

2010 Annual Report
2011 Rapport annuel



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The People Behind AIMS 2010-2011

L'équipe de l'AIMS 2010-2011

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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
Peter Fenwick, Fellow in Fisheries and Newfoundland Issues
Stephen Blank, Fellow in Continental Interdependence
Brian Lee Crowley, Senior Fellow

AIMS Staff:

Charles Cirtwill, President and CEO
Lori Peddle, VP Operations
Don McIver, Director of Research
Jamie Newman, Policy Analyst
Paige T. MacPherson, Communications Officer

Message from the Chairman

There is never a time not to think, and there is no time better than an economic downturn to remind ourselves of that. I worry that, as a society, we seem to have forgotten or dismissed the value of careful and considered thought.

Let me start with an analogy I have used before: we send an email, one which is important (at least to the sender) and we expect a reply virtually instantly. Indeed, if one is not forthcoming within 15 minutes we begin to wonder if the recipient has died. Now think about this: assume that the question being asked is important. We must therefore want a careful and considered response, a response which has had the complete attention of the recipient. Is it reasonable to assume this could possibly have occurred within 15 minutes?

It is much the same with public policy. We know that good long term decisions are much more important and valuable than those focused on fixing current or short term problems. Yet, 'focus on the symptoms, not the disease' seems to be the order of the day. We encourage (and even reward) our political, institutional and corporate leadership to focus on the short term. Give us instant gratification!

AIMS is definitely NOT about instant gratification. Many of the files we are working on have been issues for our Institute from the very beginning, and issues for our region and our country for hundreds of years before that. Public policy – good public policy – requires time, analysis, and experimentation.

Consider some of the issues AIMS has explored this past fiscal year:

- The benefits of broad based consumption taxes and matching them with low income taxes with few, or no, deductions. This debate in New Brunswick is once again heating up and AIMS is at the forefront.
- Choice in education, defending it for Nova Scotian students with special needs and highlighting the benefits of it for everyone else. AIMS remains the focal point for discussions about freedom of education, not only in Atlantic Canada but across the country.
- Free and open trade and the value of breaking down barriers. AIMS spent much of this year talking about electricity generation and transmission throughout Atlantic Canada (and beyond) and about how to maximize the exciting opportunities created by the Muskrat Falls development. We have also been a strong voice against protectionism on both sides of the trading coin, opposing for example both the “buy American” and the “buy local” biases being built back into government procurement policies.

Good public policy takes time and it takes vision. AIMS exists to collect the evidence to support that vision, to analyse it, and then to encourage people to step beyond the now to the tomorrow. To recognize that today's actions and expenditures have serious ramifications for what we can or will have to do, tomorrow.

Good public policy requires fortitude. It requires the willingness to not do something just because it is popular. It also requires the even more difficult to find strength to stop doing something that is harmful, even if it is incredibly popular. AIMS works every day to help the people, and through them their leaders, find and understand the foundation upon which to make the necessary choices to improve the future for us all.



I want to take this opportunity to thank our hard-working staff for taking on the task of communicating this message of personal responsibility for the future. President & CEO Charles Cirtwill continues to keep AIMS focused on its core function, the examination of public policies that are relevant and important in our day to day lives. He is supported by a committed staff; Director of Research Don McIver, Operations Manager Lori Peddle, Government Accountability Manager Bobby O’Keefe and Research Assistant Denise Deslauriers.

In the following pages you will see a sampling of some of the work and accomplishments of the Institute in the past year. I would be remiss if I did not mention and thank our many funders – those corporations, foundations and individuals – whose support allows AIMS to do the important work it does. We are truly indebted to them.

Of course, I also want to thank all of my fellow Board members for their hard work and support. Their knowledge, insight and advice are a valuable asset to the Institute as well as to me personally as Chair. To those who are leaving the Board this year as their term expires, Wadih Fares, Heather Tulk, Perry Newman and Peter Oram, one last expression of our thanks.

I want to end with one more special note of thanks. Dianne Kelderman is leaving the Board this year after seven years of effort, including four as a Vice Chair. Dianne exemplifies everything that is right with our region. Her commitment to AIMS and to our goal of building a better more sustainable future for Atlantic Canada is a model for all of us to follow.

John Risley

Chair

Rapport du président du conseil d'administration

Il ne convient jamais d'éviter de réfléchir, et il n'y a pas de meilleur moment qu'un ralentissement économique pour nous rappeler de cette maxime. Je m'inquiète du fait qu'en tant que société, nous semblons avoir oublié ou négligé la valeur d'une analyse poussée et rigoureuse.

Je me permets de reprendre une analogie que j'ai déjà utilisée : nous envoyons un courriel important (c'est du moins ce que croit l'expéditeur), et nous nous attendons à recevoir une réponse quasi instantanément. En effet, si nous ne recevons pas de réponse dans les 15 minutes qui suivent, nous commençons à nous demander si le destinataire est toujours vivant. Assumons maintenant que la question est bel et bien importante. Nous souhaitons par conséquent recevoir une réponse réfléchie, dont les tenants et aboutissants auront été longuement examinés par la personne à qui la question était posée. Est-il raisonnable de présumer que cela n'aurait pu exiger que 15 minutes?

C'est en grande partie la même chose sur le plan de la politique publique. Nous savons que les bonnes décisions à long terme sont beaucoup plus importantes et beaucoup plus précieuses que les décisions qui visent à fixer les problèmes ponctuels ou les problèmes à court terme. Pourtant, on semble préconiser aujourd'hui de mettre l'accent sur les symptômes plutôt que sur la maladie même. Nous encourageons – nous récompensons même – les leaders politiques, institutionnels et communautaires qui se préoccupent d'abord et avant tout du court terme. Nous cherchons la gratification instantanée!

L'AIMS ne cherche certainement pas la gratification éclair. Beaucoup des dossiers dont nous nous occupons sont des questions et des enjeux qui préoccupent l'Institut depuis sa fondation, questions et enjeux qui préoccupaient déjà notre région et notre pays depuis des siècles. La politique publique – la bonne politique publique – exige temps, études et expérimentation.

Voyez certains des enjeux sur lesquels l'AIMS s'est penché pendant le dernier exercice financier :

- Les avantages des taxes à la consommation d'application générale associés à de faibles taux d'impôt sur le revenu avec peu ou pas de déductions. Le débat sur cette question fait de nouveau rage au Nouveau-Brunswick et l'AIMS est aux avant-postes.
- Le choix en matière d'éducation : nous plaidons particulièrement pour les élèves de Nouvelle-Écosse qui ont des besoins spéciaux et soulignons les avantages que représente le choix pour tous. L'AIMS reste au cœur des discussions sur la liberté d'enseignement, pas uniquement au Canada atlantique mais partout au pays.
- Le commerce libre et ouvert, et la valeur qui résulte de la disparition des obstacles. Pendant une grande partie de l'année, l'AIMS a parlé de production et de transmission d'énergie électrique partout au Canada atlantique (et au-delà) et des façons de maximiser les formidables possibilités que présente le projet Muskrat Falls. Nous nous sommes aussi exprimés haut et fort contre le protectionnisme des deux côtés de la frontière, et nous sommes opposés tant aux incitations « Buy American » qu'aux encouragements à « acheter des produits et des services locaux » exclusivement préconisés par les politiques gouvernementales.



Une bonne politique publique exige du temps et une vision claire. L'AIMS existe pour recueillir et analyser les preuves qui appuient cette vision, et pour encourager les responsables à agir pour demain. Pour rappeler que les mesures et les dépenses d'aujourd'hui auront d'importantes répercussions sur ce que nous pourrions ou devrions faire demain.

