and opportunities for communities across Atlantic Canada are included.

Atlantic Canada and the U.S. Electricity Market: Projects and Perspectives

By Gordon L. Weil

Weil explains that Atlantic Canada electric utilities have tried to increase their access to the New England markets and have had limited success. Several new transmission links, discussed in this paper, have been proposed to supplement the existing ties. Generation owners in Atlantic Canada have renewed optimism about increasing their New England power sales. However, new Atlantic Canada power exports, valuable because they largely originate from renewable resources, face major challenges that resulted from limits on demand growth because of increased efficiency and conservation, availability of low-cost domestic natural gas for generation, greater use of local New England wind power and competition from Hydro Quebec. Enhanced regional arrangements within the region or the creation of an electricity market including both Atlantic Canada and New England could offer better opportunities for power sales.

Opinion Pieces

The following is a sampling of opinion pieces authored by AIMS staff, research fellows, and contributing authors in 2015-16. This selection includes several articles addressing developments, issues, and policies relevant to the AIMS research agenda, which focuses primarily on education, energy and environment, healthcare, labour, and public finance. These pieces featured in local, regional, and national media outlets throughout the year.

[Holding line on PEI's education spending](#)

19 September 2016 in *The Charlottetown Guardian*
Jackson Doughart and John Williamson

[Education spending in New Brunswick gets an F](#)

14 September 2016 in *Telegraph-Journal*
John Williamson

[Government must push forward with Energy East process](#)

12 September 2016 in *The Charlottetown Guardian*
Jackson Doughart

[It's time to rally behind Canada's oil and gas sector](#)

10 September 2016, *Troy Media*
Robert Roach

[Beer and taxes - lessons for government](#)

1 September 2016 in *Telegraph-Journal*
John Williamson

[P.E.I. Premier MacLauchlan speaks truth on trade](#)

31 August 2016 in *The Chronicle-Herald*
Alex Whalen and Jackson Doughart

[Memorization, practice and critical thinking go hand-in-hand](#)

30 August 2016 in *Telegraph-Journal*
Michael Zwaagstra

[At AIMS, our bias is the market](#)

19 August 2016, in *Journal-Pioneer*
Marco Navarro-Génie

[A really disruptive tax proposal](#)

18 August 2016 in *Telegraph Journal*
John Williamson

[Supreme Court justices should need only one tongue](#)

12 August 2016, in *National Post*
Jackson Doughart

[The case for lower business taxes](#)

9 August 2016
Ryan Scarth

[Atlantic Canada should not be stripped of Supreme Court seat](#)

4 August 2016 in *National Post*
Alex Whalen

[Trump's business experience actually makes him really dangerous to the economy](#)

4 August 2016 in *Financial Post*
Patrick Luciani

[HST increase outweighs spending cuts 5 to 1](#)

2 August 2016 in *Telegraph-Journal*
John Williamson

[Bus Rapid Transit is key to Halifax's infrastructure reform](#)

28 July 2016 in *The Coast*
Ryan Scarth

[Ending 'Come from Away' starts with the economy](#)

21 July 2016 in *National Post*
Jackson Doughart

[Atlantic immigration plan must meet policy reform](#)

22 July 2016
Marco Navarro-Génie

[Great Britain, still great economic policies](#)

20 July 2016 in *Telegraph-Journal*
John Williamson

[Words do not beget attitudes; economic context does](#)

20 July 2016 in *New Canadian Media*
Marco Navarro-Génie

[Democratic reforms need democratic consent](#)

18 July 2016 in *Telegraph-Journal*
Jackson Doughart

[Finally, we see leadership, collaboration on key issues](#)

12 July 2016 in *Chronicle-Herald*
John Risley

[Tax hike won't solve our spending problem](#)

11 July 2016 in *Telegraph-Journal*
John Williamson

[First Nations need to partner on pipelines](#)

4 July 2016 in *Telegraph-Journal*

Joseph Quesnel

[When primary care is not available](#)

1 July 2016 in *The Chronicle Herald*

David Zitner

[HST hike part of troubling policy trend](#)

