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[White House axes planned pre-clearance deal.](#)

A decision by Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff to suspend the first planned pre-clearance road border crossing for travellers could be a step in the wrong direction.

Canadian officials are still hopeful talks initiated in 2004 could still lead to implementation of the measures initially discussed to improve traffic flow at congested borders.

This article from the Canadian Press explores the breakdown in negotiations and the potential economic impacts on both sides of the border. AIMS acting president Charles Cirtwill on what this could mean for Atlantica says:

“Clearly this is somewhat of a double-edged sword for Atlantica. Buffalo would have benefited from the improved traffic flow at the Peace Bridge crossing but perhaps it’s the opportunity for our federal officials to look at the advantages of implementing the project as a pilot at a smaller border crossing like Woodstock-Houlton. That would be a concrete example of government policy contributing to economic development and marked progress for Atlantica.”

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

Maine Governor leading an Atlantica charge during first official visit to New Brunswick

Maine Governor John Baldacci's visit to New Brunswick in February 2007 reflects the general Atlantica wave of enthusiasm that is sweeping the region.

Governor Baldacci highlighted the increased level of cooperation between Maine and New Brunswick hinting at grander developments for Atlantica coming down the pipe. He says:

"I think we're just going to see ourselves tying ourselves together more and more as we do tourism, economic development and (getting) our goods to market,"

The governor also discussed infrastructure projects crucial to Atlantica development estimating that there is currently about \$500 million in projects underway along the Maine – New Brunswick border. Among them he cited an electricity transmission line, a bridge crossing and a border crossing.

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

Atlantica Centre for Energy – Exploring the power of green.

The Atlantica Centre for Energy is working diligently towards examining the wealth of energy opportunities that exist within the region from natural resources to electricity.

They will be hosting an essential conference on the state of bio-energy in Atlantic Canada May 9 – 11, 2007 in Saint John New Brunswick. Atlantic BIOenergy 2007 is an exciting event bringing together key international stakeholders and government representatives as they outline the scope of opportunities that exist in this innovative, fast moving sector as well as the roadmap for future progress.

To find out more [click here](#).

Atlantica 2007 – Atlantic Provinces Chambers of Commerce to host second annual Atlantica conference.

The Atlantic Provinces Chambers of Commerce has scheduled the 2007 Atlantica Conference for June 14 – 16 in Halifax NS. After the success of last year's event and the extensive media coverage given Atlantica of late, this promises to be on the agenda of business and political leaders from across Atlantica and beyond.

The World Trade and Convention Centre will be the venue this year and details have already started being posted by the Chambers on the official conference website: <http://www.atlantica2007.com/>

This year's conference will build on the momentum created by last year's event, highlighting new developments, and next steps.

To find out more, [click here](#).

[India trade boom? – Atlantica strengthens ties with key stakeholders.](#)

AIMS acting president Charles Cirtwill was featured in this front page article from the Telegraph Journal explaining the opportunities for enhanced trade with India coming on the heels of a visit to the region by the president of the Canada-India business council.

Cirtwill underlines the advantages of increased cooperation when marketing Atlantica in India by pointing out that a business and trade corridor between the two areas is a key element to Atlantica development.

He further explores the scope of the opportunity and says:

"Trade gravity models demonstrate that India is emerging as a major market for Atlantica products and its export capacity grew by over 20% between 2002 and 2004. Atlantica ports are 2400 kms closer than west coast North America so in terms of sea shipping it is more economical to have goods destined for North American markets arrive at ports on the East Coast."

[Click here](#) to read the complete article.

Atlantica express – All aboard for better rail connections.

Putting Atlantica on the fast track will require better rail connections and now is the time to get it done.

AIMS acting president Charles Cirtwill explains in this article that opportunities abound now that rail is a major focus of shippers using intermodal transportation to connect with expanded markets.

Rail service for shipping within the region also has the advantage of reducing greenhouse gases and freeing up congested roadways. It will be a crucial for shippers as labour shortages limit the number of long-haul truckers in the region and fuel costs continue to rise.

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

What is Atlantica?

Atlantica: the International Northeast Economic Region (AINER) is defined chiefly by geography, economic trends and trade patterns; common problems and experiences; and politics. Much of this wedge of territory has been outside the charmed circle of North American prosperity for years.

The reasons are buried deep in our history. Especially after the Americans rejected Reciprocity and Confederation was born, the continent was divided into two national projects. Each sought to open up its half of the continent on an east-west axis. Each had a funnel on the East Coast (Montreal and New York respectively) that caught the energies of Europe and channelled them toward the conquest of the continent. Atlantica was bypassed.

But now, continental free trade and globalization could put an end to the isolation of Atlantica. The east-west axis for development of North America is being supplemented by a drive to stitch back together the old north-south trade routes that had flourished across the continent before 1867.

To learn more, visit www.atlantica.org or www.aims.ca .

Atlantica: Two Countries, One region is a publication of the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies (AIMS).

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