Une bonne politique publique exige courage et énergie. Une bonne politique publique exige le courage de refuser de faire quelque chose simplement parce que c'est populaire. Elle exige aussi d'avoir la force de mettre fin à une mesure nuisible, même si cette mesure jouit d'une grande faveur populaire. L'AIMS s'efforce tous les jours d'aider les gens et, ce faisant, leurs dirigeants, à cerner et à comprendre les bases sur lesquelles fonder les choix qui s'imposent pour assurer à tous un meilleur avenir.

Je souhaite profiter de l'occasion pour remercier le personnel formidable de l'AIMS qui assume la tâche de transmettre ce message de responsabilité personnelle pour l'avenir. Grâce à Charles Cirtwill, président et chef de la direction, l'AIMS garde le cap et reste centré sur son rôle fondamental qui est d'examiner les politiques publiques pertinentes et importantes dans la vie de tous les jours. Il bénéficie du soutien d'un personnel dévoué : Don McIver, directeur de la recherche; Lori Peddle, directrice des opérations; Bobby O'Keefe, directeur, responsabilisation de gestion du gouvernement, et Denise Deslauriers, adjointe de recherche.

Vous trouverez, dans les pages qui suivent, des exemples du travail de l'Institut au cours de la dernière année et de ses réalisations. Je m'en voudrais de ne pas mentionner nos nombreux bailleurs de fonds – sociétés, entreprises, fondations et particuliers – dont le soutien permet à l'AIMS de poursuivre ses importants travaux. Nous leur devons beaucoup.

J'adresse aussi mes remerciements à tous mes collègues membres du conseil d'administration pour leur travail et leur soutien. Leurs connaissances, leurs idées et leurs conseils sont de précieuses ressources pour l'Institut et pour moi personnellement en tant que président du conseil. À ceux et celles dont le mandat prend fin et qui quittent le conseil cette année – Wadih Fares, Heather Tulk, Perry Newman et Peter Oram – j'offre nos remerciements pour la dernière fois.

Je tiens à clore ce mot sur un dernier mot de reconnaissance. Dianne Kelderman quitte le conseil cette année, après sept années de travail, dont quatre en tant que vice-présidente. Dianne est l'illustration parfaite de tout ce que notre région a de meilleur. Son engagement à l'intérieur de l'AIMS et de notre objectif de bâtir un avenir meilleur et viable pour le Canada atlantique est un exemple que chacun de nous devrait suivre.

John Risley

Président du conseil

President's Message

From too big to fail to simply too big, AIMS began and ended the year with special guest speakers looking at the entitlement culture that has taken hold in much of the developed world and the havoc it has wrought.

Andrew Ross Sorkin, the award winning writer for the New York Financial Times captivated an audience of over 400 guests at a major AIMS dinner with tales from inside the financial meltdown. Bringing his trademark frankness and wit to the podium, Sorkin explained not only how he gained access to all of the “insiders” to this sordid tale of greed, regulatory ineptitude and government good intentions gone awry, but how the problem – even though foreseeable and indeed foreseen – was allowed to get out of hand, and how we might, not will, avoid repeating these mistakes going forward.

Twelve months later Tony Clement, President of the Treasury Board, was talking about the same themes: a well intentioned group of very smart people, starting out to make things better for everyone, gradually getting caught up in the belief that they and their associates were the smartest people in the room, that they have the answers and that only they can deliver them. Very smart, capable people believing as a consequence that they should be rewarded for their efforts and that they are, in the end, entitled to their entitlements. Other than the number of zeros in the pay cheques and perks, the story lines were eerily similar.

It was not surprising then that the proposed solutions were much the same: an end to cronyism, to corporate welfare, to special deals for special interests. That both Sorkin and Clement called for more openness, more caution about the value of the government's helping hand, and more focus on and resources for the things government should do and do well.

That is a message AIMS readers will know well, and one that permeated many of the pieces we published this year, whether the piece calling for a reality check in Nova Scotia by AIMS Board member and community gadfly Don Mills, or “Careless Intentions”, the piece by AIMS Director of research Don McIver highlighting how, like in the US housing bubble, the government's best intentions can often do more harm than good for depressed regions like Atlantic Canada.

Government encouraged and occasionally mandated monopolies, and the perverse consequences of the same, also took centre stage this year in a series of pieces on the electricity marketplace. Whether looking at the proposed sale of NB Power, the unique potential of Muskrat Falls, or the “green investments” so popular with governments around the globe, the evidence continues to suggest that accurate pricing and true competition does more to achieve sustainable and affordable electricity use than any other tool.

The same is true in health care with Europe continuing to move ahead of North America in terms of the quality of health outcomes and health delivery as they allow both flexibility of payment and provision – a stark contrast to the hidebound rules that have long held sway in Canada and that are taking root in the United States. Indeed, our commentary “How Europe plans to save Canada from itself” is a unique look at a little known benefit that free trade with Europe might bring across the pond: better and faster access to new and innovative drugs, and more investment in pharma R and D.



Of course, any AIMS annual report would be short changed without a comment on our continued pressure for informed and expanded choice in education. With the tuition support program (TSP) now a fully integrated part of Nova Scotia's public education system, our efforts have turned to exploring the benefits of expanding this program into rural areas of the province. As well, we believe that the success in Nova Scotia of public vouchers for children with special needs to attend private schools is a model for other cash strapped provinces to follow. Costing not one dollar more, there is no question the TSP makes a difference for kids who were being failed by more traditional schools. In fact, that belief that education should change to fit the child and not the child to fit the education, is what brought AIMS into partnership with a new grassroots movement in Nova Scotia known as "Students First". Every child, regardless of their interests or abilities, should be able to find a school that as closely as possible meets their needs.

In the pages that follow you will get more detail on these and many other subjects. AIMS is, after all, a full service think tank, and few issues of importance to you pass us by unnoticed.

In total, AIMS published 44 papers and Commentaries through fiscal 2010-11. Our staff and authors were featured in more 400 news stories in print and broadcast across the country. Op-eds written by our staff and authors appeared in the Globe and Mail, the National Post, the Calgary Herald, as well as all the major newspapers in Atlantic Canada. According to the reach of these media outlets, AIMS comment and analysis was read, viewed or listened to by millions of people through the year.

Our presence on social media has expanded exponentially, and our material is used regularly by tweeters and bloggers examining public policy from all different perspectives. Indeed one of my favourite experiences is having someone who "knows" they won't agree with us before they hear a speech or read something we have published realize at the end how much in line their thinking is with ours.

None of this would be possible without the generous financial support of philanthropic foundations, corporations, and the general public. Whether it is a contribution of \$20 or \$20,000, the generosity of our donors allows us to continue to do the work we do. I want to thank them all for their continued faith.

AIMS' work would not be possible without dedicated and committed staff, Board and funders. I want to echo the thanks offered to the AIMS team by our Chairman John Risley and I want to offer my thanks to colleagues who departed AIMS this year: Vice President Barbara Pike and Director of Accountability Bobby O'Keefe. I also want to welcome our two new staff: Director of Research Don McIver and Communications Officer Paige MacPherson.

A special thanks for the members of the Board who continue to give freely of their time and advice. Their informed insight of the major issues facing this region and country is valued by the Institute. Their feedback, both positive and negative, adds to the work that we do.

My thanks as well to our Research Fellows: Patrick Luciani, David Zitner, David MacKinnon, Brian Crowley, Harry Koza, and Angus McBeath. There is also the Research Advisory Board under the chairmanship of Robin Neill, that reviews all our material after it is peer reviewed and before it is published. And let me not forget our many authors, too many to name here. Without them AIMS would fall quickly into oblivion. Being able to attract the very best minds on specific subjects ensures that we are consistently presenting you with the very best ideas, so that you in turn can engage in full and informed debate about the issues that matter.

Charles Cirtwill

President

Rapport du président

Passer de « trop grosses pour disparaître » à tout simplement « trop grosses » : l'AIMS a commencé et clôturé l'année en compagnie de conférenciers qui ont parlé de la culture axée sur les droits enracinée dans une grande partie du monde développé et des ravages qu'elle a causés.

