

2014-15 ANNUAL REPORT/RAPPORT ANNUEL



The Atlantic Institute for Market Studies

Table of Contents | Table des Matières

1

The People Behind AIMS

3

Message from the Chairman | Message du président du conseil d'administration

7

Message from the President | Message du président et chef de la direction

15

Papers and Studies

17

Opinion Pieces

19

Selected Media Coverage

21

AIMS on Campus

25

Events and Activities

28

Online Presence

31

2013-14 Financial Information

33

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Message from the Chairman

This year AIMS was recognized as a leader in the evolution of think tanks across the country. Having celebrated its 20th year, the Institute continues on the path to a lasting legacy under the guidance of president and CEO, Dr. Marco Navarro-Génie, through more intricate events, policy configuration and media positioning.



The message has never been clearer – AIMS is well positioned and ready to tackle the economic and social complexities facing our region. As Atlantic Canada's only independent think tank, last year we established a new norm that engaged public participation in economic policy in different forums, spread our message in favour of free-market enterprise, and innovated our communication efforts.

Naturally, we will also continue positively to affect the region through well-researched, evidence-based policy discussion designed to make Atlantic Canada a better place to live and work.

As Dr. Marco Navarro-Génie enters his third full-year at AIMS, we are reminded of his contributions to the region. He has led positive change through the Institute's work on the public service, education, healthcare reform, energy and environment, and public finance. In particular, his work on sovereign funds, registry privatization, and tuition support programs stand out.

AIMS has been a community stalwart through its consistent message and community consultation projects, including the Public Healthcare Forum and Ivany events.

The Institute hosted in February 2014 an inspiring event, *For the Love of Nova Scotia, Let's Focus on the Economy: The Ivany Report One Year Later*. AIMS' former board member, John Bragg, gave an energized speech to more than 400 guests from among decision-makers, policy-makers, business and academic communities, and economic experts. The event ranked as one of Nova Scotia's best responses to the challenges facing us in a post-Ivany environment.

In addition, hosted in honour of a late AIMS founder, Purdy Crawford, the 2015 Chairman's Dinner looked to the future through the eyes of former Deputy Prime Minister and current CEO of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives, the Honourable John Manley. Mr. Manley's inspiring speech touched on the sensitive issues facing the country while giving hope to a new generation of leaders interested in fruitful change. By honouring Purdy's passionate commitment to Atlantic Canada, AIMS is now better positioned to build his legacy through the AIMS Purdy Crawford Fund. I encourage donors to contribute to the fund as we follow in the footsteps of a great man whose influence is still felt today.

AIMS is also a better communicator today. The AIMS Radio Project has been reaching more than 250,000 Atlantic Canadians and is projected to eclipse well over one million media impressions. Combine this success with the Institute's earned media capacity, AIMS is cementing its value as a regional policy commentator often looked upon for advice on important strategic matters.

Just as communication is critical to the Institute's success, we are, of course, indebted to our staff, donors, foundations and directors, all of whom contribute to AIMS. Without their continued support we would be hard pressed to meet the challenges facing Atlantic today and beyond. We thank in particular our core Board Officers, Fae Shaw and Doug Hall, Secretary and Treasurer, respectively; our Committee Chairs, Dennice Leahey, Audit and Finance; Fae Shaw, Memberships; Max St-Pierre, Events; and Scott McCain, Development and Fundraising, as well as our regional Vice Chairs: Leo Power, in Newfoundland and Labrador, David Hooley in Prince Edward Island, and Laura Araneda in New Brunswick.

As AIMS progresses into the 2015-16 fiscal year, we are excited to be building a new development program that focuses on philanthropy, legacy and capacity building, and donor stewardship. The theme of this program is *difference* – how we make a difference, where we make a difference, and why we make a difference in the lives of Atlantic Canadians, is the cornerstone of this theme. Through active engagement and revamping our annual giving and legacy projects we will ultimately re-define and re-energize the Institute, giving us added momentum in the battle for attention and resources throughout Atlantic Canada.

In this Report you will find the greatest value we have to offer in the way of publications, programmes, events, media commentary, and other activities that are the staples of think tank life. The work accomplished in 2014-15 made headlines across the country due in part to strategic investments in policy research. With limited resources, we lived up to our reputation as an independently organized operation that punches above its weight.

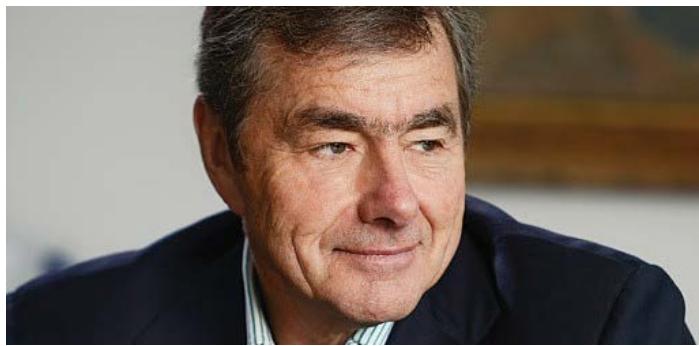
Much like Atlantic Canada, AIMS faces important challenges in fulfilling its significant potential. And like the people we serve in the region, the people involved in AIMS have the commitment, the energy, and the spirit to succeed. Our efforts will be reanimated by our desire to build on the achievement of AIMS' first 20 years: to have become, in the words of Purdy Crawford, "the region's best, most authoritative and most listened to public policy think tank."

For all that needs reform and repair in Atlantic Canada, AIMS is an organization of realistic hope. Its job is to persevere in the pursuit of policy ideas and solutions that will lift up our region toward more prosperous times.

John Risley | Chairman of the Board

Message du président du conseil

Cette année, l'AIMS a été reconnu comme chef de file dans l'évolution des groupes de réflexion aux quatre coins du pays. Sous la direction éclairée de M. Marco Navarro-Génie, l'Institut, qui a célébré son 20^e anniversaire, a jeté les bases d'une organisation durable en organisant des événements, en proposant des configurations de politique et en se positionnant dans les médias.



Le message est plus clair que jamais – l'AIMS est dans une position idéale et est prêt à s'attaquer aux complexités économiques et sociales qui caractérisent notre région. En tant que seul groupe de réflexion indépendant au Canada atlantique, nous mettrons en place, l'an prochain, une nouvelle norme pour susciter la participation du public à la politique économique, transmettre notre message de proéminence aux instituts de recherche, tant à ceux qui sont favorables qu'à ceux qui s'opposent au libre-échange (ce point revêt une

importance particulière à mesure que l'économie et le profil démographique évoluent), et renouveler en innovant notre travail de communication, établissant ainsi l'AIMS en tant que force majeure dans la région.

Nous continuerons aussi, évidemment, à exercer une influence positive dans la région grâce à la discussion fondée sur des recherches et des preuves solides afin que le Canada atlantique soit une région privilégiée où vivre et travailler.

Alors que M. Marco Navarro-Génie amorce sa troisième année à la barre de l'AIMS, nous tenons à souligner sa contribution à la région. Il a provoqué un changement positif par son travail visionnaire dans divers domaines : fonction publique, éducation, réforme des soins de santé, diplomatie de l'énergie et finances publiques, et plus particulièrement ses travaux sur les fonds souverains, sur la privatisation des registres et sur les programmes de soutien pour les frais de scolarité.

Aujourd'hui, l'AIMS est aussi un meilleur communicateur. Le projet radio de l'AIMS a joint plus de 350 000 Canadiens dans la région atlantique, et on s'attend à ce qu'il dépasse le million d'« impressions d'audience ». Ce succès, combiné aux nombreuses invitations que reçoit l'Institut pour intervenir dans les médias, confirme son importance en tant que commentateur politique régional dont l'avis est souvent sollicité relativement à d'importantes questions stratégiques.

La communication est évidemment essentielle au succès de l'Institut, mais l'AIMS est aussi redevable à son personnel, à ses généreux donateurs, aux membres de son conseil d'administration et aux diverses fondations pour leur précieux soutien. Sans ce soutien, nous pourrions difficilement relever les nombreux défis auxquels fait face le Canada atlantique aujourd'hui et à ceux qui se présenteront. Nous remercions en particulier deux membres essentiels du conseil d'administration, M^{me} Fae Shaw et M. Doug Hall, respectivement secrétaire et trésorier; les présidents de nos divers comités : M^{me} Dennice Leahey, audit et finances; M^{me} Fae Shaw, adhésions; M. Max St-Pierre, événements; et M. Scott McCain, développement et collecte de fonds. Nous offrons aussi nos remerciements à nos vice-présidents régionaux : MM. Leo Power à Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador et David Hooley à l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard et M^{me} Laura Araneda au Nouveau-Brunswick.

