



# THE BEACON



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*Where Tomorrow's Public  
Policy Begins Today*

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## **Part One: 12 Days for Giving: Your support to AIMS can make a difference.**

Have you sent your annual donation yet this year? With roughly 12 days left in this tax year please mail your cheque today to AIMS, Suite 1302 – Cogswell Tower, 2000 Barrington Street, Halifax, NS B3J 1K9. (902-429-1143)

As 2009 winds down, we ask that you consider the valuable and thought-provoking research conducted by AIMS through the year. We feel such research on key public policy issues is more important than ever in these economic times, and ask that you help us continue our work.

Whether it is fighting for more information on what goes on in our schools through the annual High School Report Card, or addressing government accountability through our National Municipal Performance Report, or questioning the obsolete regulations covering Canada's communications industry, we tackle the issues that matter to our day to day life.

AIMS takes no money from government. We depend on the support of people like you, who value what we do. Without that support, AIMS would not exist. Every donation, from \$25 to \$25,000 (and above) matters. AIMS is a registered charity, so you receive a charitable receipt for every donation, Please make sure we have your contact information. You can also set up a monthly payment plan.

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## **Part Two: Calming the rhetoric: AIMS op/ed reminds all it's an MOU**

It is likely the single most controversial issue in Atlantic Canadian politics today; the MOU to sell NB Power to Hydro Quebec. When New Brunswick Premier Shawn Graham and Quebec Premier Jean Charest signed that piece of paper they ignited a hailstorm of controversy.

This op-ed by AIMS President and CEO Charles Cirtwill appeared in newspapers in New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador. He explains that people appear to be ignoring one issue in the hoopla over the proposed sale - it's not done yet.

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

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### **Part Three: Just the facts: AIMS provides a point by point analysis of what the NB Power MOU really says, or doesn't say**

When the New Brunswick government signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Hydro Quebec to sell NB Power, it knew the proposed deal would be controversial. And it has been. However, it has also generated considerable public discussion about provincial utilities, electricity, exports. With the rhetoric on both sides increasing in decibels, AIMS waded in with this independent review of the MOU.

Written by Gordon L. Weil, President of Standard Energy Company in Maine and a well-respected analyst of the electrical industry, the analysis quickly became recommended reading for everyone interested in the issue.

"[This paper](#) and its conclusion have nothing to do with NB politics," said Weil. "People there will decide if what the deal really produces is sufficient to make it worthwhile. I make no recommendation on accepting the deal, but explore areas where more work might be done before a final agreement."

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

This isn't the first time AIMS has examined NB Power, follow [this link](#) to more research to better understand this topical issue.

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### **Part Four: Power, People and Productivity: AIMS in the headlines**

**Good for Hydro-Québec, bad for N.B.** - This columnist in the New Brunswick Telegraph Journal has strong praise for AIMS' analysis of the NB Power MOU by Gordon Weil. She suggests "all concerned New Brunswickers should send a copy of the Weil analysis to a Liberal MLA and ask for a direct response to every point."

**Minister pushes regional partnerships in Halifax** - New Brunswick Finance Minister Greg Byrne chose an AIMS luncheon in Halifax to bring a message to the region - we need more cooperation.

**No quick deal to create power corridor** - The MOU to sell NB Power to Hydro Quebec dominated an AIMS luncheon in Halifax with guest speaker NB Finance Minister Greg Byrne. Among the questions he was asked was whether there is a deal possible to allow a transmission line through his province for Nova Scotia or Newfoundland power.

**N.S. Power keeping close eye on N.B.-Quebec deal** - New Brunswick Finance Minister Greg Byrne's appearance in Halifax speaking to an AIMS' luncheon generated numerous news stories, particularly in light of the proposed sale of NB Power to Hydro Quebec.

**Selling the power deal to Atlantic counterparts** - It was an opportune engagement. Just one week after delivering his budget, New Brunswick Finance Minister Greg Byrne was in Halifax

speaking to an AIMS' luncheon. The resulting stories covered his tax reform plans, and of course, the proposed sale of NB Power.

**Tax reductions aimed at bolstering N.B. businesses, minister says** - NB Finance Minister Greg Byrne brings his tax reform message to Halifax at an AIMS' luncheon. New Brunswick's tax reform plan very nearly mirrors a submission made to an NB legislative committee on tax reform.

**Byrne promotes budget, NB Power deal in N.S.** - NB Finance Minister Greg Byrne was the guest speaker at an AIMS event in Halifax where he pitched his recent budget and defended the decision to sell NB Power to Hydro Quebec. This story appeared in the Fredericton Daily Gleaner.

**CUPE NS President Off to New Brunswick for Labour Summit on NB Power Deal** - It's an unusual endorsement, but the president of CUPE Nova Scotia says AIMS' analysis of the NB Power MOU by Gordon Weil makes a lot of sense.

**Labour unions launching campaign to stop proposed sale of NB Power** - The hot topic for public policy discussion in New Brunswick spilled into Nova Scotia at an AIMS event. NB Finance Minister Greg Byrne was called on by union leaders attending the AIMS luncheon to explain the deal to sell NB Power to Hydro Quebec. This story by The Canadian Press was picked up by newspapers around the region.

**Report suggests New Brunswick could lose control of power under Hydro-Quebec deal** - Debate over the MOU to sell NB Power to Hydro Quebec is taking up a lot of time in the NB legislature. In this story, NB Energy Minister Jack Keir says the regulatory concerns raised in an analysis of the MOU completed for AIMS are flawed.

**Hydro-Quebec-NB Power deal questioned** - An analysis of the MOU to sell NB Power to Hydro Quebec, completed for AIMS, is the basis of this article in The Western Star, a newspaper in Corner Brook, Newfoundland.

**Unease growing in U.S. over power pact, energy expert says** - An analysis, published by AIMS, of the MOU to sell NB Power to Hydro Quebec received wide coverage in New Brunswick. In this article, author Gordon Weil explains why the proposed sale raises concerns in the United States.

**Province Says It Will Pay Fair Share of Any Additional NB Power Transmission Lines** - The proposed sale of NB Power to Hydro Quebec is being closely watched in Newfoundland and Labrador as well as Nova Scotia. An analysis of the MOU published by AIMS received white coverage and prompted some politicians to respond to the issues raised in the analysis.

**Study raises concerns about competition in proposed NB Power sale** – AIMS' analysis of the MOU to sell NB Power to Hydro Quebec is featured in this article in OilWeek magazine's online edition.

**National interest lacks defender** – A Cape Breton Post editorial calls for a federal regulatory agency for energy transmission. The discussion was prompted by a recent AIMS' analysis of the MOU to sell NB Power.

**Freedom Update** - This blog tells readers to go to the AIMS website to check out our paper on the shifting demographics of Atlantic Canada and policy options to lessen the impact.

**Justify pay raises with performance data** – A policy analyst with the Frontier Centre for Public Policy uses in this column AIMS' research on municipal performance to make the point about the need for performance data for municipal leaders and municipalities.

**Communities must fight complacency: John Risley** – Business leader John Risley points out the region needs to work hard to improve education performance. It's a position shared in this article by AIMS President Charles Cirtwill.

**Cheering for population decline** - This Telegraph-Journal columnist explains that AIMS latest paper on the population crunch facing Atlantic Canada makes for an interesting and enlightening read.

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