



2012 Annual Report
2013 Rapport Annuel



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The People Behind AIMS 2012/2013

L' équipe de l'AIMS 2012/2013

AIMS Board of Directors

Le Conseil d'administration de l'AIMS

John Risley, Chair
 Purdy Crawford, Chairman Emeritus
 John F. Irving, Past Chair
 Charles R. Cirtwill, President & CEO
 Doug Hall, Vice Chair
 Andrew Oland, Vice Chair
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 Fae Shaw, Secretary to the Board
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 Mary Keith
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 Maxime St-Pierre
 Nancy Tower
 Paul Antle
 Peter Woodward
 Dr. Robert Campbell
 Stephen Emmerson
 Tim Banks

AIMS Advisory Council

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 Paul D. Sobey
 Ivan E. H. Duvar
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James Gogan
 Colin Latham
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 Cedric E. Ritchie
 Allan C. Shaw
 Gerald L. Pond
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 George T.H. Cooper
 George Bishop

AIMS Research Advisory Board

Comité consultatif sur la recherche

Dr. Robin F. Neill, Chairman
 Dr. Charles S. Colgan
 Dr. Doug May
 Dr. Robert A. Mundell
 Dr. Jim McNiven
 Dr. Morley Gunderson
 Dr. J. Colin Dodds

AIMS Research Fellows

Fellows en recherche de l'AIMS

Angus McBeath, Fellow in Public Education Reform
 Alex Wilner, Fellow in Security and Defence Policy
 Brian Ferguson, Fellow in Health Care Economics
 Harry Koza, Fellow in Financial Markets
 David MacKinnon, Senior Fellow in Fairness and Confederation;
 the Ontario Perspective
 David Zitner, Fellow in Healthcare Policy
 Julia Witt, Fellow in Pharmaceutical Policy
 Patrick Luciani, Senior Fellow in Urban Policy
 Patrick Fenwick, Fellow in Fisheries and Newfoundland Issues
 Stephen Blank, Fellow in Continental Interdependence
 Michael Zwaagstra, Fellow in Common Sense Education
 Brian Lee Crowley, Senior Fellow

AIMS Staff**Personnel de l'AIMS**

Charles Cirtwill, President and CEO

Juanita Spencer, Manager of Research and Operations

Eric Blake, Policy Analyst

Collette Deschenes, Communication Coordinator

Julia Kirkey, Communications Associate, Events

Tiffany Connell, Operations Assistant

Message from the Chairman



Few people consider me a shrinking violet, and with good reason. I believe in providing clear leadership and direction, in business and in my community. If you ask me what I think, I will tell you, and I will explain why. AIMS is much like that, and I am proud to be one of its staunchest supporters because of it. Good, well-reasoned, evidence based public policy affects every one of our lives. If, as a society, we get policy wrong, the harm we cause can take generations to repair.

In this annual report, you will find a sampling of the Institute's accomplishments of the past year in keeping our region from going down the wrong road, or helping it get back on the right one. I believe our work matters and it makes a difference, and I am certain you will agree.

One particular highlight for me from this past year was the special AIMS dinner featuring insights from the Federal Finance Minister, the Honourable Jim Flaherty. This event welcomed 180 guests to the Prince George Hotel, where I had the pleasure of joining Minister Flaherty for an hour-long 'fireside chat'

on Canada's fiscal forecast and challenges to the global economy. AIMS did an exceptional job hosting this event, which garnered extensive media coverage nationwide.

We also had the privilege of hosting the Honourable Scott Brison, M.P. Kings, for a breakfast event to discuss Atlantic Canada's future and how increased cooperation between the provinces has the potential not just to enhance our economic prospects, but also our region's political power. And Alessandro Colombo, Director of the Strategic Unit at the Eupolis Lombardia Institute for Research, Statistics, and Training, joined us for two events where he advanced the principles and benefits of subsidiarity, specifically the Lombardy model, where public services are rooted in local control and individual responsibility.

AIMS continued to influence public policy and opinion by offering reasoned, informed perspectives and alternative approaches to our current social, political and economic challenges. Once again, we tackled the inherent flaws in the delivery of equalization. We suggested bold new approaches to health care that position it as an economic driver for our region. And we looked at how governance in health care is compromising the opportunity for innovation in delivery.

Advancing new views and alternatives in public policy also means providing opportunities for a new generation of thinkers to be heard. One of our newest, boldest initiatives, AIMS on Campus, took a leap forward with our inaugural class of fellows. These bright young minds from across Canada represent a range of views on everything from academia to the free market. We are excited to see how their opinions will influence public opinion and shape our nation's future.