Au cours d'un dîner d'apparat réunissant plus de 400 convives, Andrew Ross Sorkin, journaliste et chroniqueur au New York Financial Times, lauréat de nombreux prix, a ravi l'auditoire en racontant la déconfiture du système financier vue de l'intérieur. Avec la franchise et l'humour qu'on lui connaît, Andrew Sorkin a expliqué non seulement comment il a obtenu accès à tous les « initiés » de cette sordide histoire de cupidité, d'incompétence en matière de réglementation et de bonnes intentions qui ont mal tourné, mais également comment les responsables ont laissé le problème – quoique prévisible, voire prévu – s'amplifier jusqu'à devenir incontrôlable. Il a aussi expliqué comment nous pourrions éviter – pas comment nous éviterons – de répéter ces erreurs à l'avenir.

Douze mois plus tard, Tony Clement, président du Conseil du Trésor, abordait les mêmes thèmes : un groupe de gens très intelligents, armés de très bonnes intentions, qui commencent par vouloir améliorer le sort de tous et qui se prennent au jeu et croient qu'eux et leurs collègues sont plus intelligents que le reste du monde, qu'ils sont les seuls à connaître toutes les réponses et à pouvoir appliquer les solutions. Des personnes intelligentes et compétentes qui, par conséquent, croient que leurs efforts méritent récompense et que tout leur est dû. Exception faite du nombre de zéros sur les chèques de paye, d'une foule d'avantages, les scénarios étaient très similaires.

Il ne faut donc pas se surprendre que les solutions proposées aient été sensiblement les mêmes : mettre fin au copinage, au parasitisme des entreprises, aux programmes spéciaux pour protéger les intérêts spéciaux. Tant Andrew Sorkin que Tony Clement ont plaidé en faveur d'une plus grande transparence, d'une plus grande prudence quant à la valeur de l'aide gouvernementale, d'une plus grande attention à ce que le gouvernement devrait faire et bien faire, et de plus de ressources à cette fin.

Voilà un message que les lecteurs des textes de l'AIMS connaissent bien, message qui sous-tend bon nombre des articles publiés cette année – l'article de Don Mills, membre du conseil de l'AIMS et « mouche du coche » réclamant un retour sur terre en Nouvelle-Écosse, l'article intitulé « Careless Intentions », par Don McIver, directeur de la recherche de l'AIMS, soulignant que comme cela s'est produit pour la bulle immobilière aux États-Unis – les meilleures intentions du gouvernement peuvent souvent faire plus de mal que de bien pour les régions qui connaissent des difficultés économiques, comme le Canada atlantique.

Les monopoles encouragés et occasionnellement imposés par le gouvernement et leurs effets pervers, ont aussi occupé l'avant-scène cette année dans une série d'articles sur le marché de l'électricité. Que l'on songe à la vente proposée d'Énergie NB, au grand potentiel du projet de centrale à Muskrat Falls ou des « placements verts » si prisés de tous les gouvernements de la terre, les preuves voulant que l'évaluation juste des prix et une véritable concurrence font plus que tout autre outil pour arriver à une utilisation viable et abordable de l'électricité continuent de s'accumuler.

Le même constat s'applique dans le domaine des soins de santé où l'Europe continue à devancer l'Amérique du Nord en termes de qualité des résultats et de santé, les méthodes là-bas autorisant tant la souplesse au chapitre du paiement et de la prestation des services – ce qui contraste vivement avec les règles strictes qui ont longtemps prévalu au Canada et qui s'enracinent aux États-Unis. En effet, l'article intitulé « How Europe plans to save Canada from itself » (Comment l'Europe entend sauver le Canada de lui-même) pose un regard unique sur un bénéfice très peu connu que le libre-échange avec l'Europe pourrait nous apporter : accès amélioré et plus rapide aux médicaments nouveaux et novateurs et investissements accrus en R et D pharmaceutique.



Évidemment, un rapport annuel de l'AIMS ne saurait être complet sans un commentaire sur la pression continue que nous exerçons en faveur de choix éclairés et accrus en matière d'éducation. Le programme de soutien pour les frais de scolarité étant maintenant partie intégrante du système d'enseignement public néo-écossais, nos efforts portent désormais sur l'examen des avantages qu'il y aurait à élargir le programme dans les régions rurales de la province. Nous croyons aussi que le succès qu'ont connu, en Nouvelle-Écosse les crédits publics pour permettre aux enfants ayant des besoins spéciaux de fréquenter des écoles privées est un modèle que les provinces à court d'argent devraient suivre. Il ne fait aucun doute que le programme de soutien pour les frais de scolarité, qui ne coûte pas plus cher que les autres systèmes, est bénéfique pour les enfants qui échouaient dans les écoles plus traditionnelles. De fait, la conviction que le système d'enseignement doit s'adapter à l'enfant, et non que l'enfant doit s'adapter au système est ce qui a incité l'AIMS à devenir partenaire, en Nouvelle-Écosse, d'un nouveau mouvement populaire appelé « Students First » (les élèves d'abord). Tous les enfants, quels que soient leurs intérêts ou leurs habiletés, devraient pouvoir fréquenter une école qui répond le plus possible à leurs besoins.

Vous trouverez, dans les pages qui suivent, des renseignements plus détaillés sur ce sujet et sur beaucoup d'autres. Après tout, l'AIMS est un groupe de réflexion qui s'intéresse à tout, et très peu des enjeux importants pour vous échappent à notre attention.

En tout, l'AIMS a publié 44 articles et commentaires au cours de l'exercice 2010-2011. Des membres de son personnel et ses auteurs ont été mentionnés dans plus de 400 articles et reportages diffusés partout au pays. Des articles d'opinion rédigés par le personnel et les auteurs de l'institut ont été publiés dans de grands journaux : Globe and Mail, National Post et Calgary Herald, ainsi que dans tous les principaux journaux du Canada atlantique. Si on se fie au lectorat de ces médias, les commentaires et les analyses de l'AIMS ont été lus, consultés ou écoutés par des millions de gens tout au long de l'année.

Notre présence dans les médias sociaux a connu une croissance exponentielle, et les textes que nous publions sont régulièrement cités par tweeters et blogueurs qui examinent la politique publique de toutes les perspectives. Ce qui me réjouit tout particulièrement, c'est d'apprendre qu'un interlocuteur convaincu, avant même d'entendre une de nos conférences ou de lire un de nos articles, qu'il désapprouvera notre point de vue, admet que, tout compte fait, son opinion ressemble fort à la nôtre.

Rien de cela n'aurait été possible sans le généreux soutien financier d'organisations philanthropiques, d'entreprises et du grand public. Que ce soit une contribution de 20 \$ ou de 20 000 \$, la générosité des donateurs permet à l'Institut de poursuivre son travail. Je tiens à les remercier tous pour leur confiance.

L'AIMS ne pourrait poursuivre son travail s'il ne pouvait compter sur l'engagement de son personnel, des membres du conseil d'administration et de ses bailleurs de fonds. Je souhaite joindre mes remerciements à ceux qui ont été offerts à l'équipe de l'AIMS par John Riskey, président, et offrir ma reconnaissance aux collègues qui ont quitté l'AIMS cette année : Barbara Pike, vice-présidente, et Bobby O'Keefe, directeur, responsabilisation de gestion du gouvernement. Je tiens également à souhaiter la bienvenue aux deux nouveaux membres du personnel : Don McIver, directeur de la recherche et Paige MacPherson, agente des communications.

J'offre un merci spécial aux membres du conseil qui continuent à donner généreusement leur temps et leurs conseils. Leur opinion éclairée sur les grands défis que doivent relever la région et le pays est précieuse pour l'institut. Leurs observations, qu'elles soient positives ou négatives, ajoutent de la valeur au travail de l'AIMS.