Tout au long de l'exercice 2015-2016, nous aurons le plaisir de mettre en place et de peaufiner un nouveau programme de développement axé sur la philanthropie, sur le renforcement de la capacité et la valorisation du patrimoine ainsi que sur la gestion de biens des donateurs. Le thème de ce programme, sa pierre angulaire, est la *différence* - où, comment et pourquoi nous faisons une différence dans les vies des Canadiens de la région atlantique. Par notre engagement actif, et en revitalisant nos projets annuels de dons et de legs, nous réussirons à redéfinir l'Institut et à lui insuffler une énergie nouvelle pour continuer à attirer l'attention et des ressources à l'échelle du Canada atlantique.

Le présent rapport fait état de la très grande valeur qu'offrent nos publications et nos programmes, les événements que nous organisons et ceux auxquels nous participons, nos commentaires dans les médias et les autres activités qui sont le quotidien d'un groupe de réflexion. Le travail que nous avons accompli au cours de l'exercice 2014-2015 a fait les manchettes partout au pays grâce, en partie, aux investissements stratégiques que nous avons faits en recherche politique. Avec des ressources restreintes, nous avons fait honneur à notre réputation de petite organisation indépendante qui joue avec brio dans la cour des grands.

Tout comme le Canada atlantique, l'AIMS doit relever d'importants défis pour réaliser son grand potentiel. Tout comme les gens que nous servons dans la région, les artisans de l'AIMS ont la détermination, l'énergie et la volonté de réussir. Notre désir de continuer notre œuvre de construction en nous appuyant sur les réussites des vingt premières années de l'AIMS viendra étayer nos efforts; l'AIMS est devenu, comme l'affirmait Purdy Crawford, le meilleur groupe de réflexion sur la politique publique de la région, celui qui fait le plus autorité et qui est le plus écouté.

L'AIMS est une organisation qui génère des espoirs réalistes relativement à tout ce qui doit être réformé et réparé au Canada atlantique. Son travail est de persévérer dans sa recherche d'idées et de solutions politiques qui bénéficieront à notre région et lui vaudront des temps plus prospères.

John Risley | Président du conseil

Message from the President

I stressed the importance of continuity and growth as the ultimate measure of a lasting institution in last year's Annual Report. As things change and people are challenged, we must manage expectations well to be successful.



As we celebrate our success in 2014-15, we are also reminded that success is only as good as the actions and ideas that follow it. In a year that marked heavy investment in the AIMS Radio Project, increased media and social visibility, and the establishment of our priority research areas, we will continue to define the Institute as a lean, efficient and strategic organization with a grand vision.

By understanding our external challenges, which include resource competition, opposing public policy platforms, and technology, AIMS will seek new and innovative ways to capture the attention of

those interested in positive economic and social change for our region. And we will accomplish this by remaining true to our spirit as an independent organization focused on education and training, energy and environment, healthcare policy, immigration and labour, municipal affairs and economic development, and public finance and fiscal federalism.

While we solidified the Institute as a policy game changer in 2014-15, our goal for 2015-16 is to build on a theme of *difference*. Having rebuilt a successful policy base over the past year, based on ideas that caught the attention of governments and organizations across the region, we are prepared to expand our intellectual reach by highlighting our core values and strengths – the difference between us and other research institutes in our region. The fact is, as we paint the AIMS narrative of independence and evidence-based research excellence, we will continue to entrench the Institute as a key subject-matter expert in Atlantic Canada.

Thinking about better solutions is what we do, and we believe we do it better than most in the region. AIMS is not beholden to government funding or corporate pay-for-research service; our independence alone makes us the most attractive public policy think tank in Atlantic Canada, a strength often cited by public officials, civil servants and citizens in Atlantic Canada and all over the country.

AIMS is more than the average small think tank. Collectively organized through the skill and vision it brings to the public policy forefront of Atlantic Canada, we pride ourselves on fresh ideas as alternatives to new and old problems. By assembling the ordinary we often accomplish the extraordinary in our research and opinion papers, making us a key component in the fuel that drives the local economic and social policy engine.

Our recent successes in 2014-15 will help pave the way for the good things we have coming up in 2015-16.

In the fall of 2014, we launched our research on *The Size and Cost of the Public Sector in Atlantic Canada*, which attracted significant attention among policy makers, elected officials, media and the chattering classes right across the country, and which has now been emulated by other institutes in other parts of the country. Our Forum *For the Love of Nova Scotia, Let's Focus on the Economy: The Ivany Report One Year Later* saw over 600 decision-makers, policy-makers, business and academic communities, and economic experts come together at our two events to discuss the state of our economy and how best to measure economic progress in a post-Ivany environment.

The AIMS Radio Project, funded graciously by the John Dobson Foundation, has had a profound reach across Atlantic Canada. Our public policy radio spots on topics such minimum wage, energy, sovereign funds, and healthcare are promoting sound policy and economic ideas, airing in Halifax, St. John, Charlottetown, Moncton, Fredericton, and St. John's. Statistically, we have reached more than 250,000 Atlantic Canadians and created well over one million media impressions in a few short months.

In May, AIMS hosted the first of seven Healthcare Policy Forums we plan to have across the region. Generously funded by the Hecht Foundation, and later joined by the Nova Scotia Cooperative Council (NSCC) for the October forums, these outreach efforts are designed to explore key healthcare themes such healthcare literacy, access to information and governance, and to open up spaces for greater patient participation in their own clinical care. We are grateful for their service and commitment to better healthcare in Nova Scotia and the region, and for the leadership of AIMS Research Fellow, Dr. David Zitner.

Also in May we released *Extending the Educational Lifeline: The benefits of adopting Nova Scotia's Tuition Support Program* (TSP), authored by Dr. Paul Bennett. The study was the third special education-related paper released by Dr. Bennett for AIMS, and followed up on his February 2012 paper, *A Provincial Lifeline: Expanding the Nova Scotia Tuition Support Program*. The paper is being directed at New Brunswick, a jurisdiction that does not have a Tuition Support Program in place.

During the 2015 Federal election, AIMS released Ian Munro's discussion titled, *Checking the Math on Childcare*. The paper's recommendations called for Statistics Canada to fully research Canada's current national childcare priorities before making any government investment in a comprehensive and potentially costly plan.

Calling for stability in Atlantic Canada's strategy to transform non-renewable resources into a permanent financial asset, *A Good Problem to Have: Lessons for Atlantic Canada from Alberta's Experience with Natural Resource Revenue*, caught the attention of policy experts and media from Edmonton to Newfoundland and Labrador. The paper co-written by Robert Roach, Jeff Collins, and Marco Navarro-Génie called on Atlantic Canadian governments to develop their energy resources to the fullest and to initiate savings programs before falling into the unsustainable practice of spending resource revenue as it comes in.

Finally, our research paper authored by Meredith McDonald, *The Road Ahead: Options for Reforming Registry Service Delivery*, examining various experiences with registries from jurisdictions across the country, is being shared among realtors, policy makers, and entrepreneurs, fuelling wider discussion as to how to provide the best services at the best cost.

There are also times when AIMS must respond to issues as they surface in Atlantic Canada.

For example, when the Nova Scotia government chose to eliminate the Film Tax Credit in the spring budget, AIMS took a principled public stand on the state subsidization of all industries. While the issue took on a populist tone, one that didn't win us many favours in the public eye, what differentiated AIMS from every other think tank in the region was our ability to speak out against the status quo.

And there are other issues which we vehemently oppose, such as the proposal of a living wage hike throughout Atlantic Canada to \$20.50. Such issues often get immediate public attention at the expense of serious consideration, resulting in inflated rhetoric without balanced dialogue. AIMS' immediate response proved once

again that our independence and market-based philosophy could restore a poised and educated response to such market-harming ideologies.

Our events in 2014-15 attracted significant attention throughout the business and political communities. Led by the Ivany event in February, the AIMS team pulled together to bring former Deputy Prime Minister and current CEO of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives, The Honourable John Manley, to Halifax. His powerful speech on Canada's long-term vision did not disappoint. As I mentioned in the September issue of The Beacon, Manley's speech touched on key issues but none perhaps more important than his stark warning of Canada's declining global position in the world market.