30 June 2016

Jackson Doughart

[Good tax policy will fuel economic growth](#)

28 June 2016 in *Telegraph-Journal*

John Williamson

[Junk Science Week: Sugar's not making us fatter...
but the decline of smoking is.](#)

16 June 2016 in *Financial Post*

Patrick Luciani

[Atlantic First Nations lead on transparency](#)

12 June 2016 in *Telegraph-Journal*

Joseph Quesnel

[New Brunswick failing on trade, natural resources](#)

9 June 2016 in *Telegraph-Journal*, *Financial Post*

John Williamson

[P.E.I.'s HST money grab](#)

7 June 2016 in *Journal-Pioneer*, *Guardian*

Jackson Doughart

[Why smaller class sizes? Better teachers is a
smarter solution](#)

3 June 2016 in *Telegraph-Journal*

Michael Zwaagstra

[Bring the kids home to save healthcare](#)

30 May 2016 in *Telegraph Journal*

John Williamson

[Atlantic Provinces should join Western free trade deal](#)

25 May 2016 in *Chronicle-Herald*

Marco Navarro-Génie

[Good teachers matter most](#)

20 May 2016 in *Guardian*

Michael Zwaagstra

[Economic policy: Taxes, apples, oranges, and lemons](#)

17 May 2016 in *Journal-Pioneer*

Jackson Doughart

[Soda tax would leave Canadians poorer, but no healthier](#)

12 May 2016 in *Financial Post*

Patrick Luciani

[Consumers should be free to choose](#)

11 May 2016 in *Telegraph-Journal*

John Williamson

[Improving a decaying model of healthcare in
Atlantic Canada](#)

6 May 2016 in *Guardian*

Jackson Doughart

[New Brunswick takes command of a sinking ship](#)

27 April 2016 in *Telegraph-Journal*

John Williamson

[Corporate social responsibility has gone off the rails](#)

27 April 2016 in *Financial Post*

Patrick Luciani

[Easier qualifying for EI payments isn't fair,
hurts our economy](#)

22 April 2016 in *Guardian*

Jackson Doughart

[Nova Scotia 2016 budget: take care of the small things](#)

15 April 2016 in *Chronicle-Herald*

Marco Navarro-Génie

[EI changes undo Conservative, Liberal reforms](#)

13 April 2016 in *Telegraph-Journal*

John Williamson

[The patient's wager](#)

12 April 2016 in *Chronicle-Herald*

David Zitner

[Why does New England, the land of Bernie Sanders,
live with lower taxes than Atlantic Canada?](#)

7 April 2016 in *Financial Post*

Mark Milke

[Debt-fuelled spending is a disservice to young Canadians](#)

4 April 2016 in *National Post*

Jackson Doughart

[Canada's troubling budget path](#)

31 March 2016 in *Telegraph-Journal*

John Williamson

[This Easter, be grateful for the moneychangers](#)

30 March 2016 in *Financial Post*

Patrick Luciani

[Education fads do our kids no favours](#)

24 March 2016 in *Chronicle-Herald*

Michael Zwaagstra

[How we can save journalism in Canada: Rein in the CBC](#)

18 March 2016 in *Financial Post*

Jackson Doughart

[How Cuba was destroyed](#)

1 March 2016 in *Financial Post*

Patrick Luciani

[New Brunswick needs to grow its economy](#)

8 February 2016 in *Telegraph-Journal*

Marco Navarro-Génie

[The end of growth could mean the end of Davos Man](#)

4 February 2016 in *Financial Post*

Patrick Luciani

[Mace, Not Mandate When Considering Electoral Reform](#)

1 February 2016

John von Heyking

[Atlantic must be told 'no,' or it will continue to decline](#)

26 January 2016 in *National Post*

David MacKinnon and Marco Navarro-Genie

[The Liberal Dilemma of Electoral Reform](#)

20 January 2016

John von Heyking

[Healthcare experiment gets bad reviews](#)

15 January 2016 in *Chronicle-Herald*

David Zitner

[Nova Scotians should have health choices](#)