Merci aussi aux Fellows de l'AIMS : Patrick Luciani, David Zitner, David MacKinnon, Brian Crowley, Harry Koza et Angus McBeath. Il me faut aussi mentionner le conseil consultatif de recherche, sous la présidence de Robin Neill; le conseil examine tous les documents préparés par l'AIMS avant publication, une fois qu'ils ont été examinés par des pairs. Je m'en voudrais de passer sous silence l'excellent travail de nos nombreux auteurs, trop nombreux pour que je les nomme individuellement. Sans eux, l'AIMS sombrerait rapidement dans l'oubli. Notre capacité d'attirer les meilleurs cerveaux et des spécialistes en diverses matières nous assure de toujours vous faire part des meilleures idées pour vous permettre, à votre tour, d'être bien informés et de participer de manière éclairée aux discussions sur les enjeux importants.

Charles Cirtwill

Président

Papers and Publications

Mémoires, rapports et publications

Canada tried consolidation: It didn't work

3 October 2010

Brian Lee Crowley

In this commentary, AIMS Senior Fellow Brian Lee Crowley writes that amalgamation in Nova Scotia resulted in higher taxes and lower quality services. He urges others to not follow this example.

Freeing the Flow

3 November 2010

Gordon L. Weil

This commentary reviews the options for improving electric industry regulation in Canada.

Time for a Reality Check

8 November 2010

Don Mills

In this guest commentary, Don Mills takes a look at what needs to be done to help Nova Scotia help itself.

See Dick Grow Old, See Jane Retire

19 November 2010

Ian Munro

This paper examines the choices for child care and concludes government funding for vulnerable children is a good investment of taxpayers dollars.

Lessons in Toronto

23 November 2010

Patrick Luciani

This commentary shows that Rob Ford's victory in Toronto is a lesson for all municipal governments in the fundamentals of running a city.

Signal Strength

25 November 2010

Ian Munro

This paper outlines the changes that need to be made for the wireless industry to better serve Canadians.

The Muddle of Multiculturalism

6 December 2010

Salim Mansur

In this paper, Salim Mansur, an Associate Professor in the faculty of social sciences at the University of Western Ontario, takes a look at Canada's multiculturalism policy in light of the reality of the 21st century.

Nation Building - Line by Line

13 December 2010

Barbara B. Pike

Based on testimony to a Select Committee of the House of Commons, this Commentary makes the case for the free flow of electricity across provincial borders so hydro from Labrador can power homes in Toronto, not New York.

Is the piggybank broken?

20 December 2010

Brian Lee Crowley

In this commentary, AIMS Senior Fellow Brian Lee Crowley argues that there is nothing wrong with the way pensions are run in Canada, and warns against ill-informed reforms.

We Need More Nova Scotians

28 January 2011

Bill Black

Bill Black of www.newstartns.ca writes that attracting and retaining new immigrants can make a necessary difference in Nova Scotia.

Up is down, right is left in Atlantic Canada

1 February 2011

Charles Cirtwill

This commentary sheds light on how the economic realities and collective self-interest shaped the public policy environment in Atlantic Canada – and how it can be harnessed to create a classical liberal environment.

Family Matters; the Lebanese Success Story

3 February 2011

Wadih M. Fares

In this commentary, AIMS Board member Wadih M. Fares asks, do we underestimate family and community when focusing on “economic immigration”?

A New Vision for Quebec and Atlantic Canada

8 February 2011

Maxime Bernier

In this commentary, MP for Beauce Maxime Bernier explains that both Quebec and Atlantic Canada are too reliant on Ottawa for equalization payments, rendering the regions as fiscal burdens. Bernier suggests reducing this burden and freeing the entrepreneurial spirit in the region.

Nostalgia isn't a strategy

10 February 2011

Perry Newman

In this commentary, Perry Newman, AIMS Board Member and President of the Atlantica Group LLC calls on political leaders and policymakers in Maine to look toward the future for economic growth, instead of reminiscing about the past.

Pensions in Crisis

17 February 2011

Bill Black

In this commentary, Bill Black of New Start Nova Scotia addresses fact that 62% of Nova Scotians do not belong to a pension plan, and the high taxes aren't helping. Black finds areas the government could cut down on bloated public sector pensions.

Greener Pastures*3 March 2011***John Risley**

In this commentary, originally published in Atlantic Business Magazine, AIMS Board Chair John Risley suggests a common sense approach to reducing greenhouse gases.

Earth Hour: A Dissent*29 March 2011***Ross McKittrick**

In this commentary, economics Professor Ross McKittrick explains why he abhors Earth Hour.

Do it yourself budgeting*14 April 2011***Don McIver**

In this commentary, AIMS Director of Research Don McIver discusses the substantial issues that arise from the interventionist belief that fiscal manoeuvring can impact economic prospects. He suggests ways in which the government can remedy these issues.

Global Matters*26 April 2011***Perry Newman**

In this commentary, Perry Newman, President of Atlantica Group LLB, draws on the spirit of the Jewish Passover season to reflect on why it's important that we open our minds and think critically.

Scholar Dollars*26 April 2011***Bill Black**

In this commentary, Bill Black of New Start Nova Scotia discusses the importance of post-secondary education, as well as the importance of accountability for their funding.

Mission Accomplished*28 April 2011***John Risley**

In this commentary, AIMS Board Chair John Risley writes that those contributing to the public policy debate on climate change need to exercise more transparency and more research into all possible sources.

We're number...34!*10 May 2011***Tony Bislimi**

In this commentary, Bislimi Group Foundation founder and president Tony Bisimli explains how the education establishments in Canadian provinces embellish international results, which has serious repercussions for Canadians.

Commuter Cut*11 May 2011***Bill Black**

In this commentary, Bill Black of New Start Nova Scotia discusses the great opportunity to make commuting in Halifax easier, by better using our south end port lands and the rail cut that accesses them.

Friday the 13th*19 May 2011***Harry Koza**

In this commentary, AIMS Research Fellow Harry Koza explains that the history of the suspicion surrounding Friday the 13th stems from an old sovereign debt crisis back in the fourteenth century.

Wow, but at what cost?*20 May 2011***John Risley**

In this commentary, AIMS Board Chair John Risley discusses China's importance in the world, and emphasizes that China needs to be a leader in human rights as well as wealth creation.

Possible federal initiative without the price tag*8 June 2011***Stewart Kronberg**

In this commentary, Stewart Kronberg of Glencott Associates makes the argument that with the new majority government, Canada is overdue for a groundbreaking initiative. He discusses an initiative that could be implemented in the face of severe fiscal constraints.

Healthy Conversation*9 June 2011***Bill Black**

In this commentary, Bill Black of New Start Nova Scotia addresses the challenges facing the Canadian healthcare system and the unsustainable maintenance of the status quo. He suggests changes that can improve the quality and cost of healthcare for all Canadians.

The Next Great Debate*14 June 2011***John Risley**

In this commentary, AIMS Board Chair John Risley suggests the first in a series of ideas to create something that Atlantic Canada can be known for internationally.

Maine's Gigantic Need for Big Business*7 July 2011***Perry Newman**

In this commentary, Perry Newman, President of Atlantica Group LLC, outlines the economic dangers of relying on small businesses to run an economy.

Careless Intentions: Regional Consequences of National Policies*15 July 2011***Don McIver**

In this commentary, Don McIver, AIMS Director of Research, discusses the unintended consequences of well-meaning national policies. He argues that rather than complaining about the negative consequences for the Atlantic Provinces our leaders need to recognize our unique regional reality and act within it.

