



IDEAS FOR A

MORE PROSPEROUS

NATION

Annual Report 2013

“(...) Governments, that is, should do what markets cannot. They should not try to do what markets can. This is a matter of scarce resources, if nothing else: the more government spends in areas where it is not needed, the less it will have left to spend in areas where it is essential. As a maxim, government should only do what only government can do.”

Andrew Coyne, *National Post*, May 9, 2013

NATIONAL POST

The Montreal Economic Institute is an independent, non-partisan, not-for-profit research and educational organization. Through its publications, media appearances and conferences, the MEI stimulates debate on public policies in Quebec and across Canada by proposing wealth-creating reforms based on market mechanisms. It does not accept any government funding.

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Message from the Chairman of the Board



“ We can also evaluate our success by observing to what extent the MEI broke new ground by having been one of the first voices, if not the first, to raise various issues over the past fifteen years that are making headlines today. ”

For a private company, the main benchmark of success is profitability. In the world of non-profit organizations like the one in which the Montreal Economic Institute operates, success is measured primarily in two other ways.

First of all, we must convince donors to support us by providing us with the means to accomplish our mission. And once again this year, the MEI has experienced remarkable growth in this regard. Indeed, for the first time in our history, we have passed the \$2-million mark in terms of revenue, an expression of exceptional confidence on the part of those who support our mission.

Secondly, the success of a research organization like ours is of course measured in the concrete accomplishment of its mission, which is to contribute to public policy debates in Quebec and across Canada by proposing wealth-creating reforms based on market mechanisms.

In this regard as well, the Institute has reached new heights this year. It is primarily through the media that the MEI transmits analyses, facts and data that allow it to influence these debates. And in 2013, we have for the first time exceeded 4,000 media mentions. Also worth noting is the fact that the English Canadian media has called upon our expertise so often this year that it now accounts for over half of our total media coverage.

We can also evaluate our success by observing to what extent the MEI broke new ground by having been one of the first voices, if not the first, to raise various issues over the past fifteen years that are making headlines today.

For example, in the early 2000s, the Montreal Economic Institute was the first organization in Quebec to provide a systematic critique of the shortcomings of Canada's public health care system and to propose solutions inspired by European models based on universality, competition, patient choice and private sector involvement. Again in 2013, we published a study and released a video on the role of private clinics that attracted a great deal of attention. Thanks to this sustained educational effort, public perceptions have evolved considerably, and one by one, the taboos that used to dominate this emotional debate are in the process of crumbling.

The MEI has also been sounding the alarm for several years now regarding the Quebec government's excessive debt and precarious finances. Although some continue to call us alarmists, our concern is shared by a very large majority of analysts today. And one day or another, reforms will be undertaken that will rely on the work the Institute has been doing all this time to prepare the ground in terms of public opinion. Finally, we have played a leading role in recent years in educating the general public,

and decision makers too, on questions about energy and the development of natural resources. In 2013, we took part in a concrete manner in debates on, among other things, the transportation of oil by pipeline, the rising costs of electricity in Quebec and the management of our forests. We even participated in the launch of a new interview series on the American PBS network featuring internationally renowned experts on energy questions.

In short, it is undeniable that the efforts of the entire MEI team are bearing fruit. Furthermore, our President and CEO, Michel Kelly-Gagnon, has become a global expert in think tank management. His expertise is sought after as much in Europe as in the United States, and even as far as South America.

In 2014, we will continue our long-term economic education program surrounding these broad themes, as well as our timely commentaries on various issues of the day for which journalists seek out our expertise. We welcomed a new member to our Board of Directors this year: Jean Raby, Chief Financial Officer for Alcatel-Lucent, who has also worked in various financial institutions both in North America and in Europe.

Our Board of Governors has also been enriched by the presence of Maureen Sabia, who is based in Toronto. Ms. Sabia sits on the boards of directors of several large Canadian corporations. In particular, she is the Chairman of the Board of Canadian Tire. Mario Charpentier, founding partner of the dynamic BCF law firm, also joined our ranks.

