



# THE BEACON



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*Where Tomorrow's Public  
Policy Begins Today*

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- **Part One: Go East Go West: Determining the route to prosperity.**
- **Part Two: Catching up: How Special Economic Zones can work to build business.**
- **Part Three: Hard times for trade unions: AIMS' Commentary triggers article in *The Economist*.**
- **Part Four: We must make sure that prisons aren't terrorist schools: AIMS in The Globe and Mail.**
- **Part Five: Making the News: From demographics to employment to stimulus.**

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## Part One: Go East Go West: Determining the route to prosperity

It's the second largest harbour in the world, yet the Port of Halifax is far from being considered one of the busiest. Its importance to the city and the region could be significant as a generator of economic growth. It needs a kick start, and now during this downturn may be just the time.

In ***Go East Go West: The Better Shipping Route from Asia to North America***, John Huang reviews the routes to get goods from Asia to North America, and examines what needs to get done to make Halifax a significant link.

Determining what role Halifax might play in the development of new east-west shipping routes is a complex challenge given the myriad internal and external factors involved in shippers' decisions.

Huang brings his business experience in both China and Canada to provide additional insight of shipping and marketability. He points out that if Halifax hopes to capture some of the increasing flow of traffic from Asia to North America, the port faces both opportunities and challenges.

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

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## Part Two: Catching up: How Special Economic Zones can work to build business

It seems Canada is the only G-8 country without Special Economic Zones, or SEZs. Rather surprising when one considers the vastness and diversity of the country.

***Zone-ability: Unlocking the Potential of the Atlantica Region with Special Economic Zones*** examines SEZs around the globe, looking at what works and what doesn't. SEZs offer a way to improve competitiveness and generate benefits from the flow of trade through a region. Such zones come in various shapes, sizes, and labels, such as free trade zones or export

processing zones, but they share a set of common features.

**Zone-ability** concludes SEZs would provide numerous benefits to the Atlantica region. It warns that failure to act on establishing such a zone will be an opportunity lost; one that others will grasp.

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

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### **Part Three: Hard times for trade unions: AIMS' Commentary triggers article in *The Economist***

The bail-out of union benefit plans made headlines almost as large as the bail-out of large corporations. Then there's the news that unions are being asked to give up contract perks, like banking up to 20 sick days a year. The bail-outs and concessions are blamed on the current economic woes, but it has also opened a whole new discussion and focused attention on workplace perks.

AIMS' recent Commentary on trade unions by incoming president Charles Cirtwill is used by The Economist magazine for this story about the future of the union movement. The magazine story was republished in The Chronicle-Herald.

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

To read the Commentary, *The Future of Unions: Are they a dying breed?*, [click here](#).

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### **Part Four: We must make sure that prisons aren't terrorism schools: AIMS in The Globe and Mail**

This Op-Ed by Alex Wilner, AIMS Fellow in Defence and Security, sheds light on the issue of extremist recruitment in prison. Published by The Globe and Mail it opened a discussion on what to do with incarcerated Islamist terrorists.

To read this Op-Ed, [click here](#).

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### **Part Five: Making the News: From demographics to employment to stimulus**

**Civil service defends staffing** - AIMS' research on the number of civil servants per resident is generating debate in New Brunswick. AIMS incoming president Charles Cirtwill says the discussion should grow to include the question, "How many people does it take to do the job government has to do?"

**Don't get too excited about September's unemployment numbers** - The latest economic forecast looks good for New Brunswick. The latest job numbers paint a province in recovery mode. AIMS incoming president Charles Cirtwill suggests it may be a little early to be forecasting an economic about-face.

**Shovels are out but not in ground** - AIMS incoming president Charles Cirtwill says a threatened federal election is not going to change any of the stimulus plans announced by Ottawa. NDP MP Peter Stoffer agrees calling such statements by the Tories and Liberals political

posturing.

**Political shovelling keeps feds busy** - Chronicle-Herald columnist Marilla Stephenson quotes AIMS incoming President Charles Cirtwill to make her case about Ottawa's stimulus programme and 'shovel-ready' projects. Cirtwill points out the economy will be in recovery before most of the government money is circulated.

**Shovels in the shifting ground** - Columnist Alec Bruce uses a quote from AIMS incoming president Charles Cirtwill to make his point in this article on the economic stimulus programme.

**Canada, Quebec and the nanny state** - This review calls Brian Lee Crowley's book, *Fearful Symmetry*, "an audacious, provocative and impressively researched volume." Lawrence Martin in the *Globe and Mail* says "it will open more eyes than it closes."

**Canada's future lies in its past** - This review of Brian Lee Crowley's book, *Fearful Symmetry*, written by Robert Roach of the Canada West Foundation appeared in the *Amherst Daily News* in Nova Scotia.

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