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*Where Tomorrow's Public  
Policy Begins Today*

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### **Part One: A fresh hopeful voice from Quebec: AIMS brings Mario Dumont to Atlantic Canada**

In the volatile world of Québec politics, he has staying power. Mario Dumont is one of the most interesting people on the Québec political scene today.

The ADQ, which Dumont founded, has become a real force in Québec politics, and has at various times been the most popular party in the province. Dumont himself enjoys a strong following, while espousing a political philosophy quite at odds with the conventional wisdom of the province's political class.

AIMS brings this new class of Québec politician to Atlantic Canada as guest speaker at two luncheons, one in Halifax on September 20<sup>th</sup> and the other in Moncton on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Register now to hear a new side of Québec politics.

To learn more about the Halifax luncheon on September 20<sup>th</sup>, [click here](#).  
To learn more about the Moncton luncheon on September 21<sup>st</sup>, [click here](#).

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## Part Two: Looting Ontario: AIMS in the Toronto Star shows how equalization hurts the giver and the receiver.

Equalization doesn't work. The message isn't new, but it is getting through to a new audience. This August the Ontario Chamber of Commerce published a new study on the damage done to the Ontario economy by a federal transfer system that is growing rapidly, but has little to show by way of positive results for recipient provinces. The OCC study drew heavily on AIMS sources to mount its criticisms of equalization and transfers more generally.

AIMS president Brian Lee Crowley and AIMS Director of Research Services Bruce Winchester followed up with an op-ed in the Toronto Star that summarized much of AIMS work on this important topic. It opens:

*"Ontario, long-suffering milch cow of Confederation, has recently awakened to the hard reality that the wealth Ontarians work so hard to create is being cavalierly seized by Ottawa in amounts that no one could describe as fair or equitable. When Ontarians finally realize that their economy is being so looted to finance programs that actually harm the regions of the country they're supposed to help, they'll demand change."*

And the authors suggest change will only come when Ontarians stop being so timid and apologetic about demanding real reform of Canada's regional transfers.

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



### Part Three: A Tale of Two Cities: AIMS presents Atlantica concept to influential Council of State Governments in US

The Atlantica message is being heard by some of the most influential policy makers, business leaders and academics on both sides of the border.

Among the latest is the influential Council of State Governments – Eastern Region Conference. It invited AIMS to its most recent meeting to provide the details of the International Northeast Economic Region.

“A Tale of Two Cities” is the story of Atlantica, as told by AIMS president Brian Lee Crowley. Based on the talk he gave to the Council of State Governments, this commentary uses lessons from the past to show the way to a more prosperous future. He explained we should learn from the history of the railway and the cities that won and lost along its route.

*“The story of the railway is, in a way, a parable about “globalization,” which is merely shorthand for an incredible “densification” of a whole series of networks that girdle the globe and create huge and growing value for those who are connected to them. But not everybody is connected. With the global network, you must either be a destination in your own right (Chicago, London, Hong Kong, Tokyo), or you must be on the route to a destination. My Institute is convinced that steps must be taken if the natural bi-national economic region in the International Northeast is to be put on the road to the major centres of global commerce. We call this natural economic region “Atlantica.” And the benefits of succeeding in this bi-national enterprise will not be limited to the territory of Atlantica, for, as I hope to demonstrate, every state in the Eastern Conference of the CSG would benefit enormously from what Atlantica has to offer.”*

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

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### Part Four: Facing the Future: Business Voice turns to AIMS for education expertise.

The Halifax Chamber of Commerce’s magazine *Business Voice* features the first of a two part series on education in its September edition and it turned first to AIMS for insight on education in the region. “Most people have this intuitive sense that our education system isn’t delivering the goods. And the data supports that belief.” AIMS vice president Charles Cirtwill told the magazine.

But Cirtwill emphasized that money alone is not the solution to improving education, “The difficulty is that government isn’t tracking the outcomes of this new spending, they’re just shooting in the dark. We have to be able to say where we were, where we are and where we’re failing, and say that at the school level.”

There are three key concepts present in high performance jurisdictions like Alberta that are absent in Nova Scotia – a commitment to excellence, public reporting, and choice within the public system. “We’re not moving on open enrolment in the public system.” says Cirtwill, yet “competitive pressures improve public schools and

satisfaction with the public system.”

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

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### **Part Five: Atlantic Canada at the tipping point.**

“We’re close to the tipping point where people will understand that economic opportunity serves them better than political opportunity,” so concluded Brian Lee Crowley, president of AIMS, in an in-depth interview in *Progress* magazine reflecting on AIMS’ first decade.

Defending sound economics and good public policy is not always a popular thing to do, especially in a region where one of our chief growth industries has been bad economics and poor public policy, but it is the job the Institute has set itself over the past decade. As Crowley observed, “What I’ve learned is that it is very hard to be the first person to say something. But you quickly discover that once you’ve done it there are a number of people who in their heart of hearts know it is true and they take courage from the fact that you have said it.”

The article by John DeMont also touches on equalization, education, health care, offshore energy and Atlantica.

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

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### **Part Six: Equalization Reform that works: AIMS uses invitation by Expert Panel to show the way.**


For five decades equalization has been a mainstay of the Canadian federation. However, the incentives implicit in equalization are not the ones that build the economy and increase a government’s fiscal capacity. Instead, they encourage recipient provinces to raise taxes, become dependent, neglect economic growth, and increase debt.

For ten years, the equalization program and its effects on economic growth have been important and regular subjects of AIMS research. This presentation to the Expert Panel on Equalization and Territorial Financing Formula, uses that wealth of informed research to provide four steps to equalization reform.

Supported by the most recent analysis of provincial program spending per capita, personal income rates, debt servicing and equalization payments, AIMS shows the panel how the current system fails. However, it doesn’t end there. As is the AIMS way, the presentation also provides four changes to the equalization formula that will go a long way to repairing the damage done to date.

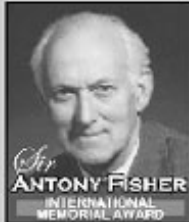
[Click here](#) to read the complete commentary.

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**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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