13 January 2016 in *Chronicle-Herald*

David Zitner

[Electoral Reforms represent a paradox for Atlantic Canada](#)

21 December 2015 in *Telegraph-Journal*

Marco Navarro-Génie and Morgan Beatty

[Are we fighting climate change or capitalism?](#)

8 December 2015 in *Chronicle-Herald*

Robert Roach

[A Reset is Needed in Atlantic Canada](#)

14 November 2015 in *Chronicle-Herald*

David MacKinnon

[Technology alone should not drive education reform](#)

27 October 2015 in *News-Optimist, The Afro News*

Michael Zwaagstra

[We need to save for the future now](#)

13 October 2015, in *The Telegram*

Brian Peckford and Jeff Collins

[Supply management alive and well under Trans-Pacific trade deal](#)

13 October 2015 in *Troy Media*

Jackson Doughart

Select Media Coverage

The following is a sampling of the media coverage AIMS received in 2015-16. This selection includes newspaper, radio, and television interviews featuring AIMS staff, research fellows, and contributing authors, in addition to material prompted by AIMS research and written by independent columnists and newspaper editors.

[Think tank advises against return to equalization](#)

24 August 2016 on VOXM
Marco Navarro-Génie

[Federal government botches job file](#)

23 August 2016 in *Calgary Herald*
John Williamson

[Atlantic premiers, Ottawa announce pilot project to boost immigration](#)

5 July 2016 in *Globe and Mail*
Marco Navarro-Génie

[NB, NL join region in top-tax territory](#)

4 July 2016 in *Chronicle-Herald*
John Williamson

[Mention of “E-Learning in K-12 Schools”](#)

16 May 2016 in *OL Daily*
AIMS

[Report says NB Schools stuck in past when it comes to e-learning](#)

12 May 2016 in *Telegraph-Journal*
Paul Bennett

[Atlantic Canadian schools falling behind on e-learning: report](#)

12 May 2016 in *Chronicle-Herald*
Paul Bennett

[Fish products and temporary foreign workers](#)

10 May 2016 on Radio-Canada
Marco Navarro-Génie

[Provincial investment could turn into a shipwreck or lifeline, critics say](#)

19 April 2016 in *Telegraph-Journal*
John Williamson

[Free tuition in other provinces virtually inevitable: student leader](#)

18 April 2016 in *Canadian Press*
Jackson Doughart

[Teacher misconduct: Disciplinary action often kept hidden from public](#)

7 April 2016 on *CBC Marketplace*
Paul Bennett

[Tax dollars going up in smoke](#)

5 April 2016 in *Telegraph-Journal*
AIMS

[Lower taxes would warm NB’s job creation climate](#)

4 April 2016 in *Times & Transcript*
AIMS

[Should government subsidize universities to boost enrolment?](#)

1 April 2016 in *Telegraph-Journal*
John Williamson

[AIMS report recommends Atlantic Canada taxation changes](#)

31 March 2016 in *Customs Today*
Mark Milke

[NE lawmakers propose seceding from Eastern Time](#)

31 March 2016 in *Cape Cod Times*
Marco Navarro-Génie

[AIMS quoted by Globe, “Trudeau Budget”](#)

24 March 2016 in *Globe and Mail*
John Williamson

[Extreme ideas to buck New Brunswick’s dismal job trend](#)

16 March 2016 in *Telegraph-Journal*
Marco Navarro-Génie

[Atlantic Canada gas opportunities about more than extraction](#)

27 February 2016 in *Sackville Tribune-Post*
Andrew Pickford

[Atlantic Canada missing out on natural gas opportunities, says AIMS report](#)

26 February 2016 on *CBC*
John Williamson

[Natural gas a big opportunity for NS, says think tank](#)

25 February 2016 in *Chronicle-Herald*
Andrew Pickford

[International business icon leads interactive discussion at StFX on what it takes to succeed today](#)

22 February 2016 on *STFX.ca*
John Risley

[AIMS contributes to Newfoundland & Labrador public sector discussion](#)

