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Where Tomorrow's Public Policy Begins Today

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Part One: Who should own the sea? AIMS' latest Ideas Matter tackles the pressing public policy issues around fisheries and aquaculture.



public policy issue.

There is vigorous intellectual and practical debate surrounding public policy in fishery management in Canada and abroad. In the 10 years since its early foray into fisheries and aquaculture, AIMS has published close to 20 papers, books and commentaries on the topic. It has held three major conferences that have brought together national and international experts, and it has generated dozens of newspaper articles. In this latest edition of ***Ideas Matter***, AIMS reviews its work — and impact — on this pressing

It has been 10 years since AIMS published ***Taking Ownership: Property rights and fishery management on the Atlantic Coast***. At the time the question was whether it mattered who owns the fish off the east coast of North America. The answer is just as important today as it was then.

At present, many fish stocks are still a common property resource, essentially owned by no one; this results in what economists call the tragedy of the commons. Everyone races to catch as many fish as they can without regard to the long term sustainability of the stocks. But as our work shows, where stable, secure and robust property rights (such as Enterprise Allocations and Individual Transferable Quotas) have been created in the fishery, the results have been very positive for fishermen, coastal communities

and the economy overall.

AIMS has also published extensively on the aquaculture industry. Whether it was being the keynote speaker at an international conference in New Zealand, or publishing a paper with the trenchant title *It is FARMING, not Fishing*, the institute has accumulated some of the most comprehensive work on the topic.

This edition of *Ideas Matter*, published with the Canadian Aquaculture Institute (CAI), highlights AIMS' work on the fisheries, with a special section dedicated to aquaculture.

Follow [this link](#) to read the special section on aquaculture.

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

Part Two: Taking on the naysayers: AIMS Fellow in Public Education Reform brings his passion for choice, accountability and achievement back to the Maritimes.

He is passionate about education, about achievement, about students. During a recent visit back to the Maritimes, Angus McBeath, AIMS Fellow in Public Education Reform, wasn't afraid to take on the education establishment whether it was a new Minister of Education or an experienced Professor of Education.

In Halifax, McBeath told educators and businesspeople how Edmonton Public Schools brought choice and accountability back to the classroom. In Wolfville, he talked to first year education students and told them their future job as a teacher was among the most important work in society. McBeath said contrary to what they may hear in their university classrooms – achievement matters, and every student regardless of their background can achieve at the highest levels.

In Fredericton, he talked to elected members of District Education Councils and senior department and district officials about the importance of continuing education for teachers. And he explained to New Brunswick's new Minister of Education what governments have to do to save our public schools.



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

To learn more about the Angus McBeath North American tour, [click here](#).

Part Three: Tackling the catastrophic gap in prescription drug coverage: AIMS shows Atlantic Canadians how to fix it.

The summary document produced from AIMS conference, *"When Tea and Sympathy are not Enough"*, has hit the desk of every health minister and deputy minister, as well as the offices of every provincial medical, hospital and nurses' association across the country.

The conference itself brought together experts from around North America to look at one of the most pressing issues on the health care scene, the catastrophic gap in prescription drug coverage.

Replied one deputy upon receiving the summary, "Thank you for distributing this document. It will no doubt provide a valuable contribution to the debate."

Speakers explained the distinction between national pharmacare and a programme to address the catastrophic gap in prescription drug coverage, a gap that exists solely in Atlantic Canada. That is why a national pharmacare programme is often referred to as a \$1-billion dollar national programme to solve a \$50-million Atlantic Canadian problem. Some speakers pointed out that pleas from Atlantic Canadian provincial governments that they can't afford such a programme are unconvincing. In fact, one of the speakers, Newfoundland and Labrador's deputy minister of health provided details of a plan to address the problem that has since been launched by his government. And within a week of the AIMS conference, the Nova Scotia Tory party announced its working families' pharmacare programme as a key element of its election platform. Both prove the point that blaming Ottawa is a poor excuse for action.

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

Part Four: You don't know what you got till it's gone: A lesson for Americans on prescription drug policy.

This op-ed by AIMS president Brian Lee Crowley appeared in The New York Post, which is the sixth largest circulation newspaper in the United States, and the Patriot News in Pennsylvania. In it he talks to Americans about the real reason brand-name drugs cost less in Canada than in the US.

The article was prompted by an ad campaign launched by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) urging Congress to legalize the importation of prescription drugs from Canada. Crowley explains the reason isn't simply price controls and he tells Americans to be very careful what they wish for.

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

This is the latest in a number of Commentaries and papers published by AIMS about the ongoing debate over the re-importation of drugs from Canada by the US.

In October 2004, AIMS Fellow in Health Care Economics Brian Ferguson wrote "[Alice in Borderland](#)". It explained why this is an issue that Canadians should not be complacent about.

Just one month earlier, AIMS president Brian Lee Crowley was keynote speaker at a conference in Maine on the same topic. In his remarks, "[Why drugs are cheaper in Canada](#)" Crowley said "...if you want Canadian pharmaceutical prices in the US, the steps you must follow are clear. You must cut your standard of living by 20-30%. You must reform your ludicrous product liability laws. And you must squeeze pharmaceutical industry profits through price controls and dominant purchaser policies, thus causing lower levels of pharmaceutical investment and innovation,

getting cheaper prices for medicines already discovered at the cost of prolonged pain and suffering for victims of diseases we cannot yet cure or control. And you must restrict patient access to the latest and best medicines in order to keep costs low."

Part Five: Atlantica: AIMS invited to bring the concept to the Senate.

This AIMS' presentation before the Senate Standing Committee on Banking and Trade attracted attention in Ottawa, when we explained the Atlantica concept isn't just good for Atlantic Canada, it's good for the nation.

A news story about the presentation made the front page of New Brunswick's Telegraph Journal, as well as stories on The Canadian Press and regional newspapers. Follow [this link](#) to read the news coverage.

The presentation to the Senate Standing Committee was made by AIMS Senior Policy Analyst Stephen Kymlicka. He explained that "Atlantica has a great future with an excellent opportunity to help fuel the continental economy by functioning as a gateway to the world. To fully capitalize on the opportunity, we need to be more competitive. Nothing less than "best in class" is good enough anymore." He told Senators that the more obstacles that can be removed to be competitive the better.

To read the text of Kymlicka's remarks, [click here](#). To view the slide show that accompanied the presentation, [click here](#).

Part Six: Looking to Stockholm: The old world may hold the solution to a new world headache – traffic congestion.

In this Commentary, AIMS Senior Fellow in Urban Policy Patrick Luciani takes a look at traffic. It's an urban issue that is not going away and many suggest it's just getting worse.



It used to be that traffic jams were a thing of big cities. That commuting an hour to work only happened in Toronto or LA, unless one *chose* to live more than a 100 kilometres from one's work. However, as Luciani explains the problem of traffic is no longer just a big city issue.

That said, there are some solutions to the problem and many can be found by looking to the old world. Luciani says Canadians have to get over their aversion to user-pay and more fully embrace road tolls.

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

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