Selected AIMS Special Events Événements spéciaux

Putting Students First and Fixing our Schools: AIMS Public Forum on Education

Halifax, March 28, 2011

AIMS, in coordination with the Schoolhouse Consulting, hosted a public forum on education, entitled *Putting Students First and Fixing our Schools*. Featured speaker Michael Zwaagstra, AIMS author and author of *Whats Wrong With Our Schools...and how we can fix them* (2010), spoke about the issues within our public school system, and offered a comparative look at how other provinces manage their systems. A diverse reaction panel including AIMS President and CEO Charles Cirtwell helped to foster this discussion.

Concerned parents, teachers, school board members and union representatives gathered to have an open discussion about the issues with our school system. All committed to public education, many productive ideas came out of this opportunity, facilitated by AIMS. One of these ideas was a bold declaration of principles entitled Students First Nova Scotia. This public forum and its resulting agenda is one of the many ways AIMS helps to facilitate citizen-driven discussion and initiatives that inspire policy change in Atlantic Canada.



How to Fix the Financial System: Dinner with Andrew Ross Sorkin, New York Times Financial Columnist

Halifax, NS, October 28, 2010

AIMS hosted Andrew Ross Sorkin, New York Times Financial Columnist and author of *Too BIG to Fail in Halifax*. CanAccord sponsored the dinner for guests, and AIMS Board Chair John Risley facilitated a question and answer period. Sorkin gave a brief history of the Wall Street Meltdown and explained the role of the financial actors in this situation.

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

Dalhousie Liberty Society presents AIMS President Charles Cirtwill

Halifax, 5 October 2010

AIMS President and CEO Charles Cirtwill addressed Dalhousie University Students regarding freedom in education, during Student Freedom Week – an event hosted by Dalhousie's libertarian club. Cirtwill explained the merits of school choice and facilitated a discussion with many students.

AIMS hosts Education Speaking Tour with Michael Zwaagstra

Nova Scotia, March 2011

Beginning with AIMS' Public Forum on Education, AIMS hosted a speaking tour with several education talks, featuring Michael Zwaagstra of the Frontier Centre for Public Policy. The tour included a talk at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax, at which Zwaagstra addressed over 100 education students.

AIMS President speaks at Economics and Liberty Seminar

Halifax, 5 March 2011

AIMS President and CEO Charles Cirtwill delivered a talk at the Economics and Liberty Seminar, co-hosted by the Institute for Liberal Studies and the Dalhousie Liberty Society. Cirtwill spoke about how easy money undermines student responsibility, and without responsibility there can be no freedom.

AIMS President speaks about the recession at Mount Saint Vincent University

Bedford, 15 November 2010

AIMS President and CEO Charles Cirtwill spoke on a panel of experts to Mount Saint Vincent University Business Administration and Tourism and Hospitality Management students about the economy, addressing the question, is the recession over?

AIMS Breakfast Briefing with Maxime Bernier, MP for Beauce

Halifax, 4 February 2011

Having worked at the Montreal Economic Institute, Mr. Bernier was able to share his background in public policy, while addressing the fundamental Canadian issue of having too much government. He explained the negative impacts of equalization payments on the recipient provinces, and his new vision for Quebec and Atlantic Canada.

AIMS Research Director addresses Canadian Self Storage Association

Moncton, 1 June 2011

AIMS Research Director Don McIver delivered a talk at the Atlantic Canada Conference and Trade Show regarding demographics changes and their impact on Atlantic Canada.

AIMS Research Director addresses Committee on International Trade (CIT) Minister's Meeting

Georgetown, 16 June 2011

AIMS Research Director Don McIver delivered a presentation in PEI to a closed meeting of provincial trade ministers discussing historical and current policies and their deliberate and inadvertent effects.

AIMS Breakfast Briefing with The Honourable Tony Clement, President of the Treasury Board and Minister of FedNor

Halifax, 4 August 2011

Minister Clement joined AIMS' guests for a breakfast briefing, during which he discussed the government's plan to sustain our economy, through Canada's effort to find \$4 billion in savings for taxpayer

Selected AIMS Published 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.

Why higher electricity prices are a good thing

30 October 2010

In this op-ed AIMS President and CEO Charles Cirtwill explains why paying more for energy makes sense. He says making us pay the true cost for electricity will make us all more frugal in how we use it, and add to the money to the public purse.

Welcome back, New Brunswick

12 November 2010

Research has repeatedly shown that testing and accountability in our education system improves student performance. In this op-ed, AIMS President & CEO Charles Cirtwill tells New Brunswick to get back in the habit of provincial tests.

Build a regional power market

20 November 2010

In this op-ed that appeared in numerous Atlantic newspapers, AIMS' author Gordon Weil provides tips on how governments can do the energy deals even better.

Now THAT's a Gateway

23 November 2010

The agreement between Emera and the Newfoundland and Labrador government to develop the first phase of the Lower Churchill hydro project is welcome news. AIMS President & CEO Charles Cirtwill explains how this is resource royalties spent well.

It's time for regional power market

25 November 2010

AIMS' author Gordon Weil has been a popular commentator on all things electrical in Atlantic Canada having written extensively on the topic for the Institute. This op-ed appeared in papers around the region explaining the need for a regional power market and giving kudos for the progress that has been made in recent months.

Electrical power market has to change

25 November 2010

The proposed agreement by Emera and Nalcor to develop the Muskrat Falls hydro project on the Lower Churchill drew applause from AIMS author Gordon Weil. However, in this op-ed that appeared in several papers around the region, Weil says there's more the region can do to improve electrical transmission.

Health Care: Why the Veil of Secrecy?

8 February 2011

David Zitner, family doctor, Professor in the Faculty of Medicine, and Health Policy Fellow with the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies, urges Atlantic Canadian legislators to update our information systems in health care.

Five steps to fiscal sanity

18 February 2011

In light of the New Brunswick government passing a new budget, AIMS President Charles Cirtwill recommends clear understanding that the population is in decline. He suggests five steps to fiscal sanity.

Note to premier: Get on with pension review

19 February 2011

Four Nova Scotia MLAs were recently charged with various criminal offences related to a few thousand dollars. They were charged, but now the NS government won't look into historical spending without specific criminal complaints. Criminal complaints did not spur the initial review. AIMS President Charles Cirtwill explains why a review is necessary.

Unneeded Secrecy

15 March 2011

While Saskatchewan was happy to hand over data on school performance, including average marks for schools, Manitoba Education Minister Nancy Allan refused to provide basic data to the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies, which recently completed a report card on high schools in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

A tale of two Nova Scotias, and may the best one win

25 May 2011

AIMS President and CEO Charles Cirtwill says the new Conservative majority sparked two public-relations campaigns in our region: one government-led effort to start laying the foundation for the upcoming renegotiation of federal transfers to the provinces, and one privately led and publicly fed campaign to get our "fair share" of the federal shipbuilding contract for our local yards.

Killing us softly with your love

10 June 2011

As new members of parliament begin familiarizing themselves with key economic and social issues, AIMS Director of Research Don McIver takes the time to review some of the more perverse consequences of existing strategies.

Better results, less mediocrity

14 June 2011

AIMS President and CEO Charles Cirtwill is critical of special interest groups that constantly demand more money be spent on education. What's more important is how taxpayers' money is spent.

A bold strategy for Prince Edward Island

29 June 2011

In light of the recent annual gathering of the Committee on Internal Trade held at Brudenell, AIMS President and CEO Charles Cirtwill encourages PEI to forget about the Agreement on Internal Trade, join the New West Partnership, and do it today.

There'll be job opportunities, but will we have skills to fill them?

9 September 2011

AIMS Director of Research Don McIver argues that the government should pay greater attention to ensuring that all Nova Scotians are fully integrated into the workforce. As population aging generates sharp declines in the number of working-age persons over coming decades, skills mismatches will become increasingly apparent.

Can we end unemployment?

15 September 2011

AIMS Director of Research Don McIver discusses how the consequences of population aging are finally beginning to drive mainstream economic policy, and offers some solutions.