26 January 2016 on CBC Crosstalk
AIMS

[Public sector cuts would provide savings, says AIMS](#)

26 January 2016 on CBC
Marco Navarro-Génie

[A Free “Market” of Locations](#)

21 January 2016 in *National Post*
Marco Navarro-Génie

[AIMS President Marco Navarro-Genie speaks about NS Bill 148 on News 95.7](#)

13 January 2016 on News 95.7
Marco Navarro-Génie

[Campbell named to the Order of Canada](#)

5 January 2016 in *Cumberland News Now*
AIMS

[Hungry for new ideas](#)

23 December 2015 in *Progress Magazine*
Marco Navarro-Génie

[Ontario to lose equalization payments as Alberta’s economic fortunes fall](#)

21 December 2015 in *Globe and Mail*
David MacKinnon

[Free Market Capitalism Gives us the Freedom...](#)

21 December 2015 on CJOB
Robert Roach

[Rona Ambrose sera la chef de l’opposition aux Communes](#)

9 November 2015 on Radio-Canada (Le reveil)
AIMS

[US power market may be harder to crack than expected](#)

2 November 2015 in *Chronicle-Herald*
Gordon Weil

[AIMS President Marco Navarro-Genie sheds light on trade relations between Mexico and Canada](#)

20 October 2015 in *El Universal*
Marco Navarro-Génie

[AIMS President Marco Navarro-Genie provides analysis of the Halifax-area electoral ridings](#)

13 October 2015 on Radio-Canada
Marco Navarro-Génie

AIMS Media Appearances

[Should Newfoundland return to equalization](#)

23 August 2016 on VOXM Open Line
Marco Navarro-Genie

[John Williamson on HST for online purchases](#)

22 August 2016 on Sheldon McLeod Show (News 95.7)
John Williamson

[Bilingualism on the Supreme Court](#)

17 August 2016 on Sheldon McLeod
Jackson Doughart

[Alex Whalen interview re: Supreme Court Appointments](#)

5 August 2016 on Rick Howe Show (News 95.7)
Alex Whalen

[John Williamson on NB spending](#)

26 July 2016 on CBC Radio
John Williamson

[Teacher misconduct finds disciplinary action often kept hidden](#)

8 April 2016 on CBC The National
Paul Bennett

[NSGEU delaying civil service contract vote, again](#)

8 April 2016 on Global News
Michael Kydd

[CBC is a “subsidized killer of newspapers,” especially local media](#)

26 March 2016 on Ezra Levant Show
Jackson Doughart

[Addressing Atlantic Canada’s Spending Problem](#)

19 January 2016 on Rick Howe Show
Marco Navarro-Génie

[AIMS President Marco Navarro-Genie speaks about NS Bill 148 on News 95.7](#)

13 January 2016 on 95.7
Marco Navarro-Génie

AIMS On Campus

AIMS on Campus is a program that introduces ideas of liberty, free markets, and individual responsibility to post-secondary students across Canada. Canadian colleges and universities should be havens for intellectual freedom, where all students feel comfortable expressing their ideas and everyone benefits from the exchange. The program provides students with research, policy, writing, and networking experience.



History and Overview

AIMS on Campus is an outreach initiative generously funded by the Hecht Foundation. It was conceived by former AIMS Communications Coordinator Paige MacPherson as a means of propagating the Institute's research and ideas to university and college students in the region. It would also be a means of identifying and developing young talented researchers and writers from Atlantic Canada.

Coordinated by Jackson Doughart, the present campus program reaches students in all four provinces through its initiatives. These include the AIMS on Campus Fellows program, That's Debatable, and the AIMS on Campus Speaker Series.

After a one-year hiatus, AIMS on Campus was restarted in the spring of 2016, something we have informally referred to as "AIMS on Campus 2.0". We spent the spring of 2016 beginning our outreach working and laying the foundation for a spring rollout of the new program in the fiscal year 2017.