Long-termism as defined by Manley is a message AIMS takes seriously. As we shape our strategic direction for the coming year, we will rely on strong internal investments and principles that differentiate the Institute from other organizations. These investments begin with our people.

We are indebted to our researchers and writers who span the country and come from the best local and national institutions and universities. This year's contributors, whom we warmly thank for their excellent accomplishments, are Paul Bennett, Jeff Collins, Ben Eisen, Samuel Hammond, Rod Clifton, Jackson Doughart, Shaun Fantuzzo, Kevin Milligan, Patrick Luciani, David Murrell, Ian Munro, Joseph Quesnel, Robert Roach, Gordon Weil, Jonathan Wensveen, Michael Zwaagstra, and David Zitner. We also thank all the blind peer reviewers and research advisors. They are pivotal to reaching the elevated quality of our work.

Generously funded by the Lotte and John Hecht Memorial Foundation, AIMS on Campus is a unique programme in the ecology of think tanks in this country. Through it, a select group of young undergraduate university students learn about public policy guided by market principles and have a peek into the inner workings of a public policy institute. There are other student programs in the country, usually delivering single-event programming, but few offer long-term, engaging, consistent mentorship of the young. In addition to AIMS on Campus Fellows, under a separate programme with other partners, our AIMS Internship Programme selects more senior students, trains them as researchers and writers of practical public policy and exposes them more directly to the operations of our Institute. The work of Samuel Hammond and Jonathan Wensveen this past summer was exemplary. Through these programmes, we are training the policy leaders of tomorrow in a challenging but non-partisan environment.

Last year, in partnership with the Mannkal Economic Education Foundation of Australia, we hosted two Australian interns in Halifax, Tim Goodlier in the winter and Xavier Malone in the summer. We are grateful to Mannkal for this fruitful partnership and the exciting opportunity to make new friends. A new Mannkal Scholar is expected this coming fall. We also received an ILS-sponsored intern from the United Kingdom, Robert Creamer. Tim, Xavier, and Robert contributed valuable time and resources into projects that are already having an impact at AIMS.

As Atlantic Canadian values and policies shift over time, the need to promote current and fresh policy solutions must be weighed in the context of an evidence-based framework. This is where the region benefits by having a strong and independent institute like AIMS here to contribute to the discussion on demographic, economic and social challenges. Without our expertise and access to an impressive database of world class researchers, important policy discussions can often fall to the wayside.

Leadership is an integral part of the Institute, and we are fortunate to be led by such a respected and engaging board of directors. Led by John Risley, the board's advice and guidance over the past year has helped AIMS rise to prominence among think tanks across the country. Our gratitude to John and our board is profound. Without their dedication to excellence, AIMS would not be the success it is today.

We of course owe a big thank you to our foundations, corporations, and individual donors, all of whom contribute to AIMS. It is they who make us strong, independent and relevant.

We have a fantastic stream of projects lined up, and several outstanding events planned across the four provinces that will help us celebrate the next year of policy leadership in the service of Atlantic Canadian and of Canadians across the country. We hope you will all join us.

Marco Navarro-Génie, PhD | President and CEO

Message du président

Dans le rapport annuel de l'année dernière, j'ai insisté sur l'importance de la continuité et de la croissance en tant que mesures ultimes de la pérennité d'une institution. À mesure que tout change et que de nouveaux défis se présentent, notre façon de gérer les attentes dans le contexte de l'Institut devient le facteur déterminant de notre succès.



Tout en nous réjouissant des réussites enregistrées en 2014-2015, nous devons nous rappeler que le succès se mesure aussi par les actions et les idées qui le suivent. L'année a été marquée par l'important investissement de l'AIMS dans son projet radio, dans l'augmentation de sa visibilité dans les médias sociaux et dans la détermination des domaines de recherche à prioriser, et nous entendons continuer à définir l'Institut comme organisation à la structure légère et efficiente, une organisation stratégique qui a une vision d'ensemble.

En cherchant à comprendre ses défis externes, notamment la concurrence pour les ressources, les plateformes opposées à la politique publique et la technologie, l'AIMS examinera des façons nouvelles et novatrices d'attirer l'attention, le cœur et l'esprit de toutes les personnes en quête de changement économique et social positif pour notre région. Nous y arriverons en restant fidèles à l'esprit d'organisation indépendante dont les grandes préoccupations sont l'éducation et la formation, l'énergie et l'environnement, la politique sur les soins de santé, l'immigration et le travail, les affaires municipales et le développement économique, les finances publiques et le fédéralisme fiscal.

En 2014-2015, nous avons consolidé la réputation de l'Institut comme organisation qui change certaines règles du jeu politique, et notre objectif pour 2015-2016 est d'intervenir sur le thème de la *différence*. Au cours de l'exercice terminé, nous avons renforcé une base politique solide en nous fondant sur des idées qui ont retenu l'attention des gouvernements et d'organisations de la région. Nous nous préparons maintenant à élargir notre horizon intellectuel en mettant en vedette nos valeurs essentielles et nos grandes forces – ce qui nous différencie des autres instituts de recherche de la région. Tout en continuant à faire ressortir les antécédents de l'AIMS en tant qu'organisation indépendante et l'excellence de ses recherches étayées par des preuves, nous veillerons à asseoir fermement sa réputation comme spécialiste en la matière au Canada atlantique.

Réfléchir pour trouver de meilleures solutions est notre raison d'être, et nous croyons que nous y arrivons mieux que la plupart des autres dans la région. Pourquoi? L'AIMS n'est pas redevable au secteur public pour son financement, et n'offre pas de services de recherche payants. Son indépendance en fait le groupe de réflexion sur la politique publique le plus attrayant au Canada atlantique, force souvent citée par des personnalités publiques, par des fonctionnaires et des citoyens du Canada atlantique et de tous les coins du pays.

L'AIMS est plus que le petit groupe de réflexion moyen. Organisation collective qui doit sa force aux compétences et à la vision qu'il met de l'avant au Canada atlantique, l'Institut se targue de présenter des idées nouvelles comme solutions de rechange tant à des problèmes nouveaux qu'à de vieux problèmes. En utilisant l'ordinaire, nous réussissons souvent l'extraordinaire dans nos documents de recherche et nos textes d'opinion, ce qui fait de l'AIMS un élément clé de la dynamique qui anime la politique économique et sociale de la région.

Les récents succès que l'AIMS a connus en 2014-2015 contribueront à paver la voie pour les projets que nous entendons réaliser en 2015-2016.

Nous avons lancé, à l'automne 2014, notre recherche sur la taille et le coût du secteur public au Canada atlantique. Ces travaux ont attiré l'attention de responsables de politiques, de représentants élus, des médias et du grand public partout au pays, et ils ont été imités par divers instituts dans les autres provinces. Notre forum intitulé *For the Love of Nova Scotia, Let's Focus on the Economy: The Ivany Report One Year Later* a attiré plus de 600 décideurs, responsables de politiques, représentants du monde des affaires et du monde universitaire et spécialistes de l'économie qui ont participé à deux rencontres pour discuter de l'état de notre économie et des meilleures façons de mesurer le progrès économique dans la foulée du rapport Ivany.

Le projet radio de l'AIMS, financé par la Fondation John Dobson, a eu des ramifications profondes au Canada atlantique. Nos capsules radiophoniques sur la politique publique traitant de sujets comme le salaire minimum, l'énergie, les fonds souverains et les soins de santé font la promotion d'idées politiques et économiques judicieuses et sont diffusées à Halifax, à St. John, à Charlottetown, à Moncton, à Fredericton et à St. John's. Statistiquement, en quelques mois à peine, nous avons joint plus de 250 000 Canadiens de la région atlantique et créé au-delà de un million d'impressions dans les médias.

En mai 2015, l'AIMS a accueilli le premier des sept forums sur la politique en soins de santé politique que nous prévoyons organiser dans la région. Financé généreusement par la Fondation Hecht, à laquelle s'est joint le Nova Scotia Cooperative Council (NSCC) pour les forums tenus en octobre, ce travail de sensibilisation vise à examiner des thèmes comme la connaissance des soins de santé, l'accès à l'information et la gouvernance, et à ouvrir la porte à une plus grande participation des patients dans les soins cliniques qu'ils reçoivent. Nous leur sommes reconnaissants, pour leur service et pour leur engagement dans l'amélioration des soins de santé en Nouvelle-Écosse et dans la région. Nous sommes aussi reconnaissants à M. David Zitner, associé de recherche de l'AIMS, pour son leadership.