How Europe plans to save Canada from itself

24 October 2011

AIMS Director of Research Don McIver writes about Canada's potential CETA with the EU. Canada will need to negotiate skillfully, but even the peripheral consequences of reaching an agreement may provide some valuable benefits to Canadians.

Sample of AIMS in the Media

AIMS dans les Médias

The following are just a small sampling of the more than 400 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 matters. In addition, more and more often, AIMS' material is finding its way on social media pages, including blogs.

Build a regional power market

In this op-ed that appeared in numerous Atlantic newspapers, AIMS' author Gordon Weil provides tips on how governments can do the energy deals even better.

On energy, capitalize on geography, says official

AIMS' Commentary on the need to reform regulations covering the interprovincial and international transmission of electricity made the front page of the New Brunswick Telegraph-Journal.

'The numbers are pretty bad'

AIMS President and CEO Charles Cirtwill suggests one way that New Brunswick can boost its employment figures is to make the province attractive for business. He says government can't spend its way to prosperity.

Gas gridlock traps N.B. users

A dispute brewing over natural gas distribution and costs in New Brunswick is an example of what happens when government interferes. In this article, AIMS President and CEO Charles Cirtwill explains what went wrong.

Do small businesses have a fighting chance against today's challenges?

In this cover story in the Nova Scotia Business Journal, AIMS President and CEO Charles Cirtwill explains Nova Scotia has to do more to make life easier for small business. He points out taxes are too high in the province and the red tape too thick.

Ontario tops study

The Canada Health Consumer Index, released by the Frontier Centre for Public Policy in co-operation with AIMS generated discussion across the country, including this story on the on-line Canoe news service.

How to re-wire Canada's spectrum licences

The newsletter produced each week by Canada's Embassy in Washington features AIMS' paper on spectrum licences.

Getting It Right from the Start: An Argument for Early Childhood Care

The website, Social Policy in Ontario, directed followers to AIMS' paper on early childhood education, as a must-read for those interested in education and out children.

Education is the fast road to get kids out of poverty

Chronicle-Herald columnist Marilla Stevenson uses AIMS' research on early childhood education to make her point in this column.

One economic development agency, one goal

The government of New Brunswick plans to replace Business New Brunswick with an arms-length development agency called Invest NB. AIMS President and CEO Charles Cirtwill says it's a model that has worked in Nova Scotia, and could in New Brunswick.

NB: New government to set up crown company to attract business

When the New Brunswick government announced it was going to set up a new agency for economic development, the New Brunswick Telegraph Journal turned to AIMS President and CEO Charles Cirtwill to explain what works and what doesn't.

Report: Subsidize early care, education

AIMS' report on early childhood education made headlines. This article explains how assistance for at risk children will benefit the economy and society in the long run.

Exclusive: Former deputy minister says province top-heavy with bureaucrats

AIMS numbers reveal bloated civil service in New Brunswick compared to other provinces

Focus on solutions, not posturing: Expert

AIMS President and CEO Charles Cirtwill says when it comes to education, elected officials should focus on solutions, not posturing. Education needs to advance with the rest of our society.

NB Liquor studies options

AIMS President Charles Cirtwill says New Brunswick Liquor is a good candidate for sell-off, to cut costs and increase profits.

Let's get rid of energy board

Reader cites AIMS study to save taxpayers money and reduce the provincial deficit.

Discussing Western High School Report Card

Audio: AIMS Report Card on Western Canadian High Schools is discussed. David Seymour, Senior Policy Analyst with the Frontier Centre for Public Policy was interviewed by Garth Materie on CBC Saskatchewan's Blue Sky.

How Canada's 'haves' get had

Kevin Libin references James Buchanan talk with AIMS - federal transfers were a good idea, but have gone bad due to the incentive structures within politics.

Province warned not to follow N.S. example

As New Brunswick pursues university funding agreement, AIMS President Charles Cirtwill warns not to follow Nova Scotia example.

Ontario Chamber of Commerce calls for more sense within equalization

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce released a report suggesting Canada's productivity is being jeopardized by transfer payments between provinces. AIMS refers to equalization and transfer payments as 'the help that hurts.'

More hydro, More profit

Heavy rains behind increase in output for NB Power - AIMS President and CEO Charles Cirtwill comments.

Future of rural schools in doubt

AIMS President Charles Cirtwill says we need to have a panic-free discussion about education without calling each other names - which is what's happening presently. The issue of declining enrolment must be addressed. Our kids need quality education.

An eventful week in Atlantic Canada

MP for Beauce Maxime Bernier had breakfast and interesting discussion on public policy issues with a group from the Atlantic Institute of Market Studies, Atlantic Canada's free market think tank.

Aboriginal inclusion wise policy

Aboriginal inclusion in the workforce is discussed. Research by the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies shows that by 2016, more people will be leaving Canada's workforce than entering it.

N.L. power pledge welcomed

Charles Cirtwill, AIMS President and CEO, says the Atlantic provinces all stand to gain from the Lower Churchill project, which he describes as a "game changer" for the region.

Discussing AIMS Report Card on Western High Schools: Rationale, Methodology, and Results

Audio: AIMS Report Card on Western Canadian High Schools is discussed. David Seymour, Senior Policy Analyst with the Frontier Centre for Public Policy is interviewed by John Gormley on John Gormley Live in Saskatchewan.

Gateway strategy is born, 4 years after conception

Ottawa released its long-awaited Atlantic Gateway strategy document Wednesday, but AIMS President Charles Cirtwill says the impending federal election means it will be further delayed, and may mean it will need another party's stamp.

ACOA: success or waste of money?

AIMS President Charles Cirtwill says having the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) exist creates financial waste, even if ACOA does have some successes.

Can N.B. afford its public service?

The first of a four-part series looking at the public sector in New Brunswick, this article features interviews with AIMS President Charles Cirtwill, who notes that New Brunswick has the largest civil service per capita in Canada.

Local municipalities score above top 15 in provincial rankings

The Town of Truro has ranked number 13 out of 55 Nova Scotia municipalities in the overall summary of the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies 2nd Annual Nova Scotia Municipal Performance Report.

N.B. lags in labour productivity growth: report

New Brunswick is the runner up for slowest labour productivity growth in the country. AIMS President and CEO Charles Cirtwill says the "sacred cows" of regionally differentiated unemployment and equalization transfers for slowing the province down.

Openness and transparency

The notion that ours is the "most open, honest and accountable Canadian Government ever" is questioned when AIMS well-researched reports on education and healthcare reveal otherwise.

Two-tiered minimum wage vital: advocate

As New Brunswick considers a two-tier minimum wage system, Morley Gunderson, an expert in labour economics and Atlantic Institute for Market Studies author says there is a correlation between lower youth employment levels and a higher minimum wage.

Gas regulation: five years of folly

The Atlantic Institute for Market Studies estimates that across our region, consumers have paid \$155 million more than if gasoline markets had remained unregulated.

Trim school boards, not schools — critic

AIMS President and CEO Charles Cirtwill says Nova Scotia's eight-school board system is unnecessary or in need of a serious trimming.

Transportation leaders urged to compete

The long-awaited Atlantic Gateway will move forward if regional transportation leaders collaborate to improve infrastructure. AIMS President and CEO Charles Cirtwill says competitors have already wasted enough time lobbying Ottawa for money.

Expectations for shipbuilding contract overblown: economist

The shipbuilding contract is being painted as a golden goose for Nova Scotia, but AIMS President and CEO Charles Cirtwill says that on its own, the shipbuilding contract won't mean any significant change in several parts of the province.

Pension turmoil: What is a small business to do?

Pension issues remain a key challenge facing small businesses today. AIMS President and CEO Charles Cirtwill thinks pooled registered pension plans (PRPPs) are an interesting option.