2015/16 Initiatives

AIMS conducted two outreach events in the Spring of 2016. At the University of Prince Edward Island, Doughart and AIMS President Marco Navarro-Génie spoke to a political science class about the work of the institute and discussed business subsidies and minimum wage laws with the students. At St. Mary's, they were hosted by the Economics Society student group, where they discussed the role of a think tank, healthcare policy, and the importance of an economics education in the work of the institute.

Looking Forward to 2016/17

The 2016-17 AIMS on Campus Fellows are:

1. Justin Hatherly, an economics student at McGill with roots in Halifax.
2. Salman Dostmohammed, a public policy student at Dalhousie who published an award-winning paper on the sharing economy (e.g. Uber) last year.
3. Mariana Carrera, a social work student at St. Thomas University who formerly studied public policy at Dalhousie.
4. Chris Sallie, a political science student at UPEI who has a background in the culinary arts.

We are also pleased to welcome Gabriel Duguay among the student fellows. Gabriel is a high school student at Halifax Grammar School who is an accomplished debater on his school team.

Throughout the coming year, blogs from our student fellows will be available on www.aimsoncampus.ca.

The forthcoming semester includes a That's Debatable session at McGill University on Nov. 1, hosted by the Liberty at McGill group at AIMS on Campus Fellow Justin Hatherly. Jackson Doughart will discuss the fracking debate, carbon taxes, urbanization, and wage policy with the students.

We are also inviting University of Toronto professor Irvin Studin to Atlantic Canada. Dr. Studin will give two talks for us, at Mt. Allison University on Nov. 16 and Dalhousie University on Nov. 17, about the importance of greater strategic thinking for Canada in the 21st century. His thesis "Imagine Canada with 100-million people" is the theme of the talks.

Spring of 2017 will also include a visit from University of Toronto professor Pierre Desrochers, author of the book *The Locavore's Dilemma* about "buy local" thinking in food production. The talk will take place at Acadia University in Wolfville.

Events and Activities

Hosting events and participating in them is a core tenet of AIMS. Throughout the year, AIMS staff and AIMS on Campus student fellows organized and partook in several events, spanning from a talk on the facts about hydraulic fracturing in New Brunswick, to a health literacy forum in Halifax.



Event: Public Participation in Quality Healthcare and Policy Reform

Date: 13 October, 2015

Location: Halifax Central Library

Hosts: Dr. David Zitner, Dr. Marco Navarro-Génie, Jeff Collins

Description: AIMS was proud to partner with the Nova Scotia Co-operative Council to hold a full-day Public Participation in Quality Health Care and Policy Reform Forum. The participation of the Nova Scotia Co-operative Council is evidence that concerns about stagnation and lack of innovation in delivering better, more efficient care for Nova Scotians cuts across many perceived ideological and social divides. The event was a success as more than 70 people attended and shared their ideas on delivering better access to patient information and system governance. The morning and afternoon sessions were attended by leading experts in healthcare delivery, while the evening session was attended by members of the public.

Hydraulic Fracturing as Green Technology:
The Case for Sustainable Prosperity

AIMS' Luncheon with
Michael Binnion
CEO and President of Questerre Energy

OCTOBER 30
Moncton, NB
Crowne Plaza Hotel
1005 Main Street
Registration: 11:15pm | Lunch: 12pm

TICKETS
Individual: \$50
Table (8): \$400
To Register go to aims.ca

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Event: Hydraulic Fracturing as Green Technology: The Case for Sustainable Prosperity

Date: 30 October, 2015

Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Moncton

Hosts: Dr. Marco Navarro-Génie and Mr. Michael Binnion

Description: The President and CEO of Questerre Energy Corporation, Michael Binnion, addressed greater regional prosperity through increased investment and jobs for New Brunswickers. Binnion also discussed environmental concerns, drawing attention to water and seismic data and general safety issues. He also discussed the sound economics of responsible fracking, in conjunction with green technology and safety programs.



