



THE BEACON



Volume 12, Issue 2

*Where Tomorrow's Public
Policy Begins Today*

February 14, 2006

How you can support AIMS

Having trouble reading this email? View our online version at:
www.aims.ca/library/beacon021406.pdf

- Part One: Star Power: AIMS' Public Education initiative a hit in California.
- Part Two: Opportunity Knocking: The doors we need to open to welcome LNG to Atlantic Canada.
- Part Three: AIMS' paper proves prophetic as questions raised about supply for LNG projects.
- Part Four: Baby steps to a quiet, incremental political revolution: AIMS in the Star and Gazette.
- Part Five: Schools use AIMS High School Report Card to improve the quality of education.
- Part Six: Picking the Court: It's time to take the politics out of the justices.

Part One: Star Power: AIMS' Public Education initiative a hit in California.

Saving our public schools is a battle cry gaining momentum across North America.

AIMS Fellow in Public Education Reform, Angus McBeath, is in demand from Boston to Sacramento to Toronto. The latest stop on his North American tour was the California State Building in Sacramento, where he wowed the audience with his enthusiasm and ideas.

"The talk was absorbing, lively and educational; and there were so many questions that we had to cut them off . . . All in all, a tremendously good event. Angus more than lived up to his billing," explained Joshua Trevino, Vice President for Public Policy for the Pacific Research Institute (PRI), which partnered with AIMS for the event. One participant flew in from Phoenix, Arizona just to attend the talk.

McBeath's appearance also sparked a flood of e-mails and telephone calls from people who couldn't make the event at the State Capitol, but heard about it. The PRI is considering bringing McBeath back for an encore performance.

For more information on the Angus McBeath North American Tour, [click here](#).

For more information on the tour stops, [click here](#).

To learn more about "Saving Our Public Schools", [click here](#).

Part Two: Opportunity Knocking: The doors we need to open to welcome LNG to Atlantic Canada

There's another opportunity knocking at Atlantic Canada's door, but the region needs to act in unison to answer it.

The opportunity is Liquefied Natural Gas, or LNG, and the region needs to coordinate its approach to fully realize the potential. That's the conclusion of AIMS' latest paper, *Casting a Cold Eye on LNG: The real possibilities and pitfalls for Atlantic Canada*. Author Angela Tu-Weissenberger examines the LNG world, the opportunities for Atlantic Canada and the three LNG terminals proposed in the region.

Of the three proposals for Atlantic Canada, two - Canaport LNG in Saint John, NB and Anadarko at Bear Head, NS - are the first to receive environmental and regulatory approvals. The third, Keltic Petrochemicals in Goldboro, NS, is proceeding through the regulatory review process. Tu-Weissenberger says Atlantic Canada has many advantages in the race to build the newest LNG terminals, but she reaches seven conclusions on what needs to be done to get any or all three of the LNG terminals built in the region.

"In the next several years, up to \$250 billion US will be dedicated to bringing LNG supplies to markets worldwide," says Ms. Tu-Weissenberger. "Atlantic Canada has the potential to benefit from this unprecedented growth provided the provinces can act together to maximize the investment opportunity."

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

Part Three: AIMS' paper proves prophetic as questions raised about supply for LNG projects.

Yet another AIMS' paper has proven insightful and timely on a matter of public policy. "*Casting a Cold Eye on LNG: The real possibilities and pitfall for Atlantic Canada*" proved prophetic when news headlines raised questions about the future of one of the projects proposed for Atlantic Canada.

Allnovascotia.com, an electronic business site based in Halifax, started the coverage with a story entitled "Supply Cloud Darkens over Bear Head", which suggested Anadarko was having second thoughts about its LNG terminal at Bear Head, NS. The next day it used the AIMS LNG paper to provide the insight in a story headed "Why Anadarko is having a problem".

The article begins, "Long term supply contracts are crucial to the success of new LNG terminals because there is a dearth of spot market gas, says a recent paper produced by the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies."

And the article pulls directly from the paper by Angela Tu-Weissenberger:

"Owing to the long lead times of new LNG projects, additional gas volumes that become available in the next five years will come from projects started three-four years ago, before the sustained run-up in North American gas prices. Most of these volumes are already dedicated to long-term contracts."

The Telegraph-Journal in New Brunswick also used the paper to examine the issue of LNG supply and the viability of three LNG terminals in the region.

To read more, [click here](#).

Part Four: Baby steps to a quiet, incremental political revolution: AIMS in the Star and Gazette.

AIMS president Brian Lee Crowley examines the results of the Canadian federal election with a look to the past, where we've been and where we may be headed. He suggests the results show Canadians are hedging their political bets and are taking another small step in what may become a Canadian political revolution. He opens by writing:

"Canadians have clearly learned something from Quebecers about hedging their political bets. The Québécois love to maintain a studied ambiguity in their political choices, the better to keep all the politicians dancing to their tune. That pretty much sums up the outcome of Monday's federal election too. The parties are going to spend the life of this Parliament looking over their shoulders, desperately seeking guidance from a Sphinx-like electorate about what would be politically popular or at least palatable."

In this column, which appeared in newspapers in Toronto, Montreal, Halifax and Moncton, Crowley concludes:

"Tory ministers will present bills and budgets in Parliament and defend them on national television. If they handle themselves well, they will be seen as competent and human - unpromising material for attack ads. And unlike Mulroney, Stephen Harper doesn't want to control the Liberal patronage machine. He wants to dismantle it. If he does that while reforming the financing of political parties, this long series of baby steps will have been a quiet, incremental, and therefore deeply Canadian, political revolution."

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

Part Five: Schools use AIMS High School Report Card to improve the quality of education.

AIMS' High School Report Card is not always welcomed with open arms by the education establishment, but one school district in New Brunswick is embracing it. In this article in the Moncton Times-Transcript, AIMS Vice President Charles Cirtwill explains District 2 (Moncton and surrounding area) is using the report card as it should be used - to help improve the quality of education.

[Click here](#) to learn more.

AIMS' fourth Annual Report Card on Atlantic Canada's High Schools will be released early in March. A summary will be published in *Progress* magazine, as well all available data for each high school in Atlantic Canada will be available on-line on the AIMS website (www.aims.ca).

Part Six: Picking the Court: It's time to take the politics out of the justices.

Is it time to change how Canada chooses its Supreme Court Justices? In his fortnightly column, AIMS president Brian Lee Crowley suggests the new Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, can set the tone for the kind of government he plans to offer Canadians with the next Supreme Court appointment. Crowley examines the system Canada uses to appoint Justices to the Supreme Court and suggests there are more open and consultative ways to appoint to the bench.

"The American approach, recognising that judges are to have immense power, is to make the appointment power more diffuse, broad-based and democratic. It is not the American process that is extreme and unbalanced, but rather the Canadian. . . . There is nothing improper or unconstitutional in making the process more open and more consultative and involving members of parliament in naming a judge who may sit on the court for 30 years or more, deciding cases that will shape Canadian society in powerful and unpredictable ways."

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

Permission is given to reproduce material from this newsletter or from the AIMS website, as long as both AIMS and the author, where appropriate, are given proper credit. Please notify us prior to 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, please log on to www.aims.ca and follow the links for the newsletter and then to the subscribe option. You will be given an option to unsubscribe.

We welcome your comments at communications@aims.ca.

Privacy Policy