Education council system finally finding its feet

Recent successes see local District Education Councils (DECs) having real impact on decision-making, but AIMS President and CEO Charles Cirtwill says DECs haven't yet lived up to their intent to move to a more localized decision-making model.

University degrees boost income, but choose wisely

A university degree is still the best way to increase one's earnings over a lifetime, but new research suggests that one in five Canadian graduates end up on the lower end of the income scale. AIMS President and CEO Charles Cirtwill stresses that one is solely focused on income, there are certain choices one should make.

Efforts to lure Haligonians prompt criticism of Calgary mayor's visit

Upon Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi's visit to Halifax, AIMS President and CEO Charles Cirtwill explained Nenshi's efforts to lure Haligonians to Calgary as "competition at its best", but was vaguely offended, as so many Atlantic Canadians already leave Halifax to work out west.

The signs are clear: no more stimulus

Harry Koza, senior market analyst for Thomson Reuters in Toronto, anticipated the "great stimulus mania" in 2009, in a paper he wrote for the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies (AIMS).

More support for gas deregulation

Weighing in on the renewed debate over whether Nova Scotia should deregulate gas prices, AIMS President and CEO Charles Cirtwill says regulation leads to bigger profits for gas stations, oil companies and the provincial government.

NB Power rate increases inevitable says AIMS

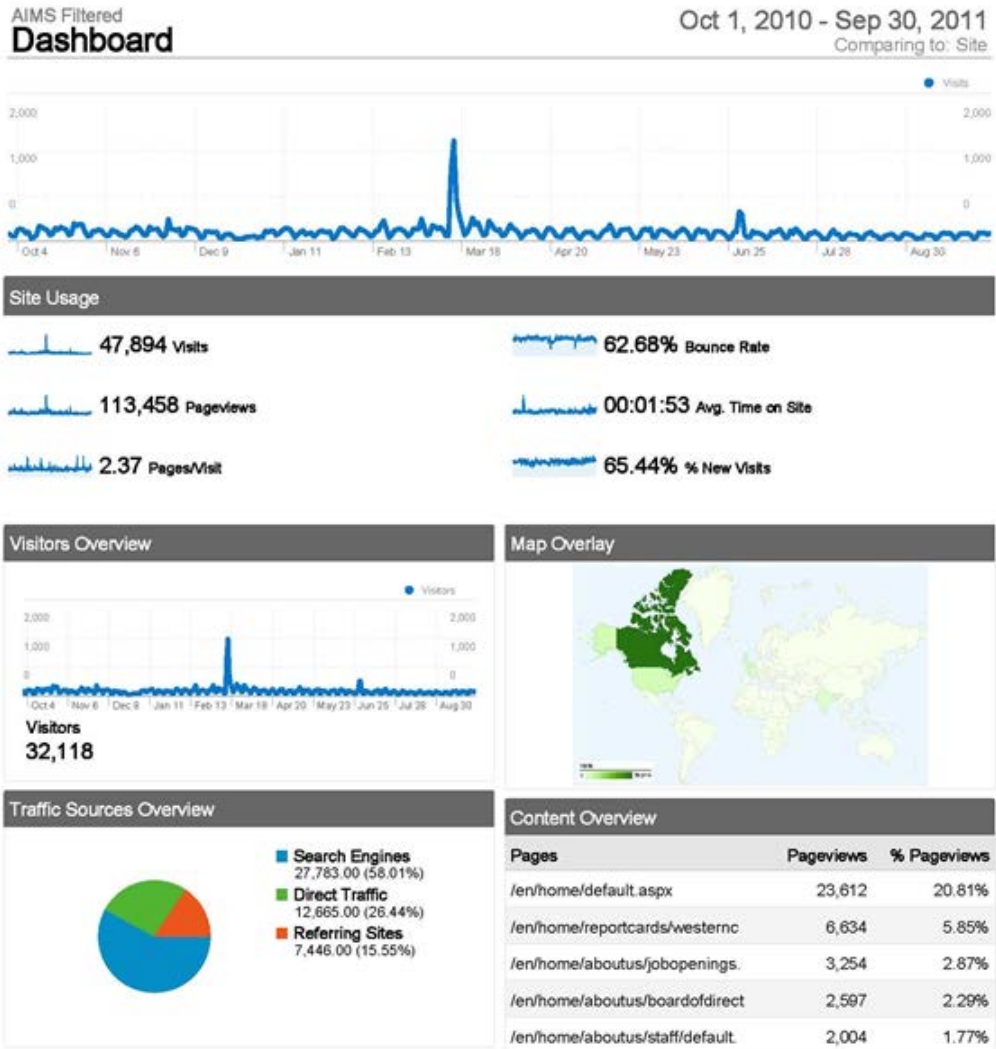
AIMS President and CEO Charles Cirtwill says the power rates freeze in New Brunswick is only putting off what the government will eventually need to finance upgrades and changes to the energy system.

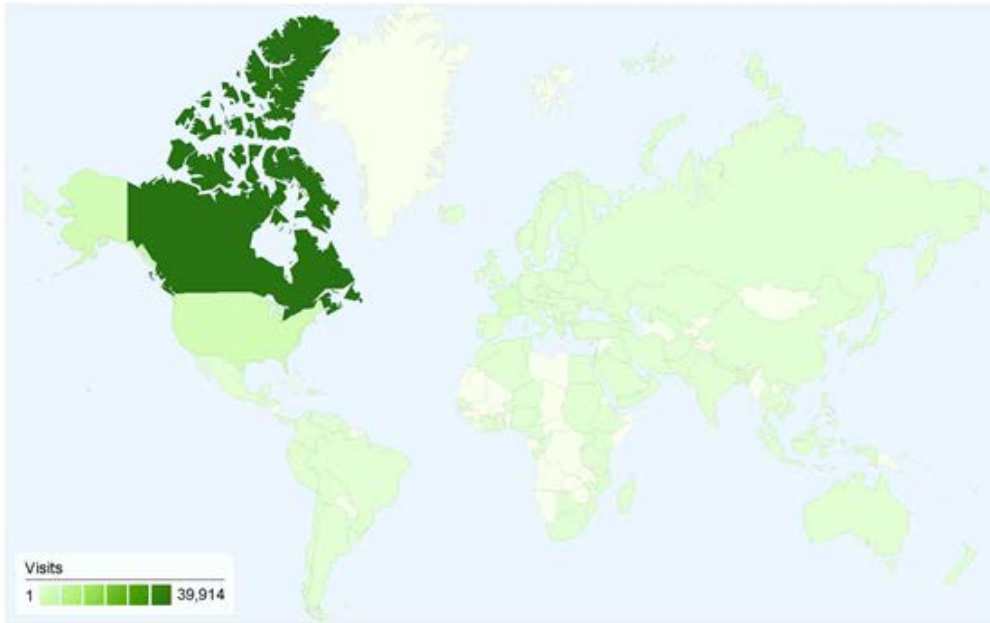
Backroom politics kill school review process

AIMS President and CEO Charles Cirtwill is interviewed about his thoughts regarding how decisions have been made regarding the prevention of school closures, and his take on backroom allegations made by southernshorenova.ca as a result of a freedom of information request

AIMS internet

AIMS sur l'Internet





47,894 visits came from 140 countries/territories

Site Usage						
Visits	Pages/Visit	Avg. Time on Site	% New Visits	Bounce Rate		
47,894	2.37	00:01:53	65.46%	62.68%		
% of Site Total: 100.00%	Site Avg: 2.37 (0.00%)	Site Avg: 00:01:53 (0.00%)	Site Avg: 65.44% (0.03%)	Site Avg: 62.68% (0.00%)		
Country/Territory	Visits	Pages/Visit	Avg. Time on Site	% New Visits	Bounce Rate	
Canada	39,914	2.46	00:01:57	60.91%	60.01%	
United States	3,362	2.10	00:02:23	86.50%	71.59%	
France	1,485	1.21	00:00:14	96.59%	94.33%	
United Kingdom	387	3.11	00:01:08	84.50%	64.60%	
India	261	1.59	00:01:02	95.79%	74.33%	
Germany	148	1.68	00:01:17	83.78%	76.35%	
China	134	2.54	00:02:51	85.07%	58.96%	
Australia	127	1.71	00:00:38	88.19%	76.38%	
Mexico	127	2.57	00:02:53	46.46%	69.29%	

Auditor's Report on the summarized Financial Statements

Rapport des vérificateurs sur les états financiers condensés

To the Directors of the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies

The accompanying summarized balance sheet and statements of revenue, expenditures and fund balance are derived from the complete financial statements of the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies as at September 30, 2011 and for the year then ended on which we expressed an opinion without reservation in our report dated **November 17, 2011**.