Toujours en mai 2015, l'AIMS a publié, sous le titre *Extending the educational lifeline: The benefits of adopting Nova Scotia's Tuition Support Program (TSP)*, les résultats d'une étude rédigés par M. Paul Bennett. Troisième rapport sur l'éducation préparé par M. Bennett pour l'AIMS, il fait suite à son article de février 2012 intitulé *A Provincial Lifeline: Expanding the Nova Scotia Tuition Support Program*. Le rapport s'adresse au Nouveau-Brunswick, province où n'existe aucun programme de soutien pour les frais de scolarité.

Pendant la campagne électorale fédérale de 2015, l'AIMS a publié l'article de M. Ian Munro intitulé *Checking the Math on Childcare*. Dans ses recommandations, M. Munro insiste pour que Statistique Canada examine en profondeur les priorités actuelles du Canada en matière de services à l'enfance avant que le pays investisse des deniers publics dans un plan d'ensemble potentiellement coûteux.

Un autre rapport, *A Good Problem to Have: Lessons for Atlantic Canada from Alberta's Experience with Natural Resource Revenue*, plaide en faveur de la stabilité dans la stratégie du Canada atlantique pour transformer les ressources non renouvelables en actif financier permanent. Le rapport a retenu l'attention des spécialistes de la politique et des médias, tant ceux d'Edmonton que ceux de Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador. Les coauteurs du rapport, MM. Robert Roach, Jeff Collins et Marco Navarro-Génie, demandent aux gouvernements du Canada atlantique de mettre en valeur au maximum les ressources énergétiques de leurs provinces et de mettre en place des programmes d'économie avant d'adopter la pratique non durable de dépenser à mesure qu'ils sont encaissés les revenus tirés des ressources.

Enfin, *The Road Ahead: Options for Reforming Registry Service Delivery*, document de recherche rédigé par Mme Meredith McDonald, étudie la façon dont sont utilisés les registres des autres provinces et des autres régions du pays. Courtiers immobiliers, responsables de politiques et promoteurs s'intéressent au document qui alimente la discussion sur la façon d'offrir les meilleurs services possible au meilleur coût possible.

Il se présente aussi des situations où l'AIMS doit réagir à des enjeux qui se présentent au Canada atlantique.

Ainsi, lorsque le gouvernement de la Nouvelle-Écosse a décidé, dans son budget du printemps, d'éliminer le crédit d'impôt pour la production cinématographique, l'AIMS a adopté une position de principe sur l'état des subventions dans toutes les industries. Même si le ton est devenu populiste et ne nous a pas valu la faveur du public, ce qui a distingué l'AIMS des autres groupes de réflexion de la région est notre capacité de contester le statu quo.

Nous nous opposons également avec véhémence à d'autres enjeux, notamment à la proposition d'augmenter à 20,50 \$ le salaire de subsistance à l'échelle du Canada atlantique. De telles questions retiennent souvent l'attention du public, au détriment d'un examen rigoureux. Résultat : une rhétorique enflammée sans dialogue équilibré. La réaction immédiate de l'AIMS a démontré une fois de plus que notre indépendance et notre approche axée sur le marché peuvent susciter une réponse réfléchie et éclairée à de telles idéologies nuisibles au marché.

Les activités que nous avons organisées en 2014-2015 ont attiré et retenu l'attention du monde des affaires et de la gent politique. Après le forum sur le rapport Ivany, en février, l'équipe de l'AIMS a uni ses forces pour attirer à Halifax l'honorable John Manley, ancien vice-premier ministre et actuel chef de la direction du Conseil canadien des chefs d'entreprise. Son discours convaincant sur la vision à long terme du Canada a été apprécié par l'auditoire. Comme je le mentionnais dans le numéro de septembre du magazine *The Beacon*, dans son discours, M. Manley a abordé plusieurs grandes questions dont la plus importante est sans nul doute son sévère avertissement quant au déclin de la position du Canada dans le marché mondial.

La viabilité à long terme telle qu'elle est définie par M. Manley est un message que l'AIMS prend très au sérieux. À mesure que prendra forme notre orientation stratégique pour l'exercice qui commence, nous continuerons à compter sur nos précieux actifs et à nous fier aux solides principes internes qui différencient l'Institut d'autres organisations. Nos principaux actifs sont nos chercheurs et les membres de notre organisation.

Nous sommes redevables à nos chercheurs et aux auteurs qui viennent de tous les coins du pays et des meilleures institutions et universités canadiennes. Les collaborateurs de l'exercice, que nous remercions chaleureusement pour leurs réalisations, sont : MM. Paul Bennett, Jeff Collins, Ben Eisen, Samuel Hammond, Rod Clifton, Jackson Doughart, Shaun Fantuzzo, Kevin Milligan, Patrick Luciani, David Murrell, Ian Munro, Joseph Quesnel, Robert Roach, Gordon Weil, Jonathan Wensveen, David Zitner et Michael Zwaagstra. Nous remercions également les conseillers de recherche et ceux et celles qui ont procédé à l'examen à l'aveugle des textes. Ils sont essentiels pour assurer la grande qualité de nos travaux.

Généreusement financé par la Fondation Lotte and John Hecht Memorial, c'est un programme unique sur l'écologie des groupes de réflexion au pays. Le programme explique à un groupe sélect de jeunes étudiants universitaires de premier cycle comment la politique publique est orientée par des principes du marché, et leur fait jeter un coup d'œil sur les rouages internes d'un institut de politique publique. Il existe au pays d'autres

programmes destinés aux étudiants. Ces programmes offrent habituellement une activité unique, et ils sont peu nombreux à offrir aux jeunes un mentorat motivant, cohérent et à long terme. Le programme de stages de l'AIMS s'ajoute au programme AIMS on Campus. Il s'adresse à des étudiants plus avancés et leur offre une formation de chercheurs et d'auteurs de politique publique pratique et leur fait connaître plus en profondeur les activités de l'Institut. Le travail effectué par Samuel Hammond et Jonathan Wensveen l'été dernier a été exemplaire. Par ces programmes, nous formons les dirigeants politiques de demain dans un environnement stimulant mais non partisan.

L'année dernière, en partenariat avec la Mannkal Economic Education Foundation d'Australie, nous avons accueilli à Halifax deux stagiaires australiens, Tim Goodlier en hiver et Xavier Malone au cours de l'été. Nous remercions la Fondation Mannkal pour ce partenariat fructueux et pour la formidable occasion de nouer de nouvelles amitiés. Un autre boursier de la Fondation Mannkal doit se joindre à nous l'automne prochain. Nous avons également accueilli Robert Creamer, stagiaire de l'organisation ILS du Royaume-Uni. Tim, Xavier et Robert ont fait une précieuse contribution en temps et en ressources à des projets dont les impacts se font déjà sentir.

Les valeurs du Canada atlantique changent avec le temps, et le besoin de promouvoir des solutions politiques nouvelles et actualisées doit être évalué dans une démarche fondée sur des preuves. C'est dans ce contexte que la région bénéficie de la présence d'une organisation comme l'AIMS, solide et indépendante, qui contribue à la discussion sur les enjeux démographiques, économiques et sociaux. Sans expertise et sans accès à un riche bassin de chercheurs de calibre mondial, d'importantes discussions politiques peuvent souvent sombrer dans l'oubli.

Le leadership fait partie intégrante de l'AIMS, et nous sommes privilégiés d'avoir à sa tête des administrateurs respectés et dévoués. Au cours du récent exercice, les administrateurs, sous la direction de M. John Risley, ont aidé l'AIMS à prendre son essor parmi d'autres groupes de réflexion du pays. Nous tenons à exprimer notre profonde gratitude à M. Risley et aux membres du conseil. Sans leur engagement à l'excellence, l'AIMS ne connaîtrait pas le succès qu'il connaît aujourd'hui.

Nous exprimons aussi nos remerciements les plus sincères aux fondations, aux entreprises et aux donateurs qui nous soutiennent par leur importante contribution à l'AIMS. C'est grâce à eux que l'AIMS est une organisation solide, indépendante et pertinente.

Nous avons une liste fantastique de projets à réaliser et plusieurs événements exceptionnels seront organisés dans les quatre provinces atlantiques pour souligner la prochaine année de leadership en politique au service des Canadiens de la région atlantique et de tous les Canadiens du pays. Nous espérons que vous vous joindrez à nous.