All of these activities and initiatives would not be possible without our highly dedicated staff, starting with our outgoing President & CEO Charles Cirtwill. Throughout his tenure, AIMS maintained its focus on the impact of public policies on our regional – and national – health and prosperity. I thank him for twelve years of excellence, and our staff - including Manager of Research and Operations Juanita Spencer, Communications Coordinator Collette Deschenes, Communications assistant Julia Kirkey, Operations Assistant Tiffaney Connell and Policy

Analyst Eric Blake – for their outstanding work this past year.

I also thank our many generous funders – corporations, foundations and individuals – for your ongoing support. We are truly indebted to you for assisting us in addressing the vital, pressing issues that will determine our region's future.

This brings me to my fellow Board members, whose knowledge, insights and hard work remain an invaluable asset to AIMS. I thank them all, not just for their continued faith in my capabilities as Board chair, but for their expert guidance and unwavering support. In particular, I'd like to acknowledge the efforts of those members who are leaving the board this year: Don Mills and Lou Maroun have both served ably on the AIMS Board for extended periods and have made significant contributions to our success. Nancy Tower and Tim Banks while only with us for a short time, will also be difficult to replace. But most daunting to me is the fact that I am losing both of my sitting Vice-Chairs to the curse of term limits. Andrew Oland and Doug Hall have been at my side for all of my time as Chair and their counsel will be sorely missed.

This year marks a time of significant transition for AIMS at both the Board and staff level. But change is opportunity and I have every faith that we at AIMS will seize this opportunity as we have seized others and use it to make a difference in the lives of our friends and neighbours. I look forward to continuing to contribute to that goal.

John Risley

Chair

Message from the President



Change is a vital thing. It's the process by which we mature, gaining new insights and information, but it is more than that. Change is how we achieve that brighter future we all aspire to. Without change, the public policies that shape our society stagnate, the drivers of our economy become unsustainable and the fundamental services we rely on to keep our communities healthy – everything from education to health care – fail us.

AIMS was founded on a principle of change – changing the minds of decision makers and opinion leaders to pursue a course of public policy development that improves our economic and societal outlook. We've never wavered from that commitment, not just in challenging our own, and prevailing perceptions, on the best approaches to realize our region's full potential, but in refreshing our leadership and membership to ensure we have the best mix of experience, perspectives and skills addressing this challenge and pursuing change. That has been the key to our success.

In that spirit, it is appropriate that I am departing after twelve years at AIMS, the past four as AIMS' President and CEO. I am excited to see what AIMS will achieve with new blood and new vision. Because even as we change in composition, and in focus, one thing does not, and will not, change: our commitment to advancing well-researched ideas that will invigorate our region.

Take the topic of regional cooperation, which has gained considerable traction of late in public and political debate. AIMS has been at the forefront of this conversation over the past year, inviting the Honourable Scott Brison, M.P. Kings, to share his thoughts on how greater cooperation between the Atlantic Provinces could increase our economic prosperity and political clout in a very popular breakfast event. Authors Gordon Weil & Ross McEachern published a paper arguing that that a regional power pool could result in significant benefits for all four provinces. Meanwhile, Author Jim McNiven advances the proposition that it's the larger provinces that should split up in Let's Break Up Ontario, continuing our legacy of creative thinking.

We also called for changes to equalization, a program that continues to have negative impacts for all Canadians. Our concerns were well articulated by our Senior Fellow in Fairness in Confederation; the Ontario Perspective, David MacKinnon, who maintained that this broken system is holding our region back from achieving economic prosperity. Meanwhile, author Juanita Spencer argued that transfer payments would be more effective if they were made to individuals instead of institutions; offering a more effective mechanism for not only funding, but targeting, public services and restraining the ability of organized interests to steal a "free-ride".

Equalization isn't the only broken system we examined this past year. We also offered a diagnosis for rehabilitating our ailing health care system at Open For Business: Creating Wealth Through Better Health. This conference attracted 80 attendees to hear proven strategies for transforming health care from a financial burden into an engine of economic growth. A second opinion came from Dr. Michael Gross, who authored a paper detailing how the current relationship between provincial governments and the organizational structure that delivers health care is not only preventing innovation in the system, it is precipitating its decline.

The changes we are calling for through our events and publications continue to draw the interest of traditional and new media across Canada. Over the past year alone, our staff and authors were prominently featured in hundreds of print and broadcast news stories, providing context, perspective and alternative solutions in response to the issues of the day. It's likely you read one of our many Op-Eds in newspapers such as the Globe and Mail, the National Post or any of Atlantic Canada's influential dailies. Or perhaps you saw us on your evening news. Either way, our message is reaching millions of Canadians, and they are responding.