As I wrote above, the MEI has enjoyed increasing financial support from the community of people who are interested in public policy, in Quebec, but also all across Canada. Concretely, greater financial means allow us to hire more staff, to publish more studies, to produce more videos, to participate in more conferences and to give more media interviews. In other words, it is thanks to this concrete support that we are able to be so successful in fulfilling our mission.

I want to thank all of you who have helped us scale these new heights, each in your own way and according to your own means. And I am counting on your renewed support in 2014 so that we can reach even higher!

Hélène Desmarais

Message from the President and CEO



“ Our objective is to enable the average person to be better informed, and eventually demand that politicians adopt measures that will move us in the direction of better management of public assets and greater economic freedom. ”

Since its inception, the MEI’s mission has been to explain to the general public the principles and workings of a market economy and to propose wealth-creating public policies. In 2013, we have continued to play our role with enthusiasm, all across Canada, but with special emphasis on francophone Quebec. In this regard, it is important to note that the conclusions of our research are being covered by the media more than ever. In addition, they increasingly, and ever more concretely, provide inspiration to provincial and federal decision makers.

Having an Impact on Several Major Issues

Energy

The research and educational initiative on energy questions that we launched a few years ago continued to occupy an important place in 2013. Our publications in this area highlight facts and analyses that are too often missing from the public debate. This approach has echoed widely and generated substantial media coverage.

For example, with the publication of an *Economic Note* on the growing costs of electricity production in the province of Quebec, we demonstrated that Quebecers pay some \$695 million in implicit subsidies per year to produce wind energy they don’t need. Even more disturbing, this energy is 2.5 times more expensive than hydroelectricity.

We were the first ones to observe this. The *Journal de Montréal* even devoted its front page to a presentation of the results of our research on the subject. Following our repeated media interventions, we were able to see a change in public perceptions and a distinct shift in media discussions on the topic. Today, instead of mentioning wind turbines solely for ecological reasons, there is more and more talk of their disadvantages from an economic standpoint.

Still under the heading of what I would call the presentation of a “pragmatic and realistic vision of energy matters,” the question of the development and use of oil is at the heart of our research and economic education work. In 2013, our publication on the economic benefits of pipeline projects to Eastern Canada shone a light, first of all, on the importance of Montreal’s petrochemical sector, which provides 3,600 quality jobs, as well as on the best way to transport oil to the country’s eastern provinces. The debate over oil pipelines must take into account the fact that the alternative to pipelines is not to stop transporting large quantities of oil, but rather to use other modes of transport that are less safe, less reliable and less cost-effective. Our work found an audience with decision makers and opinion leaders across the country. Indeed, a number of them formulated, and even in certain cases explicitly cited, certain of the recommendations and ideas that we have been putting forward on this subject for quite a while now.

Energy production is not just an important sector in itself, of course; it also has an impact on many other economic activities, on the environment and on our quality of life. It is therefore not surprising that for several years now, these matters have taken on greater importance in our lives. That's why we address these questions regularly and will continue to do so in the coming years.

Le Journal de Montréal, June 17, 2013

The MEI on the front page of the *Métro* newspaper, August 29, 2013



L'oléoduc serait plus sûr que le train, selon l'IEDM

Exclusif. Si les projets d'oléoducs de l'Ouest vers l'est du Canada ne se concrétisent pas, le pétrole sera tout de même acheminé, mais par train, une option moins sécuritaire et moins fiable, d'après une étude de l'Institut économique de Montréal (IEM).

Cette note de l'analyste Jean-François Monard, rédigée selon la demande de l'Assemblée et publiée aujourd'hui, indique que les compagnies de l'Est du Canada ont commencé à utiliser le pétrole de l'Ouest marchand, considéré M. Monard. Il promettrait de réduire la vulnérabilité des entreprises en cas de rupture d'approvisionnement de l'étranger. Il s'agirait ainsi d'un avantage moins évident, mais la demande de ces raffineries, soit Sumco à Montréal

Énergie
«La question n'est donc pas de savoir si le pétrole de l'Ouest sera acheminé au Québec, mais bien comment il le sera. Il - Jean-François Monard, analyste en politiques publiques et auteur d'une note économique de l'Institut économique de Montréal.

de l'énergie, selon la le risque de devenir un train à été six fois supé- cebu d'un accident de 20 de 2004 à 2012.