Marco Navarro-Génie, Ph.D. | *Président et chef de la direction*

Papers and Studies

The following is a synopsis of the papers and studies authored by AIMS staff, research fellows, and contributing authors in 2014-15. These publications focus primarily on education, energy and environment, and public finance, which comprise the most pressing issues facing Atlantic Canada in the last 12 months.

Declining Equalization Payments and Fiscal Challenges in the Small “Have-not” Provinces

12-Nov-2014

Ben Eisen, David Murrell, Shaun Fantauzzo

In a joint project with the Frontier Centre for Public Policy, “Declining Equalization Payments and Fiscal Challenges in the Small “Have-not” Provinces” documents a recent decline in equalization payments (relative to provincial GDP) to Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island.

Education on Wheels: Seizing Cost and Energy Efficiency Opportunities in Student Transportation

13-Jan-2015

Paul Bennett and Derek M. Gillis

A new AIMS research report shows that student transportation costs are rising steadily across Maritime Canada, even as student enrolment declines, and that provincial governments in the region are missing opportunities to achieve cost and energy efficiencies.

Short of the Green: Golf as an Economic Development Tool on Prince Edward Island

16-Feb-2015

Ian Munroe

As golf boomed across North America in the 1990s, the Government of Prince Edward Island decided to make golf development a centerpiece of its tourism and economic development strategies. By the end of the decade, the government owned and operated five courses and a golf school, and was spending large sums on golf-related marketing efforts.

Extending the Educational Lifeline: The Benefits of Adopting Nova Scotia's Tuition Support Program (TSP)

27-May-2015

Paul Bennett

AIMS author Paul Bennett discusses adopting the Nova Scotia Tuition Support Program (TSP) throughout Atlantic Canada and provides a New Brunswick example of the Riverbend Community School in Moncton. Bennett examines how the TSP program has been implemented since 2004, and provides eight recommendations for Atlantic Canada.

A Good Problem to Have: Lessons for Atlantic Canada from Alberta’s Experience with Natural Resource Revenue

09-Jun-2015

Robert Roach

Co-authored by Senior Fellow, Robert Roach, Research Associate, Jeff Collins, and AIMS President and CEO, Marco Navarro-Génie, *_A Good Problem to Have: Lessons for Atlantic Canada from Alberta's Experience with Natural Resource Revenue_*, calls for stability in Atlantic Canada's strategy to transform non-renewable resources into a permanent financial asset.

Checking the Math on Childcare

August 2015

Ian Munroe

In his report, Checking the Math on Childcare, commissioned by the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies (AIMS), Ian Munro cautions Canadians about promises for a federal childcare program.

The Road Ahead: Options for Reforming Registry Service Delivery

24-Sep-2015

Meredith McDonald

In her report, The Road Ahead: Options for Reforming Registry Service Delivery, commissioned by the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies (AIMS), Meredith McDonald analyses provincial experiences with registry services in Canada.

Atlantic Canada and the U.S. Electricity Market: Projects and Perspectives

28-Oct-2015

Gordon L. Weil

In his report, Atlantic Canada and the U.S. Electricity Market: Projects and Perspectives, commissioned by the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies (AIMS), Gordon L. Weil provides a catalog of current proposals for new transmission links between Atlantic Canada and New England. It notes that many projects have failed in the past, because of a lack of sufficient certainty about sales opportunities in the U.S.

Opinion Pieces

The following is a sampling of opinion pieces authored by AIMS staff, research fellows, and contributing authors in 2014-15. This selection includes several articles addressing developments, issues, and policies relevant to the AIMS research agenda, which focuses primarily on education, energy and environment, healthcare, labour, and public finance. These pieces featured in local, regional, and national media outlets throughout the year.

Atlantic Canada, Justin Trudeau's new Liberal base

17-Sep-2015, C2C Journal

Marco Navarro-Génie and Michael Kydd

A simple fact rules liquor sales: competition reduces prices

14 Sep 2015, National Post

Jonathan Wensveen

Marco Navarro-Génie

When releasing violent offenders, use fact, not opinion

13-Jun-2015, Chronicle Herald

David Zitner

Jeffrey Collins

The limits of psychiatry in the criminal justice system

12-Jun-2015, National Post

David Zitner

Jeffrey Collins

Report Cards: Teachers Should Be Free To Say What They Really Think?

8-Apr-2015, Chronicle Herald

Michael Zwaagstra

Nova Scotia Can Find Efficiencies in the Size of Its Public Sector

8-Apr-2015, Canadian-Lebanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry Newsletter; Vol.3.

Marco-Navarro-Génie

Provincially-owned Golf Courses Continue to Bleed Red Ink on PEI

17-Feb-2015, The Guardian

Ian Munroe

Medicare: Health Insurance or Political Asset?

10-Sep-2015

David Zitner

Alberta should save all of its resource revenue

9-Jun-2015, Calgary Herald

Robert Roach

Save And Spend, In That Order

9-Jun-2015, The Telegram

Robert Roach, Jeff Collins and Marco Navarro-Génie

It's 2015, so why can't I email my doctor yet?

4-Aug-2015, Chronicle Herald

David Zitner and Dianne Kelderman

We've Gone Back to Throwing Money at Education

17-Apr-2015, Chronicle Herald

Paul Bennett

Building a Better Bus System

15 Jan 2015, Telegraph Journal

Paul Bennett and Derek Gillis

No-zero Policies Just As Misguided As Ever

15-Jan-2015, The Telegram

Michael Zwaagstra

"Blizzard Bags" Make for a Smart Snow Day

26-Feb-2015, Chronicle Herald, the Guardian, and the Telegraph Journal

Paul Bennett

Free Tuition No Magic Bullet

7-Jan-2015, Chronicle Herald

Jeffrey Collins

Do City Rankings Carry any Real Value?

9-Mar-2015, National Post

Patrick Luciani

Blinkered environmentalism can harm economy

20-Jul-2015

Marco-Navarro-Génie

Undergraduate Teaching Needs to Improve

13-Sep-2015, Troy Media
Rod Clifton

Health Care Reform Needs Public Citizens' voice

18-Aug-2015
Jeff Collins, David Zitner, Marco Navarro-Génie

Cost of shunning fracking is just too high

8-Jul-2015, Chronicle Herald
Joseph Quesnel

Premiers Should Pursue Balanced Resource Development

21-Jul-2015
Marco Navarro-Génie

Focus on realistic recommendations from Truth and Reconciliation Report

25-Jun-2015, National Post
Joseph Quesnel

Bandwidth is like water: we should pay for consumption

15-Jul-2015, Chronicle Herald
Marco Navarro-Génie

An Opportunity to Improve NB Power

20-Nov-2014, Telegraph Journal
Gordon Weil

Economic Growth Requires Education Reform

3-Nov-2014, Guardian
Jeffrey Collins

Should All Canadians Receive Subsidized Childcare?

23-Oct-2014, Globe and Mail
Ben Eisen

Atlantic Union of Power Grid Would Lower Customer Bills

22-Oct-2014, Chronicle Herald
Gordon Weil

Standardized Tests Benefit PEI Students

17-Oct-2014, Charlottetown Guardian
Michael Zwaagstra

Your health information: our secret

31-Jul-2015, Chronicle Herald
David Zitner

No Such Thing as a Bargain in Defence Procurement

3-Jul-2015, National Post
Jeffrey Collins

Banish over-regulation, embrace permissionless innovation

8-Jun-2015, Entrevestor, Chronicle Herald
Samuel Hammond

These Provinces Can Expect More Unemployment, Less Investment, and Lower Income

5-Jan-2015, Huffington Post, the Waterloo Record, the Journal Pioneer, the News Review, and Troy Media
Ben Eisen and Mark Milke

Reviving and Revising the Canada First Defense Strategy

15-Jan-2015, C2C Journal
Jeffrey Collins

The Ongoing Quest for Economic Diversification in Alberta

12-Dec-2014, Battleford's News-Optimist
Robert Roach

Money Does Buy Happiness, Lots of It

26-Nov-2014, Troy Media
Robert Roach

Declining Equalization Payments, Fiscal Challenges in PEI and New Brunswick

14-Nov-2014, Telegraph Journal, Guardian
Ben Eisen and Shaun Fantauzzo

Is the NSTU Digging In Against Standardized Tests?

9-Oct-2014, Chronicle Herald
Michael Zwaagstra

Select Media Coverage

The following is a sampling of the media coverage AIMS received in 2014-15. This selection includes newspaper, radio, and television interviews featuring AIMS staff, research fellows, and contributing authors, in addition to material prompted by AIMS research and written by independent columnists and newspaper editors.