Online our message is spreading as well. This year we introduced Common Sense in Education, a ten episode YouTube video series exploring the foolish fads that compromise our public education system that has drawn thousands of viewers (and been rebroadcast in its entirety on Sun News). And we launched the AIMS on Campus blog, giving tomorrow's thought leaders a podium to start shaping our world today. Through these innovative outlets, we are influencing debate and discussion on the public policies that truly benefit our region. As our presence and reach grows, so does our base of support. Donors at all levels continue to fund our work and we are grateful to them for their investment. Their generosity is the cornerstone of our success, enabling us to develop independent, fact-driven research and ideas to influence public policy so that it actually benefits the public.

It takes a strong team to gather this research and develop these ideas, and the AIMS team represents some of the most creative and knowledgeable individuals in the region. I am particularly grateful to our Chair, John Risley, and his colleagues on our Board of Directors, whose commitment to AIMS and our undertakings is unwavering and virtually boundless. They sustain and guide us in all of our initiatives, ensuring we maintain the degree of quality and intellectual rigor that people have come to expect from us.

That has been a constant, even as our team changes. In that light, I offer special thanks to colleagues who departed AIMS this past year: Collette Deschenes, Julia Kirkey, Justin Zinck and Tiffaney Connell. I also take this opportunity to welcome Eric Blake, who joined our team this year and has made an immediate contribution to the AIMS legacy. I can say without reservation AIMS remains well stocked with people qualified to build on our history of success.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the authors and researchers who gather the data, outline the ideas and conduct the peer reviews necessary to produce our reports and commentaries. This includes active research fellows and authors like Angus McBeath, Michael Zwaagstra, David Mackinnon, and Gordon Weil and the numerous other authors and experts who routinely step up at far below consulting rates to make a difference here in our communities and far beyond. I also give thanks to our Research Advisory Board which, under the watchful eye of chair Robin Neill, carefully vets all of our work before it is published.

In closing, I would be remiss in not offering special mention to three of my closest collaborators in my time at AIMS. It was indeed an honour and a privilege to work beside Brian Lee Crowley for so many years and to have the opportunity to see him literally take off his jacket, roll up his sleeves, and get to work wowing audience after audience. Paul Bennett and I share many of the same wounds from taking on entrenched education interests and pushing to put students, not administrators, first. And finally, my friend and colleague Rick Audas, with whom I brought the vision of a balanced and contextually fair report card on school performance to fruition. AIMS is all about shining a light in the dark places of poor public policy, and no project in AIMS history has done that as well and for as long as the Atlantic High School Report Card.

Many hands make light work they say, and over twelve years I have had many hands to help me. For all of those

that space here does not allow time to mention, my sincerest thanks – rest assured I know who you are, just as well as you do.

Charles Cirtwill

President

Papers and Publications

Mémoires, Rapports, et Publications

The Muskrat Falls Hydro Project

October, 9, 2012

Gordon Weil

In this commentary, Gordon Weil examines the project to develop Muskrat Falls. Weil identifies the benefits, costs and risks of the Muskrat Falls hydroelectric project, to both Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

Regional Cooperation in Electricity Exchanges in Atlantic Canada: Steps Toward the Creation of an Atlantic Power Pool

October 23, 2012

Gordon Weil & Ross McEacharn

Gordon Weil & Ross McEacharn find that a regional power pool in Atlantic Canada could bring significant benefits to all four provinces

Creative Cities

October 30, 2012

Bill Black

Bill Black of New Start Nova Scotia notes that Halifax lags far behind other Canadian cities in its support for the Arts.

Re-light my fire

November 22, 2012

John Risley

In this commentary, AIMS Board Chair John Risley explains that Canada needs to put a real focus on building entrepreneurs.

This Rose, By Any Name, Stinks

November 28, 2012

Juanita Spencer

In this paper, AIMS Author Juanita Spencer explains how property taxes are just a badly designed income tax. Spencer considers the proposition of a municipal income tax in light of national and international experiences and by applying Adam Smith's four maxims on taxation: Equity, Certainty, Convenience and Efficiency.

Canada's Broken Equalization Program

December 7, 2012

David McKinnon

In this commentary, AIMS Senior Fellow in Fairness in Confederation; the Ontario Perspective David McKinnon argues that Canada's equalization program is counterproductive and unprincipled.

Crisis? What Crisis?

January 10, 2013

Ian Munro

This paper, Crisis? What Crisis?, written by Ian Munro, examines the widely held view that there is a shortage of child care spaces in Nova Scotia. Munro provides a basic analysis of the supply-demand balance for child care spaces in Nova Scotia.

Missing the point

January 17, 2013

John Risley

In this commentary AIMS Board Chair John Risley examines the attempts to reduce the deficit and resolve the fiscal cliff in the United States.

Let's Break up Ontario!

