



THE BEACON



Volume 15, Issue 6

*Where Tomorrow's Public
Policy Begins Today*

12 February 2009

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Part One: What's Missing from your Wallet?: Understanding the cost of gas price regulation.

As of February 1st, 2009, between extra payments to government and the oil industry, Atlantic Canadians have paid more than \$155-million extra for gasoline because of price regulation in their provinces.

What's Missing from your Wallet? How gas price regulation robs consumers explains how that figure is reached and why it's actually a conservative estimate.

Oil industry analysts estimate that government regulation of gasoline prices adds between 1.0 to 1.5 cents a litre. Using (where available) the government's own estimate of the per litre cost of gasoline price regulation the cost - 0.51 cents a litre in Nova Scotia, 1.31 cents a litre in Newfoundland and Labrador, 0.31 cents a litre in New Brunswick, and 1.54 cent a litre in PEI.

In ***What's Missing from your Wallet***, AIMS Research Manager Bobby O'Keefe points out that is only the added cost per litre BEFORE sales taxes. So for every \$1.00 extra paid for gas, the governments in Atlantic Canada get a bonus of 13 to 15.5 cents. So now that's an extra cost of 0.35 cents a litre in New Brunswick, 0.58 cents a litre in Nova Scotia, 1.48 cents a litre in Newfoundland and Labrador, and 1.78 cents per litre in PEI.

To read the complete background paper, *What's Missing from your Wallet?*, [click](#)

[here.](#)

Part Two: Gas Second by second, minute by minute: Tracking how much gasoline price regulation costs you.

\$155 million. \$155 million and counting. That is how much gas price regulation has cost you, your friends, your neighbours and your guests here in Atlantic Canada as of February 1, 2009.

Along with its background paper, *What's Missing your Wallet?* AIMS launched its Money Guzzling Gas Regulation Gauge to help Atlantic Canadians keep track of the cost to them of price regulation.

To view the gauge on the AIMS homepage, [click here.](#)

To learn more about the Money Guzzling Gas Regulation Gauge, [click here.](#)

The AIMS report on gas price regulation and its Money Guzzling Gas Regulation Gauge received media attention across the region. Here are a few of the stories:

- [It's a pain in the octane.](#)
- [Gas price regulation gouging consumers, think-tank says.](#)
- [The steep price of gas stability.](#)

Part Three: The shifting demographic: Preparing our classroom for the reality of our changing times.

Based on a talk to the Canadian Education Association, this Commentary examines the impact of changing demographics on the classroom and in how and what we teach.

It's no secret our population is ageing. The public policy implications are tremendous. Consider that within the next decade we may well have too few people available to work to support those who cannot work either because of age (too young, too old) or disability.

In *Times they are a changin'*, AIMS Executive Vice President Charles Cirtwill reviews the demographic shift within the next few decades, examines its implications and explains how education and educators need to respond now.

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

AIMS has published extensively on the shifting demographics and what it means for public policy in this country, including [The Developing Workforce Problem: Confronting Canadian Labour Shortages in the Coming Decades](#), by Jim McNiven.

Part Four: Be irrational - please.

AIMS newest research fellow has arrived with a bang. Fellow in Financial Markets Harry Koza reflects on the economy, the budget and the advice being handed out to taxpayers. He says we shouldn't foot the bill for economic stimulus at home or with government. The op-ed appeared in the Montreal Gazette, Winnipeg Free-Press and the New Brunswick Telegraph-Journal.

To read this op-ed, [click here](#).

Koza also wrote a Commentary that prompted this op-ed. To read *Who's Irrationally Exuberant Now: Debt-shy consumers or pump-priming politicians?*, [click here](#).

Part Five: In the headlines: From the Alberta oilsands to Nova Scotia's budget AIMS goes coast to coast.

The morality of oilsands growth. The debate on how to ethically spend the oilsands money continues and this editorial in the Calgary Herald uses an AIMS paper to make its point.

Labour shortage on the horizon - This story in the electronic newsletter bankrate.com highlights the AIMS paper written by Jim McNiven of the pending labour shortage in Canada.

Private sector must grow to combat losses in the civil service - New Brunswick is going to have to start building its private sector to help match the loss in the public sector. AIMS Executive Vice-President Charles Cirtwill explains how growing the private sector is good for the people of New Brunswick and the economy.

Let's deregulate tuition fees - A presentation at Dalhousie University on post-secondary education, by AIMS Executive Vice-President Charles Cirtwill, has stirred debate among students on campus. The latest is this article that appeared in the Dal Gazette.

Fredericton mayor says city's economy diversified - Fredericton mayor, Brad Woodside responds to AIMS Executive Vice-President Charles Cirtwill's suggestions on how to make New Brunswick and Fredericton a more private-sector friendly place.

Now's the time to renovate, minister says - With the Federal budget allowing for many people in the province to renovate their homes and receive a tax break on supplies many are jumping at the opportunity. But AIMS asks whether the renovator? With a labour shortage and long delays to find painters, plumbers and electricians, we need to be cautious in our estimates of what this program can do to stimulate economic activity as opposed to simply creating inflation and even greater scarcity of skills.

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