Checking the Math on Childcare
21 Sep 2015
Global News

TECO acquisition ‘very good’ for Emera, says expert
8 Sep 2015
Chronicle Herald

Wealth redistribution has hurt some provinces, says former bureaucrat
8 Sep 2015
Toronto Star

Western premier says scales tipped against rich provinces
27 Aug 2015
New Brunswick Telegraph-Journal

Rural Internet access: Broadband co-ops are the way to go
14 Aug 2015
Chronicle Herald

Should we stop paying down our public debt?
9 Jul 2015
CBC Radio One

N.S. Film Industry Reps Taking 'Clear Ask' To Government Friday
17 Apr 2015
CTV News

Film Tax Credit Cuts Make Sense, Halifax Think Tank Says
15 Apr 2015
Chronicle Herald

Nova Scotia Film Tax Credit Rally
16 Apr 2015
Global News

Radio Interview with AIMS Fellow Michael Zwaagstra on Report Cards
8 Apr 2015
News 95.7

Raising Minimum Wage May Do More Harm Than Good
16 Jul 2015
CBC Radio One

Jeffrey Collins discusses defense procurement
3 Jul 2015
Jerry Agar show

New Brunswick Can Help Students With Learning Disabilities, Says Report
27 May 2015
Times & Transcript

AIMS Says Students With Learning Disabilities Need Financial Help
27 May 2015
CBC New Brunswick

Does Nova Scotia stifle innovation?
15 Jul 2015

NDP Victory in Alberta Is not a Sign of an Orange Wave in the Next Federal Election
7 May 2015
Radio Canada

NSGEU Holds Rally At Canso Causeway To Protest Budget Cuts
20 Apr 2015
Chronicle Herald

How the Maritimes Became Canada’s Incredible Shrinking Region
2 Apr 2015
Globe and Mail

As Golf Tourism Declines, PEI’s Government Struggles To Make Par
20 Feb 2015
Globe and Mail

Grid Deal With N.B. Won’t Include Nuclear Power
8 Apr 2015
Chronicle Herald

Atlantic Institute For Market Studies Weighs In On Film Tax Credit Cuts
 16 Apr 2015
 Yahoo News

Public Sector Wage Restraint Should Top Whalen's To-Do List
 8 Apr 2015
 Chronicle Herald

John Risley Calls Film Tax Credit 'Nuts,' Backs Government Changes
 15 Apr 2015
 CBC News

N.B. Education Minister Angry After Learning French and English Students Have Been Sharing a School Bus
 27 Mar 2015
 National Post

PEI Golf Missing the Cut
 17 Feb 2015
 The Guardian

School Closure Policy Unlikely to Change
 8 Apr 2015
 CBC News
Snowed-under Class Time Needs to be Addressed, Minister Says
 25 Feb 2015
 Telegraph Journal

AIMS Report Much Too Harsh on PEI Golf Industry
 17 Feb 2015
 The Guardian

Selling Provincial Golf Courses "Takes Times": Henderson
 10 Feb 2015
 The Guardian

Wage Standards: A One-dollar Fix for a \$12 Billion Problem
 28 Jan 2015
 Times & Transcript

Black: Liberals Must Wiggle Out of Civil Service Straitjacket
 20 Feb 2015
 Chronicle Herald

Government Calculators Out of Whack
 17 Feb 2015
 The Telegram, the Cape Breton Post, the Western Star, and the Yarmouth County Vanguard

Manitoba's Bloated Public Sector
 17 Feb 2015
 Winnipeg Free Press

Report Critical of PEI Government Golf Investment
 17 Feb 2015
 CBC PEI

Ivany Report Anniversary Underlines Need for Change
 17 Feb 2015
 CBC News, Nova Scotia and Yahoo! News

One Year Check Up: Looking at the Ivany Report
 17 Feb 2015
 Global News

Time to be Bold and Shrink Public Service
 17 Feb 2015
 Chronicle Herald

It's Not About Big or Small, It's About Good or Bad
 2 Feb 2015
 Times & Transcript

Eisen on CBC Newsmaker with Harry Forestall
 16 Dec 2014
 CBC NS

Zero Gain
 20 Jan 2015
 The Telegram

No-zero Policy Goose-egged by Educator, Author
 20 Jan 2015
 The Pilot

AIMS on Campus

AIMS on Campus is a programme that introduces ideas of liberty, free markets, and individual responsibility to post-secondary students across Canada. Canadian colleges and universities should be havens for intellectual freedom, where all students feel comfortable expressing their ideas and everyone benefits from the exchange. This programme provides a forum for students to communicate their ideas, as well as opportunities to network with some of Canada's leading policy experts. The Lotte and John Hecht Memorial Foundation generously sponsors the programme.



The 2014-2015 student fellows are:

Rinzin Ngodup

Dalhousie University, Development Economics

Rinzin is a graduate student in development economics at Dalhousie University. Born to Tibetan parents in India, he completed undergraduate studies in economics at the University of Madras, India. He has worked as a teaching assistant at Dalhousie University and has been living in Halifax since 2010 with his cousin. In his spare time, he enjoys reading classic novels and practicing meditation.

Interests: development economics, welfare economics, environmental economics, and macroeconomic policy

Samuel Hammond

Carleton University, Economics

Samuel is a Nova Scotia-native, born and raised on the South Shore. During his undergraduate studies at Saint Mary's University, he was Editor-in-Chief of the SMU Journal and spent over a year working as a junior economist for ACOA Halifax. He currently resides in Ottawa, where he is a graduate student in economics at Carleton University.

Interests: social choice theory, regional economic development, public finance, and growth theory

Leo Plumer

McGill University, Economics and Political Science

A Newfoundlander, Leo resides in Montreal, where he is enrolled in the joint economics and political science undergraduate programme at McGill University. He is an active member of Students for Liberty, a writer for the Mises Canada Emerging Scholars blog, and a proprietor of his own campus group, all of which has contributed to his interest in public policy. During the few breaks he takes from complaining about politics, he is an avid outdoorsman, gourmand, and metal-head.

Interests: development economics, welfare economics, social justice, international relations, and monetary policy

Corey Schruder

Cape Breton University, History

Corey is pursuing an undergraduate degree in history at Cape Breton University following two years at Queen's University. He was previously an executive member of the Queen's Students for Liberty group, where he was responsible for organizing the "Free Speech Wall" on campus, a contributor to the Queen's Journal and Queen's International Observer, and a former research assistant with the Canadian Taxpayers Federation. Most recently, he was an intern at the PMO. In his spare time, he enjoys reading about economic history and spending time with friends and family.

Interests: economic history, labour policy, municipal governance, welfare economics

Devin Dровер

Memorial University, Economics

Devin is pursuing an undergraduate degree in economics at Memorial University of Newfoundland in St. John's. In addition to his studies, Devin currently works as a research assistant for Memorial's economics department, and as the Features editor for his campus student newspaper, the Muse. A proud advocate for free markets, Devin also serves as Memorial's campus coordinator for the Generation Screwed campaign, an initiative of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

Interests: public finance, taxation, natural resource development, and labour markets

The primary component of AIMS on Campus in 2014-15 was *Free Exchange*—the student fellow blog. There were over 70 blog posts between November 2013 and April 2014, culminating in nearly 5,500 views and roughly 50 subscribers. In addition, one of the fellows created a campus club—the Free Discourse Society—at Memorial University and hosted a debate about education, another wrote a series of opinion pieces published in the

Telegraph Journal and participated in an online debate about physician compensation on HealthyDebate.ca and the remaining two joined the Institute for Liberal Studies at their semi-annual economic seminars in Ottawa and Toronto.

Please visit www.AIMSonCampus.ca and check out the content generated by the 2014-15 student fellows. The topics of each post vary widely from energy policy and fiscal issues to education spending and demographic trends.

Select Publications from the 2013-14 AIMS on Campus Student Fellow Blog, *Free Exchange*:

Matthew Lau: To Reduce Provincial Deficits We Must Shrink the Public Sector

06-18-15

Meagan Campbell: Keeping Nova Scotia Inmates on Lock Down Increases Recidivism, Raises Costs

06-17-15

Justin Baird: Atlantic Canada Must Urbanize Faster

06-16-15

How Capitalism Helped End Slavery

06-10-15

The Irrational Fear of Austerity

04-18-15

In Defence of Choice and Competition: Vouchers and Charter Schools

04-06-15

Private Hospitals and Two-tier Healthcare

04-03-15

Uber, but for Regulation

04-01-15

Is Higher Education Really a Bubble?