January 23, 2013

Jim McNiven

In this commentary 'Let's Break up Ontario,' author Jim McNiven looks at the recent proposal to merge the three Maritime provinces.

Radio Free Canada

January 30, 2013

Ian Munro

The time has come to wind down Canadian content requirements and foreign ownership restrictions in the communications sector.

Turning the tide: preparing Atlantic Canada for the challenges ahead

February 19, 2013

Hon. Scott Brison, M.P.

In this commentary, based on a speech presented to AIMS, MP Scott Brison discusses how we should pursue deeper economic cooperation between the Atlantic provinces.

PEI Electricity Policy: A Review of the PEI Energy Commission Report

February 26, 2013

Gordon Weil

This commentary written by Gordon Weil reviews the PEI Energy Commission's proposals for possible risks, especially to customers.

Governance in Health Care

April 3, 2013

Dr. Michael Gross

Dr. Michael Gross examines impediments to innovation in the Canadian health care system.

The great enabler

April 9, 2013

In this commentary, AIMS Board Chair John Risley explains the importance of infrastructure as an enabler for growth.

Reclaiming At Risk Children and Youth

June 11, 2013

Dr. Paul Bennett

In this comprehensive research report, author Paul Bennett demonstrates that, while SchoolsPlus (SP) is a worthwhile provincial integrated services delivery (ISD) initiative, it is in need of a 'mid-term correction' to ensure its ultimate success and reach its target population, the 5 to 10 per cent of children and youth at risk of going off-the rails.

Is the obesity-industry-complex making us fat?

June 25, 2013

Patrick Luciani

In this Commentary, author Patrick Luciani suggests obesity is better understood as consequence of affluence than a disease or epidemic. Stadium Studies

Selected AIMS Special Events Événements Spéciaux



Photo Credit: Ontario Chamber of Commerce

On Thursday, 6 June 2012, AIMS hosted a special dinner which featured insights from the Federal Finance Minister, the Honourable Jim Flaherty. The event saw 150 guests gather at the Prince George Hotel to hear an hour-long ‘fireside chat’ between AIMS Chairman John Risley and Minister Flaherty. This event, which received significant media coverage across Canada, also featured an informative open question & answer session with the audience and Minister Flaherty.

Selected Talks and Speeches; AIMS' Events;
AIMS as Invited Guests
Discourse choisis de AIMS



AIMS Health Conference – Open for Business: Creating Wealth through Better Health
November 15, 2012

At Open for Business, presenters from here at home and around the globe shared their expert knowledge and experience on issues of medical tourism, ITC in healthcare, profiting from healthcare and health research, venture capital and alternative payment models. The conference aimed to bring together health professionals, policy makers and the business community to discuss innovative ways to turn health care from a cost to society into an economic benefit for all Canadians. Through this conference, AIMS is offered a prescription for growth and prosperity – sustainable prosperity built here at home and not dependent on transfers or taxation.

**AIMS on Campus Outreach Event and Halifax Club Speech with Alessandro Colombo, Director of the Strategic Unit at the Éupolis Lombardia Institute for Research, Statistics, and Training
March 26, 2012**

As part of its AIMS on Campus outreach, AIMS hosted Alessandro Colombo from the Éupolis Lombardia Institute to discuss Lombardy's approach to public service delivery. The Lombardy model is an approach to universal public services rooted in local control and individual responsibility, driven by three core principles: the pluralism of the offer, freedom of choice and fiscal subsidiarity. Alessandro shared his expertise with students from Dalhousie's School of Public Administration and spoke for an event at the Halifax Club in partnership with The Chronicle Herald.

**AIMS Breakfast Briefing with Scott Brison, Member of Parliament
for Kings-Hants
“The future of Atlantic Canada: A New East Partnership “
February 15, 2013**

Scott Brison, federal MP for Kings-Hants, gave the keynote speech to a group of business community representative at the Westin Nova Scotian hotel. Brison spoke passionately about the fiscal and demographic challenges facing the Maritimes and the need for a new approach to deal with them. While Brison was not in favour of a formal Maritime Union he believes in the benefits of increased mutual cooperation based on the New West Partnership. The greatest lesson of Brison's talk was that the costs of putting off tough choices will be high. The decisions we take now will inevitably be easier than those forced upon us in the future. Brison also took multiple questions and vigorously defended the role of immigration in growing the economy of the Maritimes.

**AIMS Speaking Tour – Municipal Income Tax
March 20, 2013**

In collaboration with the Nova Scotia Chambers of Commerce and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, AIMS took its proposal for a municipal income tax to the public. For the first time, these three groups joined together in an attempt to bring awareness of the alternatives to the property tax system in use globally and their strengths and weaknesses, including a proposed municipal income tax system.

