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Part One: Broad streets or Broadway: Should cities be investing in infrastructure or arts and culture?

In this Commentary, AIMS Senior Fellow in Urban Policy Patrick Luciani takes a look at the driving force behind growth in Canada's cities. Some recent theories say that growth is driven by the elite "creative" class and therefore cities should invest heavily in culture and the arts. Luciani points out that while it may be a fine sentiment, the data don't appear to support the theory.

Instead, he says people are more interested in short commutes and clean streets than they are in museums and art galleries. As such, Luciani suggests that municipalities that desire strong growth are better off investing in their core infrastructure, such as roads, sewers, and fire and police services.

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

Part Two: Beyond borders: Trade corridors and the benefits of integration and co-operation.

An article in *Progress* magazine notes that Canada, the United States and Mexico are deeply integrated economically and that current opposition to such integration is fighting a battle that has already ended. Author Stephen Blank points out that the major challenges of our era will not be solved by individual governments because the challenges are not localized within the borders of any one country. Instead, there needs to be cooperation across the entire continent.

Blank also wrote a paper on trade corridors in North America for the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States (ACSUS). The paper looks at the history of integration between the U.S. and Canada and the affect that trade corridors have on competitiveness.

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

To read *Trade Corridors and North American Competitiveness*, [click here](#).

Part Three: Give P3s a chance: Public-private partnerships can help solve our infrastructure problems.

In his fortnightly column, AIMS acting President Charles Cirtwill dispels some of the baseless fears that pop-up whenever a government even suggests partnering with private industry to provide a service. He notes that P3s allow the government to tackle projects it wouldn't otherwise be able to contemplate unless it raised taxes or cut public service jobs to pay for it.

To read Cirtwill's column, [click here](#).

Part Four: Opening our arms: Atlantic Canada must do more to attract immigrants.

Demographic data released by Statistics Canada show that Atlantic Canada's population is getting older. After the release, many reporters turned to AIMS for an explanation of what such information means for public policy. AIMS acting President Charles Cirtwill explains that governments have to do a better job of attracting immigrants to the region. It is a key policy issue if the region is to remain competitive today and in the future.

To read an article from The Canadian Press on the measures Nova Scotia is taking to attract immigrants, [click here](#).

To read the Chronicle Herald story outlining the demographic problems facing Nova Scotia, [click here](#).

To read the Daily Gleaner article highlighting the troubles encountered by immigrants hoping to work in New Brunswick, [click here](#).

Part Five: Power play: The wasteful court battle of the deposed Halifax Regional School Board members.

The Chronicle-Herald asked AIMS acting President Charles Cirtwill to weigh in on the ongoing Halifax Regional School Board power struggle. His advice was simple. The deposed school board members should resign, forcing an election and letting the public decide their fate. He says appealing a court decision that the Minister of Education was within her right to remove the elected board members is a waste of money, both the councillors', but more importantly tax-payers'.

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

Part Six: A failing grade: New Brunswick's education results showcase the need for change.

As soon as the latest Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) results were released in Paris, education reporters were calling AIMS to help interpret the results. In this article, senior policy analyst Bobby O'Keefe explains that New Brunswick needs to start using performance data to make improvements to its public education, or it will continue to languish at the bottom of the pack.

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

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