



Volume 14, Issue 9

*Where Tomorrow's Public
Policy Begins Today*

30 September 2008

[How you can support AIMS](#)

*Having trouble reading this email? View our online version at:
www.aims.ca/library/beacon093008.pdf*

- **Part One: The changing face of trade: It isn't just about goods anymore.**
- **Part Two: No matter the question: In education, choice works.**
- **Part Three: Think before you vote: Three questions to ask Ontario candidates – Atlantic Canada take notice!**
- **Part Four: Spontaneous order for fun and profit: Products of human action not human design.**
- **Part Five: Halifax is Different: Where the port fits in today's world.**
- **Part Six: In the Headlines: From Atlantica to education, a sampling of what interested the news media.**

Part One: The changing face of trade: It isn't just about goods anymore

This Commentary is based on the opening remarks to the Work Research Foundation's round table on trade, entitled Greenlighting Trade. Conference facilitator Brian Lee Crowley, the President of AIMS, provided the foundation for the two day conference. In the opening remarks, Crowley explained that no longer is trade just about goods, materials and natural resources. He warned it will more and more be about people and labour and workers.

To read *Trade: It isn't just about goods anymore*, [click here](#).

Part Two: No matter the question: In education, choice works

With more than ten years of in depth research on public education in Canada, AIMS entered the debate in Ontario about school funding. In this op/ed that appeared in The National Post, AIMS Executive Vice President Charles Cirtwill explained why choice works in public education. He said residents of Ontario should be fighting to increase choice in their province, not encouraging a monopoly.

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

Part Three: Think before you vote: Three questions to ask Ontario candidates – Atlantic Canada take notice!

Equalization in Canada is anything but equal. From the early days of AIMS, the Institute has published extensively on the problems with the programme and how to fix it. With Canadians voting in a federal election on October 14th, AIMS Senior Fellow in Fairness in Confederation David MacKinnon says it is time to ask some tough questions of those who want to represent Ontario in Ottawa. In this op/ed that appeared in The Toronto Star he provides Ontario residents with three questions they should ask during this federal election.

Equalization receiving provinces, including those in Atlantic Canada, should take note of the growing discontent in Canada's most populous province.

To read more AIMS' material on equalization, [click here](#).

To read MacKinnon's Commentary *Canadian Regional Subsidies: Killing the Golden Goose and Weakening Canada*, [click here](#).

Part Four: Spontaneous order for fun and profit: Products of human action not human design

This Commentary, based on remarks by AIMS President Brian Lee Crowley at the *Atlas Experience*, looks at spontaneous order; explaining it, defining it, and promoting it.

He says believers in spontaneous order are stuck with the unenviable task of explaining to people that in fact the most powerful institutions we possess are ones that no human being created as a matter of intended intelligent design – things like language, the great legal codes, including the common law, money, markets and so forth.

As an example Crowley explains that no invented language, such as Esperanto or Basic English, has ever demonstrated the depth, complexity and richness of a language fashioned by centuries of intelligent usage by those who speak that language. And yet that language is just what Adam Ferguson said – it is the product of human action but not of human design.

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

Part Five: Halifax is Different: Where the port fits in today's world.

The structure of shipping networks is evolving and becoming more complex. Understanding the nature of these changes is crucial for analysing the competitive position and growth prospects of container ports, such as Halifax.

This paper, the fourth in the Atlantica Ports Series, develops a typology of ports based on three broad categories of criteria: the logic of the port's location in global maritime networks, cargo movements in relation to the port's hinterland, and the characteristics

of the port's services. It then determines where Halifax can fit.

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

Part Six: In the Headlines: From Atlantica to education, a sampling of what interested the news media.

Recall the riches of the railway - A talk by AIMS President Brian Lee Crowley to the Maine Citizens' Trade Committee of the State Legislature is the basis of this feature in the New Brunswick Business Journal. It uses the example of 19th century Chicago to show how economic development can make N.B. prosperous.

'Yes, Minister' ethos prevails at Education Department - This op/ed by AIMS Executive Vice President Charles Cirtwill appeared in newspapers around Nova Scotia. It explains why the provincial government didn't go far enough when considering changes to school board governance. He says it's time for Nova Scotia to embrace school choice and site-based management.

AIMS: Government should butt out of school boards, Think-tank urges more local control – AIMS submission to the Nova Scotia Department of Education on school board governance attracted headlines around the province. The Chronicle-Herald wrote, "Schools and communities, not the provincial minister, should call the shots when it comes to education, says a new report by the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies. And trying to fix school governance with small tweaks doesn't address the real issue, co-authors Charles Cirtwill and Bobby O'Keefe said in a news release."

Ranking schools rankles teachers – Finally, the Halifax Regional School Board is going to do what AIMS has said is in the best interest of public education - release school by school results. In this article, AIMS Executive Vice President, Charles Cirtwill, speaks about the Nova Scotia Teachers Union's objection to publishing the results from the standardized tests.

Provincial test results not the end of the world; but they could be - For the first time the Province of Nova Scotia has released school by school results for almost all provincial assessments (only high school exams and the associated teacher assigned grades still remain to be released to the public). As expected, the results are not good and people are worried. When invited by the media to comment on the less than glowing results, AIMS Executive Vice President Charles Cirtwill suggested it is not time to panic, yet.

To be a bigger region, we need to be bigger people – The Telegraph-Journal asked AIMS Executive Vice President Charles Cirtwill to provide a column on the opportunities of the Atlantic Gateway. He used the opportunity to explain that everyone in the region needs to work together, and not separately, to take advantage of development opportunities.

Permission is given to reproduce material from this newsletter or from the AIMS website, as long as both AIMS and the author, where appropriate, are given proper credit. Please notify us when using our material.

Some of the materials in this newsletter will require Adobe® Reader® to access. If you do not have Adobe® Reader® installed on your computer, [click here](#) to download the full program.

If you have received this message in error, please accept our apologies. To unsubscribe from the Beacon, please visit www.AIMS.ca and follow the links at the right hand corner of the homepage. Follow the links to subscribe to the newsletter and there is an option to unsubscribe. To subscribe, follow the same instructions but use the subscribe option.

We welcome your comments at communications@aims.ca.

[Privacy Policy](#)