Selected AIMS Commentary

Commentaires divers de AIMS

The following is a sampling of the op-eds written by AIMS staff and authors that appeared in newspapers across the country. The sampling includes material prompted by AIMS' research and written by independent columnists and newspaper editors.

Is Your Care The Same As An Olympic Athlete?: You can do better

October 1, 2012

AIMS board member David Zitner argues that patients in Nova Scotia should have access to their laboratory results to ensure that results are not lost, ignored or not communicated.

How to make math education worse in N.S.

October 3, 2012

In this op-ed, AIMS Fellow in Common Sense Education Michael Zwaagstra examines the new math education curriculum adopted by the NS government in an attempt to improve math instruction. Zwaagstra concludes that this with this new curriculum we can expect math education to get worse in Nova Scotia. The province must adopt a rigorous curriculum that emphasizes the necessary knowledge and skills.

Lower Churchill will benefit region, with fewer risks for N.S., report says

October 9, 2012

Energy consultant from Maine and AIMS contributor Gordon Weil says the Atlantic region will benefit from the Lower Churchill energy project, but Newfoundland's risks are greater than those for Nova Scotia.

Muskrat Falls risks should be limited

October 23, 2012

In this op-ed, Gordon Weil energy market expert and author of the recent commentary "The Muskrat Falls Hydro Project: Opportunities and Risks," says that the Muskrat Falls project could bring benefit to Newfoundland and Labrador if its risks were reduced.

Think local control over private means to public ends

October 26, 2012

In this op-ed, AIMS President & CEO Charles Cirtwill looks at the 'Lombardy Model' based on the principles of subsidiarity

Economic action plan? Just watch him

November 24, 2012

In this op-ed, AIMS President & CEO Charles Cirtwill says that Canada's economic action plan is well underway. Canada's premiers, who met at their summit for the economy this past week, should watch Prime Minister Harper if they want to know what he plans to do on the economy. If they want a nationally co-ordinated economic strategy, they might consider emulating him.

Let's co-operate to be competitive

December 13, 2012

In this op-ed AIMS President & CEO Charles Cirtwill responds to the recent proposal for a Maritime Union. Cirtwill says that the evidence gives little hope that a political union would deliver any of the savings and efficiencies promised. He suggests we find the areas where we can, cooperatively, enhance competition inside the region, or collectively, improve our competitive position outside it.

P.E.I. needs to make a better impression

January 29 2013

In this op-ed, David MacKinnon says that P.E.I needs a fundamental change. By almost any financial and economic standard, P.E.I. is failing. He suggests ways in which P.E.I can change for the better.

Find revenue in cuts, not taxes

February 15, 2012

In this op-ed AIMS President & CEO Charles Cirtwill says that if NB Premier Alward is a smart politician, he will keep cutting services. If he isn't, hang onto your wallets.

Taxes won't fix obesity

February 20, 2013

In this op-ed AIMS senior fellow in Urban Policy, Patrick Luciani says that taxing junk food will no doubt increase revenues but will do nothing to decrease obesity.

Ok, taxes are up, now what?

April 15, 2013

In this op-ed in the Saint John Telegraph-Journal, AIMS President & CEO Charles Cirtwill says the provincial government must capitalize on its decision to raise taxes and further invest in New Brunswick's future.

Income-based tax best model

March 2 ,2013

Michael Bradfield, research associate, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives; Charles Cirtwill, president, Atlantic Institute for Market Studies; and Wayne Fiander, executive director, Nova Scotia Chambers of Commerce respond to an editorial by Marilla Stephenson on the idea of municipal income tax.

Challenges to Muskrat Falls produce opportunities

July 31, 2013

AIMS author Gordon Weil comments on Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board Maritime Link ruling.

Blame government for rationing care

September 20, 2013

AIMS Fellow in Healthcare Policy, Dr. David Zitner, sets the record straight on who controls our health care.

Sampling of AIMS in the media

AIMS dans les Médias

The following are just a small sampling of the distinct news articles written in the past year quoting AIMS staff or our research. We continue to be in demand to explain public policy issues and our research is often used to generate discussion on key issues. In addition, AIMS is increasing its presence on social media and blogs.

Why should location affect education?

September 26, 2012

In this article, AIMS President and CEO Charles Cirtwill comments on the open boundary public school model and notes that the adoption of an open boundary system in Halifax would lead to less division along socio-economic lines than Halifax already has.

Consultant calls for more oversight on Muskrat Falls

October 9, 2012

Taxpayers in Newfoundland and Labrador should be offered more information and more protections when it comes to the Lower Churchill development, according to energy consultant and AIMS contributor Gordon Weil.