03-11-15

Energy Transportation and Negative Externalities: The Argument for Sound Regulation

03-09-15

New Brunswick's Fiscal Challenges and the Argument for Public Sector Restraint

03-03-15

Alcohol, Social Harms, and the State: The Case for Privatizing the NLC

02-25-15

Uneconomic Healthcare: Rising Costs, Longer Wait Times, and the Argument for Private Sector Involvement

02-23-15

Competition and Choice in Education: A Brief Opinion

02-17-15

Is Newfoundland a Petrostate? Part Two

02-13-15

On Rural Newfoundland: Community Resettlement and Taxpayer Equity

02-12-15

Unproductive Unionization: Labour and the Economy in Nova Scotia

02-10-15

A Historical Overview of Venture Capital in Nova Scotia

02-06-15

Nova Scotia's Tourism Ferry Tales

02-03-15

Is Newfoundland and Labrador a “Petrostate?”

01-27-15

Tourism, Education, and Exports: Nova Scotia in the Context of Cheaper Energy and a Weaker Dollar
03-04-15

A Win for Healthcare Reform in Nova Scotia
01-22-15

Labour and the Economy in Nova Scotia: “Right-to-work” Legislation as a Means of Economic Growth
01-16-15

Melting Newfoundland’s Tuition Freeze
01-15-15

Derailing Economic Growth on Cape Breton Island
12-17-14

Lessons from the Rock: Oil Revenue, Government Spending, and Public Debt
12-10-14

Disparaging Disparities in the Canadian Provinces
12-05-14

Three Case Studies of the Municipal Fiscal Crisis
12-03-14

Returning to Growth: Atlantic Canada, Government Spending, and Economic Growth
01-23-15

Tough on Crime, Tough on Costs
11-28-14

Poor Poverty Statistics
11-26-14

An Economic Exploration of Bilingualism, Part Two
11-18-14

The Economics of Amalgamation
11-17-14

Butting-out on E-cigarette Regulations
11-12-14

Closing the Productivity Gap between Canada and the United States
11-06-14

Events and Activities

Hosting events and participating in them is a core tenet of AIMS. Throughout the year, AIMS staff and AIMS on Campus student fellows organized and partook in several events, spanning from a debate on education policy at Memorial University to an assessment of the economic climate in Nova Scotia at the Canadian Pension and Benefits Institute regional conference.

Special Event with Gérard Latulippe, Canada's High Commissioner in Trinidad and Tobago

18 & 20-Nov-2014 at Halifax, NS and St. John's, NL



AIMS Special Events
His Excellency Gérard Latulippe, High Commissioner in Trinidad and Tobago
An overview of business opportunities in Trinidad and Tobago

November 18th Halifax, NS Lord Nelson Hotel 1515 South Park Street Registration: 11:30AM Lunch: 12:30PM TICKETS Individual: \$75 Table (8): \$225	November 20th St. John's, NL Sheraton Hotel Newfoundland 115 Cavendish Square Registration: 6:30PM Dinner: 7:30PM TICKETS Individual: \$100 Table (8): \$700
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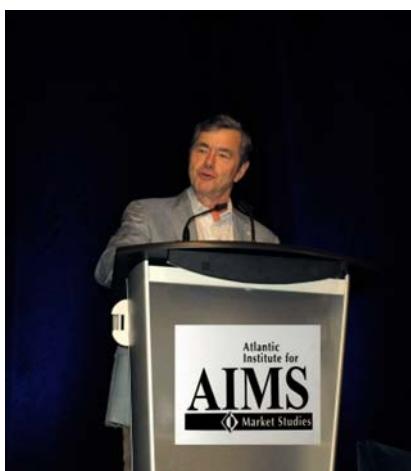
Special Event with John Carpay, President of the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms

15-Dec-2014

Ending the government's healthcare monopoly: a discussion of Chaoulli vs. Quebec, Allen vs. Alberta, and the state of healthcare in Canada

For the Love of Nova Scotia, Let's Focus on the Economy: The Ivany Report One Year Later

11-Feb-2015



On 11 February 2015 AIMS hosted a half day, two-panel symposium and a dinner at the World Trade and Convention Centre.

Our event brought decision-makers, policy-makers, the business and academic communities, and economic experts together to discuss the state of our economy and how best to pursue and measure economic progress in a post-Ivany environment.

It was clear from the podium at the AIMS For the Love of Nova Scotia event, and from the 250 participants of the afternoon symposium and the 300 guests of the dinner event, that business and community leaders are committed to addressing the major issues facing Nova Scotia's economy.

Panel 1: How to Move the Economy Forward

Moderated by: former NSBI President, Stephen Lund

The panelists: John Risley, CEO of Clearwater Fine Foods, Rob Batherson, Vice-Chair of the Halifax Chamber of Commerce, Amy Gordinier-Regan, President of Skinfix, and Sherry Porter, Chairman of the Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation.

Highlights

Risley focused his attention on the province's need for an attitude shift:



"Some things you can control. Some things you can't control. Nova Scotia needs to focus on what it can control: growing the economy and creating wealth." Risley also gave the audience a reality check: "With all due respect to our Premier, the glass is not half full. It's a quarter full at best."

Rob Batherson stated simply: "Over the last 30 years in Nova Scotia, we aren't suffering from a revenue problem. We are suffering from an expenditure problem."

Gordinier-Regan asserted that the business community must lead by example to advance Nova Scotia's economic future: "Individually, we need to change the paradigm from fear of failure to a high degree of confidence."

Public Participation in Quality Health Care and Policy Reform Forum

21 May 2015 at Garrison Room at The Halifax Citadel National Historic Site | Hosted by AIMS



In May, the Atlantic Institute of Market Studies (AIMS) convened a forum to discuss citizen participation in health care. People came from many disciplines including medical practitioners, former civil servants, business people, researchers, policy experts and consultants, and academics from medicine, nursing, philosophy, history and English. There was a collective will, among the May forum participants, to bring forward community-based solutions to improve quality health care and realize effective policy reform. The forum members recommended that we hold a broader community consultation with representation from illness-specific groups and to gather input from the public at large.

The forum agreed that ordinary citizens must also have accurate information about health system performance, including information about waiting times, the benefits and harms of interventions, and error rates to make thoughtful personal and political choices.

The forum supported the notion of increasing health literacy through campaigns conveying clearly the most important concepts in healthcare, helping the public to focus on fundamental questions such as the purpose of health care, the measurement of results and the crucial issue of evaluating the likely benefits and harms of proposed treatments including in mental health and the evaluation of public health initiatives.

2015 AIMS Chairman's Dinner with the Honourable John Manley**21-Sept-2015 | Harbourfront Marriott**

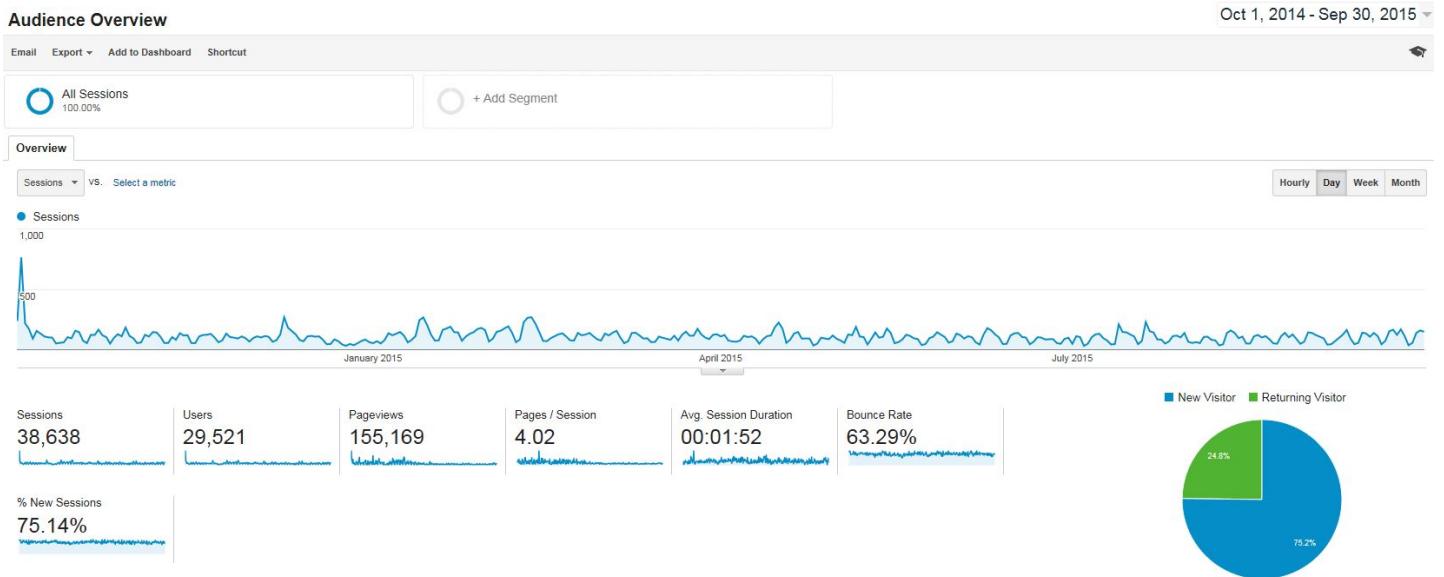
The 2015 Chairman's Dinner in Halifax was a success. We are grateful to the Honourable John Manley for providing strategic insight on Canada's long-term future. Manley's wisdom, ability and quips kept the 200+ crowd engaged, inspired and reflective of brighter days ahead for our great country. Topics covered throughout the evening, many of which revealed some hidden passions for the former Cabinet Minister, included immigration, trades and training, economic policy, foreign trade and development, education, and last but not least, global competition.



