



THE BEACON



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*Where Tomorrow's Public
Policy Begins Today*

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AIMS Special Event – Breakfast with one of the top educators in North America

- Part One: Saving our Public Schools: Learn from one of North America's top educators how it can be done.
- Part Two: A matter of choice, accountability and achievement for all: Angus McBeath uses his success to help all public schools.
- Part Three: Angus McBeath: Making educators take notice from Washington to California to Toronto.
- Part Four: Register to hear Angus McBeath in person

Part One: Saving our Public Schools: Learn from one of North America's top educators how it can be done.

Angus McBeath tells it like it is. With passion and dedication he helped transform the Edmonton Public Schools into one of the most successful public school systems on the continent.



Now retired, **Angus McBeath** is AIMS Fellow in Public Education Reform and has been wowing audiences around North America with his straight talk on how to improve our public school system.

AIMS is pleased to bring him back to the Maritimes for two events, one in Halifax and the other in Fredericton. This is your opportunity to hear the man who has made educators around the United States and across Canada take notice.

McBeath is a passionate defender of public education, but he's also a passionate advocate for school reform. The three keys to the Edmonton model are entrepreneurship, accountability, and choice. The curriculum is determined by the province, but decision-making is decentralized. School principals control their own budgets and have unusual authority to run their schools and spend the money as they see fit. It is revolutionary notion.

To learn more about the event in Halifax on 24 October, 2006, [click here](#).

To learn more about the event in Fredericton on 26 October, 2006, [click here](#).

Part Two: A matter of choice, accountability and achievement: Angus McBeath uses his success to help improve public schools.

The Edmonton Public Schools are called "one of the most decentralized and effectively managed public school systems in North America."

Edmonton is able to take 95 per cent of the money given to school boards and put it directly into classrooms, the highest percentage in North America.

Since his retirement, McBeath has been touring North America talking about the Edmonton model. He explains the Edmonton board was able to make direct correlations between students' academic performance in Grade 3 and their high school performance.

"It could have been predicted: 'You're not going to make it,' " Mr. McBeath says, so it was decided that the board's new target was that all children should be able to read by Grade 3.

"Somebody said to me, 'Isn't that unrealistic, there must be somebody who won't learn to read and write?' " Mr. McBeath says. "I would want no higher standard for Air Canada not killing the passengers than I would want in terms of our kids being able to read – 100 percent."

Such talk has attracted attention at all his stops, follow the links below to read more:

- **[Lesson for Toronto: AIMS Fellow on Public Education Reform as teacher](#)**
— *The National Post*
- **[Meet Canada's Site-Based Guru – The HighPlains Messenger](#)**
- **[Boston can learn from AIMS Fellow in Public Education Reform – The Boston Globe](#)**
- **[Canada's Education Secret - The Globe & Mail](#)**
- **[Schools can learn from Edmonton's teamwork - Boston Business Journal](#)**

Part Three: Angus McBeath: Making educators take notice from Washington to California to Toronto

Whether it was educators in Washington, State Senators in Sacramento, California or business people in Toronto few who have heard Angus McBeath during his North American tour can doubt where he stands.

McBeath is a passionate defender of public education. He's also a passionate advocate for school reform.

"I don't think people realize how big an achievement issue we have in this country," he says. McBeath argues that the biggest obstacle to reform is the educational ruling class -- the school boards, bureaucrats, principals, and teachers unions. "The ruling class never voluntarily reforms itself," he says.

Last summer McBeath returned to his native PEI as AIMS guest to speak to the PEI Task Force on Student Achievement. He pulled no punches: "The most important work in society takes place in our classrooms. We must focus all of our efforts, our systems,

and our structures to support our teachers in doing that work, and doing it well. That means we must measure accurately, report publicly on those measures, and change practices in classrooms and boardrooms based on what the data tells us."

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

Part Four: Register to hear Angus McBeath in person.

To register for the Breakfast Briefing with Angus McBeath in Halifax at The Halifax Club on Tuesday, 24 October 2006, [click here](#).

To register for the Breakfast Briefing with Angus McBeath in Fredericton at the Delta Fredericton on Thursday, 26 October 2006, [click here](#).

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