Event: AIMS Health Literacy Forum

Date: 13 April 2016

Location: Halifax Central Library

Hosts: Dr. David Zitner and Dr. John Ross

Description: This forum focused on why people need to be active participants in their own healthcare. By learning about social determinants of health and what basic questions to ask of their clinicians, citizens can help improve their own health and help to improve the performance of the health system that serves them. Dr. Zitner focused on what questions we should ask of our physicians, while Dr. Ross focused on the social determinants of health. The event was very well attended, with standing-room only at O'Regan Hall.

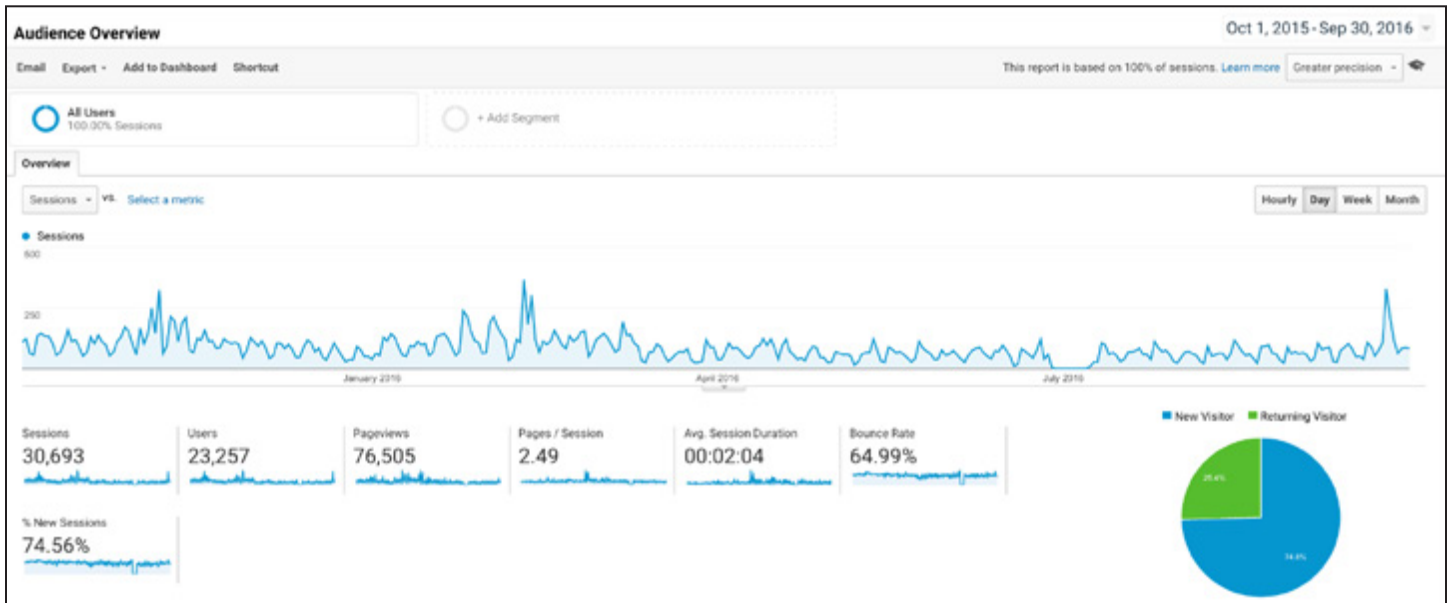
AIMS Annual Events

- The Milton Friedman Summer Barbeque was held in July, with a couple dozen people attending. Guests were treated to barbeque and refreshments, and the usual lively conversation.
- The Frederich Hayek Christmas Reception was held in early December at the AIMS offices. Each Christmas, we enjoy welcoming friends and colleagues to our offices to reflect on the year that was.
- Chairman's Dinner: AIMS hosts an annual Chairman's Dinner, which is our headline event for the year. It is hosted by our Chairman, John Risley, and features a high-profile speaker, dinner, and other off-shoot events. The dinner is always well attended by the policy, business, and academic communities in Halifax and beyond.
- The Chairman's dinner tends to fall near the end of our fiscal year, and as a result the 2015 Chairman's Dinner with John Manley can be found in our [last annual report](#), while the 2016 Chairman's Dinner with Gary Doer can be found in our next annual report.