The preparation of summarized financial statements from the complete financial statements is the responsibility of management. Our responsibility, in accordance with the applicable Assurance Guideline of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, is to report on the summarized financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying summarized financial statements fairly summarize, in all material respects, the related complete financial statements in accordance with the criteria described in the Guideline referred to above.

These summarized financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes. For more information on the entity's financial position, results of operations, changes in general fund equity and cash flows, reference should be made to the related complete financial statements.

Halifax, Nova Scotia
17 November 2011



Grant Thornton LLP
Chartered Accountants

Administrateurs de l'Institut atlantique des études de marché

Le bilan condensé ainsi que les états condensés des revenus, dépenses et balance du fonds ci-joints ont été établis à partir des états financiers complets de Atlantic Institute for Market Studies au 30 septembre 2011 et pour l'exercice terminé à cette date à l'égard desquels nous avons exprimé une opinion sans réserve dans notre rapport daté du **le 17 Novembre 2011**. La préparation d'états financiers condensés à partir des états financiers complets relève de la responsabilité de la direction de l'Institut. Notre responsabilité, en conformité avec la Note d'orientation concernant la certification, publiée par l'Institut Canadien des Comptables Agréés, consiste à faire rapport sur les états financiers condensés.

À notre avis, les états financiers condensés ci-joints présentent, à tous les égards importants, un résumé fidèle des états financiers complets correspondants selon les critères décrits dans la note d'orientation susmentionnée.

Les états financiers condensés ci-joints ne contiennent pas toutes les informations requises selon les principes comptables généralement reconnus du Canada. Le lecteur doit garder à l'esprit que ces états financiers risquent de ne pas convenir à ses fins. Pour obtenir de plus amples informations sur la situation financière, les résultats d'exploitation, changement du fonds de fonctionnement et les flux de trésorerie de l'Institut, le lecteur devra se reporter aux états financiers complets correspondants.

Halifax, Nouvelle-Écosse
le 17 novembre 2011



Grant Thornton LLP
Comptables agréés

2010 Financial Position

2011 Rapport financier

**Summarized Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and General Fund Equity/
État des revenus, dépenses et surplus du fonds de fonctionnement**
Year ended September 30, 2011/ Pour l'exercice terminé le 30 septembre, 2011

Revenue/Revenus

Donations/Dons			
Foundations	\$	266,774	
Corporate and Individual		243,408	
Events/Events		86,041	
Interest/Intérêts		0	
Other/Autres		4,652	
		<u>4,652</u>	\$ 600,875

Expenses/Dépenses

Salaries and Benefits/ Salaires et benefices		339,421	
Contract Fees/Frais de contrats		165,428	
Other/Autres		245,986	
		<u>245,986</u>	<u>(750,835)</u>

Excess of Revenue over Expenditures/

Excédent les revenus seu des dépenses \$ (149,960)

Fund balance, beginning of year /

Surplus du fonds de fonctionnement, début de l'exercice \$ 130,445

Excess of Revenue over Expenditures /

Excédent les dépenses sur des revenus (149,960)

General Fund Equity, End of year/

Surplus du fonds de fonctionnement, fin de l'exercice \$ (19,515)

Balance Sheet /Bilan

September 30, 2011/ le 30 septembre, 2011

Assets/Actif \$ 119,481

Liabilities/Passif (138,996)

Fund Balance/Solde de fonds \$ (19,515)

2010 AIMS Donors

2011 Les Donateurs de l'AIMS

AIMS relies on the generosity of people in Atlantic Canada and beyond to support our work, spread our research, and act on the evidence we bring to bear.

We want to take this opportunity to thank those who read and use our work, but who have taken the extra step of helping us fund and disseminate it. Without your help, the progress AIMS has contributed to simply would not have happened. Your support makes a difference in the lives of individual Canadians through better, affordable, and sustainable public investment and activity.

SUSTAINING DONORS

AIMS wishes to offer a special thank you to those organizations that have made multi-year contributions to support AIMS



Maroun Family Trust



Thank you to those who have contributed to AIMS through donation or event attendance in 2010/2011

Moosehead Breweries	Mercer (Canada Ltd.)	Atlantic Economics	Empire Company Ltd.
DHX Media Ltd.	ICANS	NS Cooperative Council	Grant Eastern Corporation
CCL Group	Brigus Gold	NS Liberal Caucus	Ltd.
NS Federation Agriculture	BDO CDA Ltd.	Debbie MacIntosh	Hyndman & Company
Southwest Properties Ltd.	Emera Energy	Atlantic Cooperative CED	Imperial Oil
Seamark Asset Mgt.	Eastport Financial Group	Institute	Intact
Beacon Securities Ltd.	BMO Harris Private	Corridor Resources	ISL Internet Solutions Ltd.
Lawtons Drugs	NS Chambers of Commerce	Canadian Petroleum Products	Merck Frost
Bank of Montreal	Deloitte & Touche	Institute	Morneau Sobeco
WM Fares Group	Odgers Berndtson	Imperial Manufacturing Group	Municipal Enterprises
Crombie Reit	GJ Cahill	AstraZeneca Canada	Pfizer Canada
Trade Centre Ltd.	Cox & Palmer	Atlantic Corporation	Progress Media
RBC Dexia Investor Services	First Angel Network	Atlantica Diversified	RBC Foundation
Burnside Realty Co	Aluma Seward Inc.	Transportation Systems	Renaissance Investments
NSBI	John Maden	Beacon Securities Ltd.	Rx & D
University of PEI	Owens M G	Bell Alliant	Saint Mary's University
RBC Royal Bank	David Zitner	Brigus Gold	Scotiabank
Schoolhouse Consulting	NSARDA	Canaccord Genuity	TD Financial Group
Knightsbridge Robertson	BMO Nesbitt Burns	Corporation	The Armour Group
Surette	Nova Coffee	Canaccord Wealth	The Shaw Group Ltd.
Atlantic Canada CFA Society	Export Nova Scotia	Management	Purdy Crawford
Scotiabank	Alweather Windows & Doors	CCL Group	Peter Billiard
Blu Devenney & Co	Floors Plus	CIBC Mellon	Douglas Hall
KPMG	Wood Gundy CIBC	Clearwater Fine Foods	Colin Dodds
McInnes Cooper	APM Construction Services	Coast Tires	C.E. Ritchie
Scotia Investments Ltd.	Inc.	Comeau's Seafoods Ltd.	Wadih Fares
CIBC Mellon	Sanofi-Aventis Canada Inc.	Commercial Properties Ltd.	L.W. MacEachern
Grant Thornton	Louisbourg Investments	Greg Grice	Matthew Richard
Dalhousie University	Ian Munro	Heather Tulk	David Hool
Stewart McKelvey	Halifax Global Inc.		
CRA	Halifax Port Authority		
Precision Concrete Ltd.			



1297 Brunswick Street, 2nd Floor, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 2G3
Telephone: 902.429.1143 Facsimilie: 902.425.1393 E-mail: aims@aims.ca Website:
www.aims.ca