Report urges power pooling

October 24, 2012

Gordon Weil and Ross McEacharn have produced a report, released by AIMS, that urges the four Atlantic provinces to create a regional power pool.

Think local control over private means to public ends

October 26, 2012

In this op-ed, AIMS President & CEO Charles Cirtwill looks at the ‘Lombardy Model’ based on the principles of subsidiarity.

Italian economist makes case for decentralization

October 29, 2012

Alessandro Colombo believes in the trickle-down effect, that transferring power from government to people makes society stronger. Colombo spoke to the Halifax Club Monday about how the Italian region has begun to move to a system of subsidiarity

N.S. bill for power project fluid

October 30, 2012

Earlier this month, the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies in Halifax released a report stating that the hydro-electric project was “highly desirable in terms of energy policy,” but the report called for an independent, in-depth review that would provide a comprehensive look at all aspects.

High hopes for economy

November 16, 2012

AIMS CEO and President Charles Cirtwill comments on the Nova Scotia’s shipbuilding deal, \$2b offshore plan and subsea cable. Cirtwill says that although the multiple projects slated for the province are promising, he recommends a dose of caution to accompany the hubris.

Baillie: Hold the line on power rates

November 19, 2012

Tory Leader Jamie Baillie says his party wants to freeze power rates and, by joining forces with our Atlantic Canada neighbours, Nova Scotians can even get cheaper electricity. Baillie said two recent studies support a regional grid — the Atlantic Energy Gateway Report and one conducted by the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies.

AIMS floats municipal income tax

November 28, 2012

AIMS released a discussion paper Wednesday that said “income taxes should replace property taxes as the principal source of local revenue.

Councillors Wrestle with Biz Tax Spikes

November 29, 2012

Article on allNovaScotia.com referencing AIMS’ latest paper ‘This Rose, By Any Name, Stinks.’

N.S. urged to utilize joint purchasing

December 10, 2012

President & CEO of the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies (AIMS), Charles Cirtwill remains unconvinced that marrying the three Atlantic provinces will solve their economic woes.

Disclose details of \$300 million loan payments to Irving: critics

December 11, 2012

The Minister of Economic and Rural Development says he’s hesitant to release the details of \$304 million in government loans to Irving Shipbuilding Inc. for fear of jeopardizing relations with the company – but local political observers aren’t buying that argument. Charles Cirtwill, president of the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies, says the province has an obligation to disclose the interest rates and repayment terms of the deal.

LEGER: Raising alarms on equalization, fairness and dependence

January 7, 2013

The current equalization formula expires next year. Think-tanks like the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies are churning out equalization alarms.

Impact of Maritime Link on rates comes Friday

January 24, 2013

Nova Scotians will find out Friday how much the Maritime Link will cost them. Gordon Weil, who wrote a report on Muskrat Falls last year for the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies, concluded the megaproject could benefit the Atlantic region but also carries risks.

Province urged to move on HST

January 29, 2013

AIMS President & CEO Charles Cirtwill says that New Brunswick does not have the luxury of waiting until the next election to determine whether it should implement new revenues measures – including a hike in the HST.

Winter Break

January 29, 2013

Dr. Paul Bennette authored 'School's Out, Again', for AIMS in April 2010, responding to a report written by retired superintendent Dr. James Gunn on 'Storm School Days', commissioned by Nova Scotia's Department of Education.

Think-tank calls for referendum on HST hike in New Brunswick

January 29, 2013

AIMS President & CEO Charles Cirtwill believes now is the time for the NB Alward government to hold a referendum on raising the HST, if its' planning to raise the tax.

Brison touts free trade for Maritimes

February 15, 2013

The Maritimes need a regional free trade agreement that holds harsh penalties for provinces that don't play along, says MP Scott Brison.

AIMS education reform videos on Sun News Network's Byline with Brian Lilley

February 20, 2013

AIMS education reform videos profiled on Byline on Sun News Network.

Income tax plan touted

February 24, 2013

Three groups spanning the political spectrum want the province to consider overhauling the municipal tax system so that a surcharge on income would be the main contributor to city coffers.

STEPHENSON: Municipal tax reform a hot potato for Savage, Dexter

February 26, 2013

Op-ed in The Chronicle Herald As three groups push for a shift to income tax as a way to fund municipal services, a problematic assumption has been made: that higher assessments have to equally mean higher tax bills.

Editorial: Taking a long view

March 1, 2013

MP Scott Brison gave a speech to the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies, calling for Maritimers to take a long view. He said that this region, with its debts expanding and fiscal capacity shrinking, could be courting insolvency within 10 years.

