



# THE BEACON



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Policy Begins Today*

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- Part One: AIMS Talk in Saskatchewan Prompts Equalization Debate with federal Finance Minister.
- Part Two: Short term gain on offshore jobs will mean less long term money for Newfoundland.
- Part Three: Students Without Borders: AIMS speaks to annual meeting of the National Association of University Chairs and Secretaries.
- Part Four: Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce seeks AIMS' views on how to improve productivity in Canada.
- Part Five: Manitobans Learn about the Dark Side of Equalization during AIMS talk sponsored by the Frontier Centre for Public Policy.
- Part Six: A Brave New World: Why universities need to recognize the emerging global market for post-secondary education.
- Part Seven: AIMS celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Celtic Tiger Dinner in Saint John, New Brunswick.

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## **Part One: AIMS Talk in Saskatchewan Prompts Equalization Debate with federal Finance Minister.**

Ralph Goodale is not only the federal Minister of Finance — he's also Saskatchewan's representative in Cabinet. A recent talk about equalization in Regina by AIMS president Brian Lee Crowley prompted Mr. Goodale to write a Letter to the Editor of the Regina Leader-Post and opened a debate on an equalization program gone wrong.

In his letter, Minister Goodale wrote, "First, and most seriously, [Crowley] makes the patently false suggestions that '... the federal government will try to keep Saskatchewan on equalization' as a means of political domination. With all due respect, nothing could be more ludicrous, or more insulting to Saskatchewanians."

Brian Crowley responded by suggesting that Minister Goodale was shooting the messenger, "He suggests...that the efforts of generations of Saskatchewanians to escape dependence on equalization are somehow discounted by me. Poppycock. What I did was lay out for Saskatchewanians all the ways that the federal government works to subvert their efforts, efforts which I applaud, and think should be rewarded. Unfortunately, the federal government punishes those efforts, chiefly through the equalization clawback."

[To read more about the ongoing debate, click here.](#)

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## **Part Two: Short term gain on offshore jobs will mean less long term money for Newfoundland.**

Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Danny Williams is pushing hard for a gravity based structure for the development of the Hebron – Ben Nevis offshore oil field, as well as the construction of a new oil refinery on the island. The reason? Jobs and local benefits. At first glance it makes sense in a province with a chronic unemployment problem. However, as AIMS Research Fellow Peter Fenwick points out, mega-projects that generate short-term jobs may have been the way of the past, but a new day has dawned in Newfoundland and Labrador and such a policy will now cost Newfoundlanders millions of dollars.

[Click here to read the complete commentary by AIMS research Fellow Peter Fenwick.](#)

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## **Part Three: Students without Borders: AIMS speaks to annual meeting of the National Association of University Board Chairs and Secretaries.**

Some liked what they heard, others wished the message could be different, but none of the audience was left indifferent. In the keynote address on the second day of the annual conference of National Association of University Board Chairs and Secretaries (NAUBCS), AIMS president Brian Lee Crowley provided insight to the universities of the future. He warned the guardians of Canada's post-secondary education that they need to think outside the sacred, but physical, halls of academia because technology and the increasing mobility of Canadian and international students means that universities that let standards slip and are not accountable will find the going very tough indeed.

Others on the conference programme included former Ontario Premier Bob Rae who leads the Ontario Royal Commission on Post-Secondary Education, and Eva Egron Polak from the International Association of Universities in Paris.

[To read the AIMS commentary, Students Without Borders, click here.](#)

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## **Part Four: Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce seeks AIMS' views on how to improve productivity in Canada.**

AIMS delivered a sobering message on Canada's productivity and competitiveness at the invitation of the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce. Senators were told that regional policy in Canada has been an obstacle to improving productivity and therefore the all-important standard of living of Canadians. For the good of Atlantic Canada, as well as the country as a whole, the steps that need to be taken are clear: reform Equalization, Employment Insurance, and regional development programmes such as ACOA.

