



THE BEACON



Volume 11, Issue 4

*Where Tomorrow's Public
Policy Begins Today*

April 12, 2005

[How you can support AIMS](#)

*Having trouble reading this email? View our online version at:
www.aims.ca/library/beacon041205.pdf*

- Part One: AIMS again recognized as one of the world's top think tanks.
- Part Two: Where's the beef?: Do provincial budgets in Atlantic Canada encourage growth?
- Part Three: Atlantica: AIMS' concept featured in leading US magazine.
- Part Four: AIMS' High School Report Card still shaking up the education world.
- Part Five: The media elite's grip on the news is almost over.
- Part Six: Du "Push" au "Pull": La personnalisation des médias. AIMS dans La Presse..

Part One: AIMS again recognized as one of the world's top think tanks.

AIMS has even more to celebrate in its 10th anniversary year — it has received its fifth international award for think tank excellence. The latest such prize is the 2005 Templeton Freedom Award for Institute Excellence.

More than 200 think tanks in 67 countries are eligible for the Templeton Award, now in its second year; AIMS is the only institute in North America to be honoured this year.

AIMS has the distinction of being awarded the prestigious Sir Antony Fisher Award four times. The Fisher Award, named after one of the founders of the Institute for Economic Affairs in London, recognises excellence in think tank projects and publications. No other institute in the world has received this distinction more times than AIMS, which received it in 1997 for "Looking the Gift Horse in the Mouth", in 2000 for "Operating in the Dark", in 2002 for "The Equalization Initiative" and in 2003 for "The Definitely NOT the Romanow Report".

[To read more about the Templeton Award, click here.](#)

Part Two: Where's the beef? Do provincial budgets in Atlantic Canada encourage economic growth?

With spring in the air, it's budget time in provincial legislatures across the country. So far in Atlantic Canada, the provinces of Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island have delivered budgets.

AIMS has examined the three budgets to date, and found that the good advice of Institute author [David Murrell](#) has yet to be heeded. Earlier this winter, Professor Murrell published a paper with AIMS entitled "[Could Do Better](#)" which outlines an innovative new method for assessing the quality of provincial budgets, particularly from the point of view of encouraging economic growth. Drawing on his advice, including to control spending, cut debt and reduce taxes, AIMS' Fellow on Newfoundland Issues, [Peter Fenwick](#), and the Institute's new Director of Research Services, [Bruce Winchester](#), have each played a role in helping the region's finance ministers to see where they could have gone further in building strong vibrant economies in their provinces.

[Click here for Peter Fenwick's take on the Newfoundland and Labrador budget.](#)
[Click here for Bruce Winchester's commentary on the New Brunswick budget.](#)
[Click here for Bruce Winchester's review of the Prince Edward Island budget.](#)

Part Three: Atlantica: AIMS' concept featured in leading US magazine.

A feature article in *Site Selection* magazine salutes AIMS' Atlantica concept and concludes that "Atlantica could once again be a leading trade corridor on the global stage."

Editor Mark Arend turned to AIMS to find out how the concept for an international northeast economic region known as Atlantica was born.

"In an era of continental integration, we thought our relationship with the United States, and particularly the part of it right next door, was an obvious place to look for alternative strategies," AIMS president Brian Lee Crowley explained.

Arend writes, "Container ships now under development will dwarf those in use today, in some cases tripling the number of containers that can be transported on one vessel. Halifax is the only port north of Virginia deep enough to handle ships of that size, and the only East Coast Canada port likely to emerge as a hub port from which containers are shipped elsewhere via rail, truck and short-sea shipping."

Site Selection is the established U.S. publication dealing with corporate real estate and economic development, and is used by industry as it scopes new sites for expansion, construction and investment.

[To read the *Site Selection* article on Atlantica, click here.](#)

Part Four: AIMS High School Report Card still shaking up the education world.

AIMS' third annual report card on Atlantic Canada's High Schools grabbed the media's attention again this year. Parents and students scrambled to see how their schools fared – most notably on our website that registered nearly 150,000 hits on the three days following the Report Card's release. The complete Report Card is available on the AIMS website, or [by clicking here](#). To read a summary of the news stories, [click here](#).

Some within the education field continued to try and deny the validity of the AIMS Report Card, despite the fact that the analysis of our Report Card commissioned by the region's four departments of education, gave it a clean bill of health, and repeated AIMS' criticisms of the departments for keeping parents and students in the dark about how their schools are really performing. Most of this year's critics trotted out the tired old criticisms that have been demonstrated again and again to miss the mark. In each case where these ill-informed criticisms appeared in the press, AIMS responded with Letters to the Editor.

To read what was printed in the Truro Daily News, under the caption "No apologies for putting parents and students first", [click here](#). The Letter to the Editor of The Guardian in Charlottetown, challenged PEI educators to provide the data that has been requested by AIMS for a number of years. To read The Guardian letter [click here](#).

Part Five: The media elite's grip on the news is almost over.

And a few decades ago it was media elites and others on the left who hounded presidents out of office. They set the agenda for news coverage and stories. Today it is media bloggers on the populist right who hound the Dan Rathers of this world into retirement – not just because they disagree with him, but because the old media elites are now themselves held accountable.

In a column in the Chronicle-Herald and the Times-Transcript, AIMS president Brian Lee Crowley suggests the old media elite grip on the news is almost over. Read about how technology and consumer power are changing the media world forever, and how far Canadian public policy has to go to catch up.

[Click here to read the full column.](#)

Part Six: Du "Push" au "Pull": La personnalisation des médias. AIMS dans La Presse.

In Dans sa chronique mensuelle dans La Presse, le journal francophone le plus lu de l'Amérique du nord, Brian Lee Crowley, le président de AIMS, écrit : Les marchés de masse se meurent. Nous sommes à la veille de personnaliser virtuellement tout ce qu'un individu souhaite, y compris la sorte de contenu de média qu'il veut voir.

Nous ne sommes pas allés aussi loin qu'aux États-Unis, mais nous n'accusons un retard que d'une décennie ou moins probablement. Et lorsque les Canadiens commenceront à se rendre compte qu'ils n'ont pas à gober ce que l'opinion de l'élite veut lui imposer et qu'ils peuvent l'ignorer tout en proposant une foisonnante diversité d'opinions qui leur convient mieux, cela transformera notre politique et nos médias. Pour le mieux.

[Cliquer ici pour lire le texte intégral de la chronique parue dans La Presse dimanche le 27 mars 2005.](#)

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, send a message to beacon@aims.ca that contains in the subject line and in the body of the message the command UNSUBSCRIBE (all in caps) and no other text.

To ****subscribe****, send a message to beacon@aims.ca that contains in the subject line and in the body of the message the command SUBSCRIBE (all in caps) and no other text.

We welcome your comments at communications@aims.ca.

[Privacy Policy](#)