On-line Presence

Official Website: www.AIMS.ca



Twitter: @AIMS_CA

The AIMS Twitter account has 1,457 followers. It is used as a primary means of disseminating and promoting our research products.

Facebook: facebook.com/AtlanticInstituteCA

The Institute's Facebook account served as a strong platform for public policy discussion. It has 883 likes, which is up significantly from the prior year.

Radio Project

The objective of the AIMS Radio Project is to reach six primary Atlantic Canadian markets over a 50-week period with 60-second public policy radio statements focused on AIMS' core pillars: education and training, healthcare, public finance and fiscal federalism, municipal affairs and economic development, energy and environment, and immigration and labour. To access the radio spots, please go here (https://soundcloud.com/aims_ca).



2015-16 Financial Information

ATLANTIC INSTITUTE FOR MARKET STUDIES STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$ (Restated Note 7)
Revenue		
Donations		
Corporate and individual	307,543	200,341
Foundations	298,141	270,600
Events, registrations and sponsorships	6,100	120,897
In-kind revenue (Notes 2 and 9)	3,500	5,375
	615,284	597,213
Expenditures		
Salaries and benefits	240,773	272,738
Contract fees	128,566	86,916
Promotions	71,801	21,873
Rent	39,063	40,047
Subscriptions and data purchases	10,498	9,396
Professional fees	9,937	14,002
Office	9,101	6,596
Travel	7,523	16,363
Insurance	7,305	8,112
Telephone	4,033	5,346
Bank charges	3,931	4,370
Amorization	3,622	4,829
Catering and equipment rentals	3,352	56,734
Postage and printing	1,804	3,945
Speakers	456	986
Proofreading	400	2,865
Courier	-	177
	540,265	555,297
Surplus of revenue over expenditures	75,019	41,916

2015-16 Financial Information

ATLANTIC INSTITUTE FOR MARKET STUDIES BALANCE SHEET YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$ (Restated Note 7)
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	29,365	-
Accounts receivable	136,217	45,279
Commodity tax rebate receivable	3,783	4,732
Prepays	10,270	17,299
Expenses chargeable to the next year	40,000	-
	219,635	67,310
Expenses chargeable to future years	-	40,000
Property and equipment (Note 3)	10,864	13,945
	230,489	121,255
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Bank indebtedness (Note 4)	-	13,160
Payables and accruals	131,062	95,472
Deffered revenue (Note 6)	6,795	-
	137,857	108,632
Deffered revenue (Note 6)	55,000	50,000
	192,857	158,632
Commitments (Note 8)		
Fund balance		
General fund	28,780	(51,320)
Fund equity invested in property and equipment (Note 5)	10,862	13,943
	37,642	(37,377)
	230,499	121,255

Donors

AIMS relies on the generosity of individuals, corporations, and foundations in Atlantic Canada and beyond to support our work and disseminate our research. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who support AIMS, but who have taken the extra step of helping us fund the Institute. This support is integral to the livelihood of AIMS and it makes a difference in the lives of individual Canadians through better, affordable, and sustainable public investment and activity.

Andrew Oland	Donner Foundation	Mike Clemens
Arthur Gallagher Canada Group	Doug Hall	Modern Miracle Network
Astra Zeneca	Duncan MacDonald	Moosehead Breweries
Bank of Nova Scotia	Eastlink	Owens MacFadyen Group
Barbara Pike	Gerald Chipeur	Patrick MacGuinness
Bill Brooks	Great Eastern Corporation	Pirie Foundation
Bow Dang	Hyndman & Co.	Pluto Investments
Brad Farquhar	Imperial Manufacturing Group	RBC Financial Group
Canadian Petroleum Products Institute	John & Lotte Hecht Foundation	Richard Florizone
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Corporate Research Associates	John Gillis	Robert Campbell
David Hooley	John Ross	Rod MacLennan
David Lefebvre	Jonathan Meretsky	Roy Eappen
David Zitner	JSM Capital Corporation	RXnD
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Thank You




287 Lacewood Drive, Suite 204,
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