Income-based tax best model

March 2, 2013

Michael Bradfield, research associate, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives; Charles Cirtwill, president, Atlantic Institute for Market Studies; and Wayne Fiander, executive director, Nova Scotia Chambers of Commerce respond to an editorial by Marilla Stephenson on the idea of municipal income tax.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation - ON: #mnc2013

March 19, 2013

At the Manning Networking Conference Charles Cirtwill of the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies (AIMS) suggested replacing the government transfers with Milton Friedman's idea of a negative income tax.

CBC Interview: Charles Cirtwill on Municipal Income Tax

March 20, 2013

Charles Cirtwill sat down with CBC's Jean Laroche to discuss AIMS' discussion and presentation on municipal income taxes with CCPA-NS and NS Chambers March 20, 2013.

Municipal Tax Reform: Global Maritimes

March 22, 2013

AIMS President & CEO Charles Cirtwill talks municipal tax reform on Global Maritimes.

Global Maritimes: AIMS President & CEO

March 22, 2013

AIMS President & CEO Charles Cirtwill joined Global Maritimes Morning Show to talk about the recently released federal budget

Charles Cirtwill on the NB budget

April 5, 2013

AIMS President & CEO Charles Cirtwill was on News 88.9's Todd Veinotte show talking about the NB budget and his op-ed in the Telegraph Journal.

Canada's finance minister says European economic problems keep him up at night

June 6, 2013

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty speaks following a dinner in Halifax hosted by the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies.

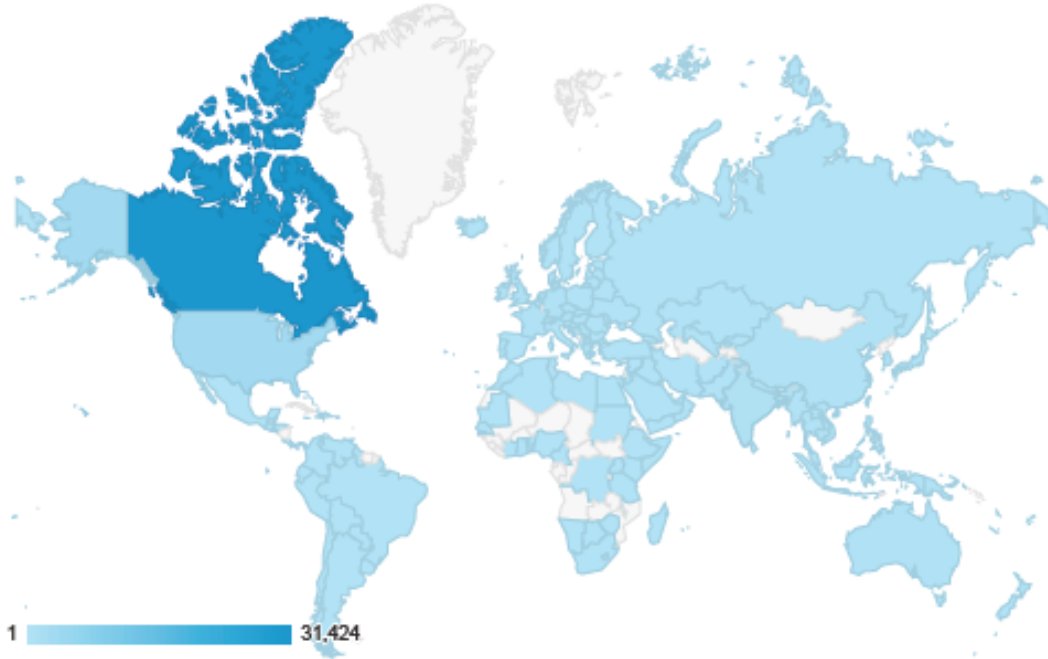
RELIEVING POVERTY: N.S. should bring in a new tax credit

