

AIMS at the table for landmark trade corridor meeting.

AIMS' Atlantica concept part of roundtable discussion.

Dated: 26/4/05

Halifax - It was one of the most important and influential gatherings to discuss trade corridors ever held in Canada. On April 25th, a select group of leaders from across the country were invited to Toronto for a landmark roundtable meeting. The objective was to move forward with trade corridors to further Canada - US trade.



*The Honourable
Tony Valeri
chaired the
roundtable*

The Atlantic Institute for Market Studies (AIMS) was at the table for this by-invitation-only roundtable chaired by Government House Leader Tony Valeri. AIMS president Brian Lee Crowley talked to this prestigious group about [Atlantica, the International Northeast Economic Region](#).

Atlantica 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.

Others attending the meeting were Immigration Minister Joseph Volpe, former president of the C.D. Howe Institute Wendy Dobson, and former Canadian ambassador to the United States Allan Gottlieb.



*AIMS president
Brian Lee Crowley
was one of the
experts invited to
the Roundtable on
Trade Corridors.*

"Continental free trade and globalization could put an end to the isolation of Atlantica," said Crowley. "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."

Michael Gallis, who has made his reputation as an advisor to cities and regions trying to understand how they fit in to emerging continental and global trade patterns, was the main speaker in the second half of the day. Gallis, who has worked with AIMS on its Atlantica concept, [reprised for the Trade Corridor audience many of the arguments he made during his appearance at an AIMS breakfast in Halifax last spring](#).

The president of the Work Research Foundation and chair of the Trade Corridor Partnership, Michael Van Pelt, recently wrote a commentary for *The National Post* in which he explained why Atlantica and other trade corridors are so important.



*Michael Van Pelt is the president
of the Work Research Foundation
and chair of the Trade Corridor
Partnership*

"Europe is now pouring money into the construction project known as the Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia. With 100,000 kilometres of road, TRACECA hopes to boost volumes in this trans-Eurasian corridor from 1.9 million tonnes in 1997 to 34 million tonnes by 2010. Similarly, Asian nations are planning an Asian Highway network, AH 1, also known as "the New Silk Road." This network will span some 140,000 kilometres of road stretching across Asia to Europe. Although Canada and the U.S. possess a trading relationship second to none in the world, we cannot take it for granted, at risk of being left behind," he wrote.

To read Michael Van Pelt's full commentary, [click here](#).