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*Where Tomorrow's Public
Policy Begins Today*

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- **Part One: Put our money where your mouth is**
- **Part Two: Selling to the West instead of moving there**
- **Part Three: Defining Atlantica: Bridges to Prosperity**
- **Part Four: Minimum Wage and The Laws**
- **Part Five: The Paradoxes of Cultural Confidence: Is Western culture in decline?**
- **Part Six: Terrorism: The Best Defence is a Terrific Offence**

Part One: Put our money where your mouth is.

It's about choice.

In his fortnightly column in the Chronicle-Herald, AIMS acting president Charles Cirtwill weighs in on the ongoing debate over public sector versus private sector schools. He explains why choice in publicly funded education benefits everyone. Public education, like public health care, can and is delivered very effectively by private, public and not-for-profit providers.

Cirtwill argues that if the proponents of public sector schools are so confident that they can deliver the best education for every student, every time, then they should put the money where their mouth is. Parents and students should be free to choose from any public sector school, from a charter school, from a private school, from home school or even from a combination of these options.

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

Think it can't be done? Well, Edmonton Public School District has been doing it since 1976 – [click here](#) to learn more about the Edmonton Public story.

Part Two: Selling to the West instead of moving there

How will the inter-provincial trade deal recently implemented between British Columbia and Alberta impact Atlantic Canada? Can other provinces sign on? What opportunities exist?

The TILMA (Trade Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement) is the hottest Canadian trade related topic since the NAFTA and AIMS provided an opportunity to learn all about it from Alberta's key negotiator. AIMS Breakfast Briefing with Alberta's Director of Internal Trade, Shawn Robbins, attracted senior officials from government and business.

Robbins explained the advantages, how BC and Alberta negotiated their own free trade deal and how ***we can get in on the ground floor*** –

To view the power point presentation, [click here](#).

Part Three: Defining Atlantica: Bridges to Prosperity

The occasion was Atlantica 2007: Charting the Course, the second annual Atlantica conference organized by the Atlantic Provinces Chambers of Commerce (APCC). The event was a debate between proponents and opponents of Atlantica. The Atlantic Institute for Market Studies (AIMS) was asked to represent those in favour of the concept.

AIMS acting President Charles Cirtwill explained that Atlantica is not a free trade zone, it is not about eliminating the minimum wage or unions.

"Atlantica is about people with common needs – in a common neighbourhood – coming up with common solutions," he said. "The phrase "help yourself by helping others" comes to mind."

This particular debate received extensive coverage, including [this article](#) in New Brunswick's Telegraph-Journal.

To read Defining Atlantica, the AIMS' Commentary based on Cirtwill's remarks to the conference, [click here](#).

Part Four: Minimum Wage and The Laws

The recent suggestion in the Telegraph-Journal that NB increase its minimum wage prompted AIMS Director of Research to fire back with a quick response: It's a bad idea.

In this op/ed that appeared in the newspaper, Munro explains why increasing the minimum wage actually hurts the very people one would expect such an increase to help, the working poor.

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

Part Five: The Paradoxes of Cultural Confidence: Is Western culture in decline?

English writer Anthony Daniels (Theodore Dalrymple) takes a look at what he calls the disastrous consequences of the West's loss of moral conviction. This Commentary is based on the remarks made by Daniels to the Civitas national conference in Halifax on 5 May 2007.

He explained:

"In Brussels, the capital not only of Belgium but the administrative centre of the European Union, policemen have been enjoined by their superiors not to eat or drink anything during the day in the month of Ramadan while patrolling the predominantly Muslim area of the city, for fear of offending the population. I quote this particularly striking and egregious example, because it indicates, to me at least, a complete collapse of confidence in any kind of principles, in the absence of which fear becomes the unadulterated guide to public policy. But fear of what, exactly? Social disorder, perhaps, or of terrorist attack, or even of merely ideological criticism and the charge of being culturally insensitive and perhaps racist?"

To read *The Paradoxes of Cultural Confidence*, [click here](#).

Part Six: Terrorism: The Best Defence is a Terrific Offence

Alex Wilner, AIMS Security and Defence Policy Intern, tackles international terrorism in this Commentary, *The Best Defence is a Terrific Offence: Four Approaches to Countering Modern Terrorism*. He outlines the evolving global security environment and explains how terrorist groups are today more easily able to organise and thrive than they once were. Global interdependence, technological sophistication, state weakness, and non-state empowerment have coalesced in ways that make the international system both ripe for – and dangerously susceptible to – catastrophic terrorism.

The Best Defence concludes that for Canada and her many allies, offensive counter-terrorism involves four strategies: (1) crippling terrorism’s infrastructural and operational abilities around the globe; (2) deploying small, interconnected military teams able to dislodge and destroy decentralised terror networks; (3) selectively targeting and killing terrorist leaders, operators, and facilitators; and (4) constructing a robust multinational coalition able to contain and deter terrorist organizations and their state sponsors. Together with defensively-oriented domestic responses, these coercive measures will go a long way in securing our eventual victory in an era of catastrophic terrorism.

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

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