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*Where Tomorrow's Public
Policy Begins Today*

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Part One: We don't need another hero! Why Hollywood should not be the inspiration for education reform in Atlantic Canada

Hollywood films are full of examples of teachers fighting the system for the good of their students. Such is life in the movies.

In real-life, research shows that effective education does indeed need more local power and better accountability, but it needs to be system-wide, not just the one-off heroes idolized on the big screen.

In ***We don't need another hero!***, Dr. Dawn Henwood examines how educational policy makers are implementing systemic changes that stimulate creative, effective teaching. She points out that elsewhere they are finding innovative ways to empower local schools and make educators accountable for results. At the same time, they're strengthening the authority of those educators as well as drawing on the energy of community engagement.

In ***We don't need another hero!***, Henwood uses Edmonton Public Schools as an example of a system that uses public accountability and school choice to improve student performance across the system.

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

Part Two: Helping the jobless: A new way to think about EI

Should it be ten weeks? Should it be uniform across the country? What about the self-employed? The reform of Canada's Employment Insurance programme is once again headlining newspapers and websites across the country.

In this op-ed published in The Globe and Mail, AIMS Executive Vice President Charles Cirtwill says it is time to completely revamp the programme. This isn't the time for tweaking; it's a time for an overhaul. As one reader lamented on The Globe's online edition, "Mr. Cirtwill's suggestion is much too sensible to be followed by those on [Parliament] Hill."

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

To read the AIMS Commentary by Robin Neill that prompted Cirtwill's op-ed, [click here](#).

Part Three: The dawn of the conservative progressives?: Thoughts on the NDP win in Nova Scotia

The news that Nova Scotia had a majority government for the first time in a decade made papers across the country. The fact that it was an NDP majority, the first east of Ontario, put the election win on the front pages.

The Globe and Mail contacted AIMS President Brian Lee Crowley for his thoughts. His resulting op-ed is a stinging comment on Nova Scotia's 'traditional' political parties.

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

Part Four: In the headlines: From the Kennebec Journal to the Telegraph Journal

Maine Municipal begs to differ - This op-ed published by the Kennebec Journal in Augusta, Maine uses AIMS' research on municipal amalgamation to make its point. Geoff Harman encourages readers to review a recent AIMS' publication to make informed comment on public policy.

Tory leader questions assistance for construction firm - A loan guarantee by the New Brunswick government to a Miramichi construction company has some politicians in the province raising questions. In this story, AIMS Executive Vice President Charles Cirtwill points out that governments should start saying no when they become the lender of last resort.

Gas regulation does nothing to save you money - In this op-ed published in the Chronicle-Herald, AIMS Executive Vice President Charles Cirtwill refutes claims that gas price regulations save consumers money. He uses facts to explain how regulation costs us millions of dollars each year.

Pay equity at centre of debate: Manufacturers and exporters say implementing legislation complicated, suggest alternative plans - In this news story, AIMS executive Vice President Charles Cirtwill explains that delivering pay

equity for the public service, let alone mandating it for the private sector is costly, economy-hobbling and ultimately unlikely to succeed. It is an idea that will create more inequality than it eliminates while raising costs and killing jobs. "Certainly if two people are filling the same job, taking the same leave, receiving the same benefits and bringing the same skills and experience to work they should be paid the same. If one is being paid more than the other, and the only basis for that differential is sex, then we have a problem."

N.B. to back harness racing industry: In wake of education cuts, lobster industry woes, Tories question province's priorities - When the New Brunswick government announced annual funding to the harness racing industry, reporters turned to AIMS for comment on whether it was a wise use of taxpayers' dollars.

AIMS report valuable tool - In this column in the Times & Transcript, author David Gingras makes suggestions on how to improve the AIMS Municipal Performance Report, and concludes the report can be a valuable tool for local governments and taxpayers.

Part Five: Staying in touch: Visit AIMS' facebook page or our blog

Your association with AIMS isn't a one way street. Read [our blog – *Straight Talk!*](#) to join in the conversation around the office "water cooler" or stay in touch on our [facebook page](#). We welcome your comment, encourage your conversation, and appreciate your interest.

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