The standing committee was directed by the Senate to examine and report on issues dealing with productivity and competitiveness. AIMS was one of the groups specifically invited by the Senate committee to make a presentation.

AIMS Director of Research Services Bruce Winchester used examples from the aquaculture industry, labour market and business community to make the point that Canadian productivity is suffering because of poor public policy.

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

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## **Part Five: Manitobans Learn About the Dark Side of Equalization during AIMS' talk sponsored by Frontier Centre for Public Policy.**

Equalization was established to help Canadians across the country. It has failed to do that. The day after generating an equalization debate in Regina, AIMS president Brian Lee Crowley delivered an afternoon lecture in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where he presented the evidence to show equalization actually does more harm than good. Rather than helping recipient provinces, the perverse incentives within equalization do the opposite. In this lecture Crowley shows what's wrong with equalization and provides guidance on how it can be fixed.

[Click here to read a text of the Winnipeg talk.](#)

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**Part Six: A Brave New World: Why universities need to recognize the emerging global market for post-secondary education.**

Universities need to prepare for a brave new world, where students are international and the post-secondary education market is global. In his regular column in the Halifax Chronicle-Herald and the Moncton Times-Transcript, AIMS president Brian Lee Crowley warns that ignoring these trends will make today's brick and mortar institutions irrelevant.

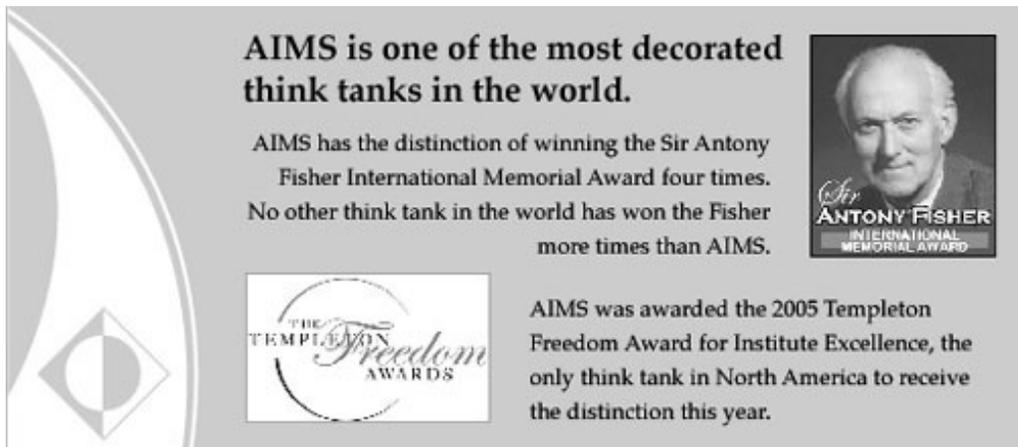
[Click here to read the complete article.](#)

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**Part Seven: AIMS celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and 5<sup>th</sup> international award for institute excellence with The Celtic Tiger Dinner in Saint John, New Brunswick.**

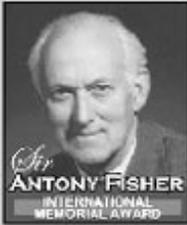
You are invited to join the celebrations in New Brunswick marking AIMS 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and 5<sup>th</sup> international award for institute excellence. The Celtic Tiger Dinner takes place on May 31<sup>st</sup> at the Delta Brunswick in Saint John. The guest speaker is Dr. Garret FitzGerald, the former Prime Minister of Ireland, and one of the architects of Ireland's economic recovery. He will provide first hand insight into his country's recipe for success.

[To learn more about AIMS celebrating in New Brunswick, the Celtic Tiger Dinner, click here.](#)



**AIMS is one of the most decorated think tanks in the world.**

AIMS has the distinction of winning the Sir Antony Fisher International Memorial Award four times. No other think tank in the world has won the Fisher more times than AIMS.



AIMS was awarded the 2005 Templeton Freedom Award for Institute Excellence, the only think tank in North America to receive the distinction this year.



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