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*Where Tomorrow's Public
Policy Begins Today*

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Part One: Math scores - Do you see a difference?

In Nova Scotia, is the average mark on the provincial math exam 39% or 47.8%? According to AIMS latest Commentary the answer is both, and neither.

The Numbers Don't Add Up provides school by school results on provincial exams for the 2005-06 Grade 12 Academic and Advanced Math courses in Nova Scotia. The Commentary by AIMS senior policy analyst shows that some schools do a lot better than others.

"Based on the Minister's Report to Parents you would think that every board and every school was in crisis," says O'Keefe, "These school by school results tell a very different story. Does it appear that a school like Saint Patrick's High School, with an average mark of 75 percent, is having the same kind of trouble with math as many other schools? Surely the phones should be ringing off the hook at St. Pat's as their peers from across the province try to learn why and how they are doing so much better than the rest of the province?"

O'Keefe says such information is finally being collected by the education authorities after a five year battle by AIMS to have these data released to the public. However, he emphasizes the basic problem remains. Administrators aren't using the data to identify the problems and the solutions.

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

Part Two: School improvement - Pictou Academy sees a difference.

Students at Pictou Academy in Nova Scotia will be able to get a head start on post secondary education as one of a number of changes implemented following AIMS report card.

In a Chronicle Herald article AIMS is given credit for helping conduct an in-depth analysis that enables Pictou County`s smallest high school to provide a unique and positive learning experience which came about after a visit to the school by AIMS as part of a regular follow up accorded schools after the release of the High School Report Card.

In the case of Pictou Academy, school officials listened and learned. Information in the AIMS Report Card showed students were not performing well in post secondary education. The academy took the bull by the horns to implement a continuous evaluation and improvement process. Students will now be able to take post-secondary classes while studying at Pictou Academy. This experience should enable them to perform better at post secondary institutions upon completing high school.

Click here, to read the complete article.

Part Three: Taking care of unfinished business: AIMS examines free trade.

The latest paper from the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies (AIMS) points out there's still a lot of work to be done to achieve free trade within Atlantica, let alone between Canada and the United States.

Unfinished Business shows that there has been little progress recently on the non-tariff barriers to trade. These include the discrepancies in regulations, standards or rules that favour one jurisdiction over the other. As an example, Brooks and Kymlicka point out that there are significant differences in opportunity between Canadian and American transportation players.

The paper is the first in the AIMS Atlantica Ports Series. Atlantica is a region broadly composed of the Atlantic provinces, south shore Quebec, the northern tier of New England and upstate New York. These territories have a number of characteristics in common – similar demographics, diversity, and migration; a shared history; and interrelated transport issues. The Atlantica Ports Series takes a comprehensive look at the existing flows, industries, and services that surround Atlantica and asks: What opportunities exist for Atlantica ports to increase volumes?

To read the complete paper, **click here**.

Part Four: CHCCG author and signatory helps reform health care in Quebec.

In a Canadian Health Care Consensus Group Commentary on health care reform in Quebec, ***Health Care: Towards significant changes***, author and signatory Claude Castonguay says, "If the necessary changes are not made, our system cannot survive". He now has an exciting opportunity to help.

Articles from the Globe and Mail as well as The Canadian Press discuss Mr. Castonguay being named as head of a Quebec task force with a mandate to "define the role the private sector can play to improve access and reduce wait times," and "study changes that might have to be made

to the Canada Health Act."

In ***Health Care: Towards significant changes***, Mr. Castonguay sets out a step by step process to reform health care in Quebec beginning with the fundamentals, the very governance of the Canadian health care system, which he says must change. He also recommends separation of the roles of the purchasers and the providers of health care services.

Health Care: Towards significant changes concludes with seven proposals, which he says would "allow us to save our health care system and its essential universal character."

To read the complete Globe and Mail article, [click here](#).

To read the complete Canadian Press article, [click here](#).

To read ***Health Care: Towards significant changes***, [click here](#).

Part Five: Can Nova Scotia handle the truth? Gas price regulation doesn't work.

In his fortnightly column to the Chronicle Herald, AIMS acting president Charles Cirtwill examines gas price regulation in Nova Scotia and how it has failed to deliver on the promises made prior to its implementation. Cirtwill notes that two claims made for implementing regulation, price stability and preventing rural and independent gas station closures come up particularly short.

"With regulation it was promised that gas prices would only change once every two weeks. But with special provincewide interrupters and adjustments by individual stations within the allowable price range set for each zone in the province, we certainly did not achieve fortnightly adjustments."

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

Part Six: Of Trade and Equalization: AIMS events highlight June calendar.

The Atlantic Institute for Market Studies invites you to two Breakfast Briefings in June – both will take you behind the scenes on two important policy issues.

On June 6th – the two key negotiators of the TILMA (Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement) between Alberta and British Columbia will explain how they accomplished it and what getting in now could mean for Atlantic Canada. This is an opportunity to learn how Atlantic Canada can sell to the west, rather than move there.

The second event on 13 June brings David MacKinnon back to the Maritimes, this time with a tale from Ontario. As a policy analyst for the Ontario Chambers of Commerce he explains Equalization from the other side of the fence – the greener side.

For more information or to register for the TILMA breakfast, [click here](#).

For more information on the equalization breakfast, [click here](#).

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