Upon reflection, the road ahead for Canada is fraught with world oil prices falling, international and domestic security dominating headlines around the world, and global technology outpacing Canadian pedagogical priorities. The news is not good, and you need not be living under a rock to know it. But if Manley made any point worth repeating, it is that Canada must forge a new way of developing and thinking on a globally competitive scale when educating our youth and future workforce. Canada is slipping into obscurity because we are falling behind other countries who, as Manley commented, prioritize numeracy and literacy on the same scale we value the success of our national hockey program. It is a sobering contrast, and one that should resonate with all policymakers and legislators.

Online Presence

Official Website—www.AIMS.ca



Region ?	Acquisition		
	Sessions ? ↓	% New Sessions ?	New Users ?
	31,864 % of Total: 82.47% (38,638)	72.95% Avg for View: 75.14% (-2.90%)	23,246 % of Total: 80.07% (29,031)
1. Nova Scotia	10,972 (34.43%)	60.25%	6,611 (28.44%)
2. Ontario	7,545 (23.68%)	78.00%	5,885 (25.32%)
3. New Brunswick	2,969 (9.32%)	82.76%	2,457 (10.57%)
4. Newfoundland and Labrador	2,419 (7.59%)	87.43%	2,115 (9.10%)
5. Alberta	2,018 (6.33%)	83.75%	1,690 (7.27%)
6. Quebec	1,956 (6.14%)	78.58%	1,537 (6.61%)
7. British Columbia	1,838 (5.77%)	75.68%	1,391 (5.98%)
8. Prince Edward Island	856 (2.69%)	60.75%	520 (2.24%)
9. Saskatchewan	673 (2.11%)	86.33%	581 (2.50%)
10. Manitoba	570 (1.79%)	72.81%	415 (1.79%)

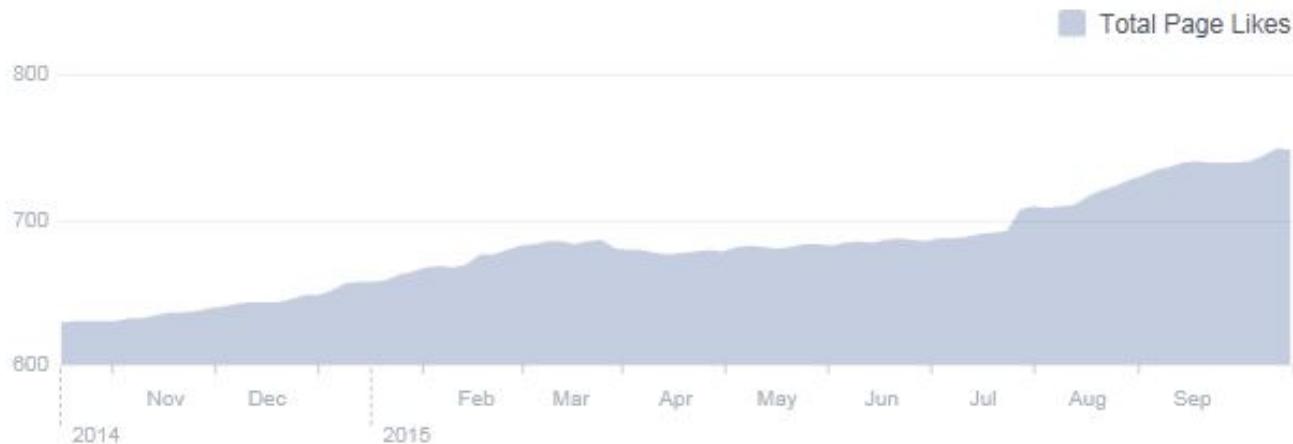
Twitter-[@AIMS_CA](#)

The AIMS Twitter account saw an increase of 157 new followers in 2014-15, creating activity in profile visits (2,859) and impressions (53,599). These are marginal increases from the previous year.

Facebook-[Atlantic Institute for Market Studies](#)

The Institute's Facebook account gained a significant amount of traction in the 2014-15 fiscal year. Between October 2014 and September 2015, it garnered an additional 763 "likes," representing a 269% per cent growth rate from the previous year.

Total Page Likes as of Today: 763



The objective of the AIMS Radio Project is to reach six primary Atlantic Canadian markets over a 50-week period with 60-second public policy radio statements focused on AIMS' core pillars: education & training, healthcare, public finance and fiscal federalism, municipal affairs & economic development, energy & environment, and immigration & labour. To access the radio spots, please go [here](https://soundcloud.com/aims_ca) (https://soundcloud.com/aims_ca).

Atlantic Institute for Market Studies
Statement of revenue and expenditures

Year ended September 30	2015	2014
Revenue		
Donations		
Foundations	\$ 310,600	\$ 331,500
Corporate and individual	200,341	129,700
Events, registrations and sponsorships	120,897	72,847
In-kind revenue (Notes 2 and 8)	<u>5,375</u>	<u>5,000</u>
	<u>637,213</u>	<u>539,047</u>
Expenditures		
Bank charges	4,370	3,906
Catering and equipment rentals	58,632	26,286
Contract fees	111,966	56,000
Courier	177	515
Depreciation	4,829	6,612
Insurance	8,112	9,984
Office	10,854	10,003
Postage and printing	3,945	250
Professional fees	14,002	15,213
Promotions	17,617	4,438
Proofreading	2,865	1,314
Rent	40,047	38,258
Salaries and benefits	285,790	351,851
Speakers	986	1,116
Subscriptions and data purchases	9,396	1,496
Telephone	5,346	5,517
Travel	<u>16,363</u>	<u>21,436</u>
	<u>595,297</u>	<u>554,195</u>
Surplus (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	\$ <u>41,916</u>	\$ <u>(15,148)</u>

Atlantic Institute for Market Studies

Balance sheet

September 30

2015

2014

Assets

Current

Cash	\$ 62,033
Receivables	85,279
Commodity tax rebate receivable	4,732
Prepays	17,299
	107,310
Property and equipment (Note 3)	13,945
	18,775
	\$ 121,255
	\$ 91,510

Liabilities

Current

Bank indebtedness (Note 4)	\$ 13,160	\$ 83,003
Payables and accruals	95,472	37,800
Deferred revenue	108,632	120,803
Deferred revenue	50,000	50,000
	158,632	170,803
Fund balance		
General fund deficit	(51,320)	(98,065)
Fund equity invested in property and equipment (Note 5)	13,943	18,772
	(37,377)	(79,293)
	\$ 121,255	\$ 91,510

Commitments (Note 7)

On behalf of the Institute

Director



Director

Donors

AIMS relies on the generosity of individuals, corporations, and foundations in Atlantic Canada and beyond to support our work and disseminate our research. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who support AIMS, but who have taken the extra step of helping us fund the Institute. This support is integral to the livelihood of AIMS and it makes a difference in the lives of individual Canadians through better, affordable, and sustainable public investment and activity.

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