July 5, 2013

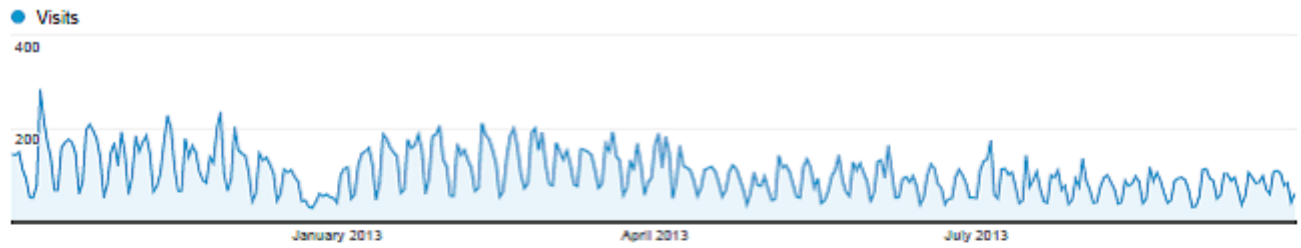
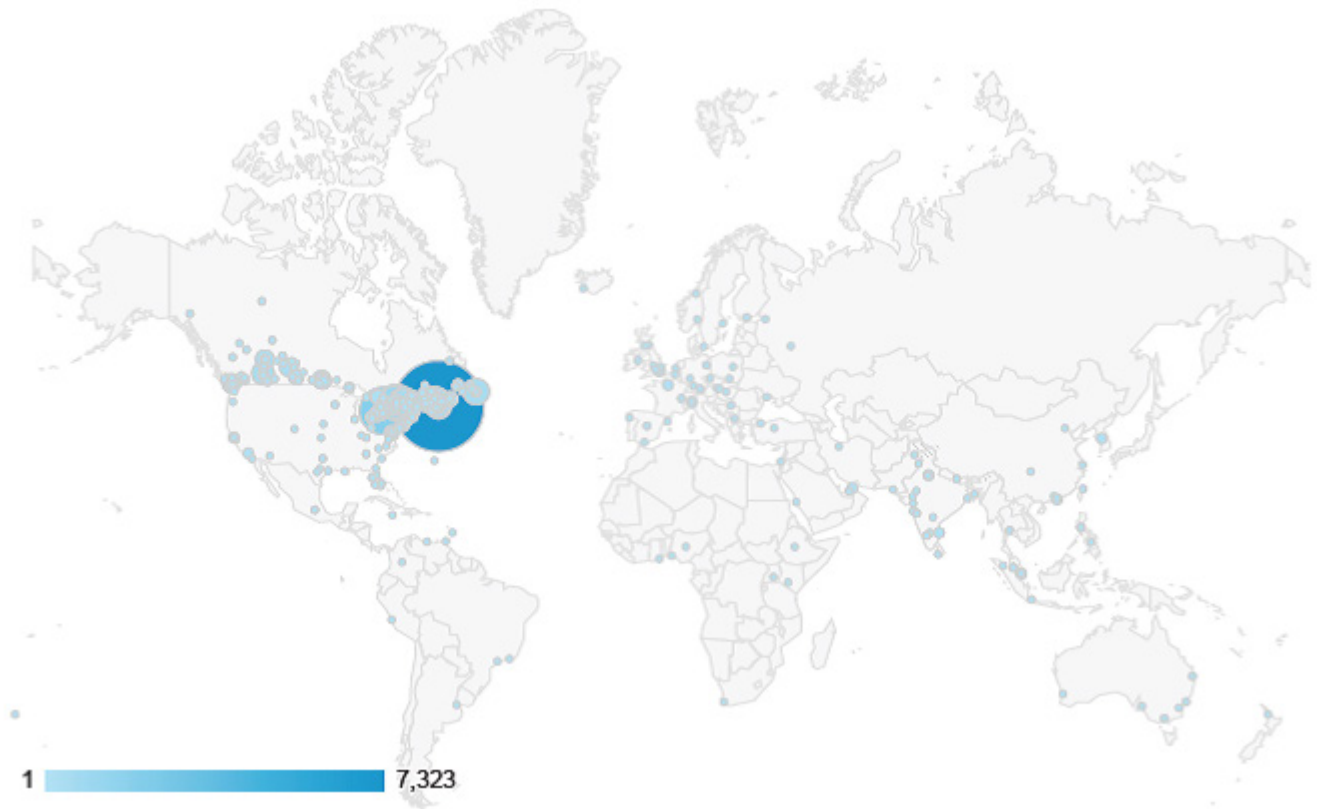
AIMS' Charles Cirtwill comments on a new tax credit for N.S.

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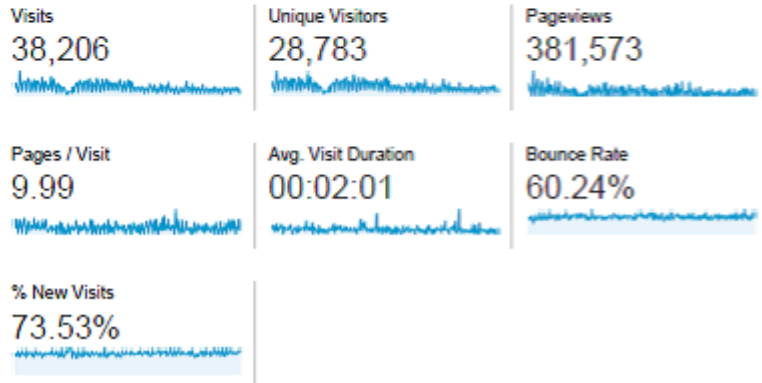
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