Un oléoduc comme du projet Dakota le Est de TransCanada a été aussi de l'énergie que quandé beaucoup grande de pétrole, et devant à combler les le des raffineries qui p traitent 130 000 barils et à assurer leur com- tion quatre fois moins impor- tant que sur train. M. Monard

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ÉNERGIES NOUVELLES COÛT

8 MILLIARDS \$

«C'est ce qu'il en coûtera aux quatre millions de clients d'Hydro-Québec pour les huit prochaines années»

«Une énergie dont on n'a pas besoin», a déclaré le ministre de l'Énergie, François Legault, lors de son discours de budget. Mais ce n'est pas tout. Les coûts de production de l'électricité sont en hausse, et les coûts de distribution sont en baisse. Le coût total de l'électricité est donc en hausse, et les clients d'Hydro-Québec en paieront plus cher.

Le coût par des colonies

Approvisionnement	9,47
Intégration	1,20
Pertes	0,70
Transport	1,27
Distribution	1,50

COÛT TOTAL UNITAIRE MOYEN (CENTS/KWH)

14,14

Au cours des huit prochaines années, c'est plus d'un milliard de dollars par année qu'il en coûtera aux quatre millions de clients d'Hydro-Québec pour soutenir, à même leur facture d'électricité, le développement de l'éolien, des usines de biomasse, les petites centrales hydroélectriques et l'usine allemande au gaz naturel de la TransCanada Energy de Bécancour qui ne produit plus depuis 2007.

Michel Morin
BUREAU D'ENQUÊTES

Subvention implicite annuelle par filière (en millions de dollars)

ÉOL	TRANS	PETITES	BIOMASSE	ÉOLIEN
100	100	100	100	100

Energy Newsflashes

Métro, September 16, 2013

Quel est le portrait de la consommation d'énergie au Québec?

Métro, September 17, 2013

Quel est le portrait de la production d'énergie au Québec?

Métro, September 19, 2013

En route vers l'électrification des transports?

Métro, September 20-22, 2013

Allons-nous manquer de pétrole?

Métro, September 18, 2013

Quel est le coût des différentes sources d'électricité?

«Les tarifs pourraient être plus régulés» - Bertrand Schepfer

«Le problème, ce n'est pas les tarifs» - Cloude Garcia

DÉBAT

Health Care

Since the creation of the MEI, the analysis of our health care system and the formulation of suggestions based on the freedom of choice of patients has been one of our most important files. The state of Quebec's health care system is mentioned every day in the media. Despite the substantial and increasing resources that our governments devote to this economic sector, it is unable to treat patients within an acceptable time frame. Our studies on this topic move off the beaten track and go beyond mere denunciations or calls to spend ever more public funds. Instead, we illustrate the problems of our system one by one, proposing solutions based on market mechanisms whose effectiveness has been demonstrated in several countries with solid social democratic credentials. Our proposals all aim to improve efficiency and access to care for all by promoting competition, entrepreneurship and patients' freedom of choice.

Short documentary
on private health
care in Quebec



With the publication of an *Economic Note* and a short documentary on private health care in Quebec, we tried to acquire a better understanding of the clientele of private clinics and the positive role these clinics play within our health care system. Our work allowed us to discover that the financial profile of patients of these clinics in no way corresponds to the caricature according to which they are frequented only by an elite of wealthy people who pamper themselves with treatments in luxury clinics. As it happens, the clientele of private medical clinics in Quebec is mostly made up of middle class people. Furthermore, the reasons they give for visiting a private clinic are directly related to the existence of problems accessing frontline care in the public system.

Thanks to this work, we demonstrated among other things that far from constituting a "drain," as Health Minister Réjean Hébert put it, private medicine actually contributes to increasing the total supply of health services available and to relieving the pressure on the overloaded public system. Here again, our work on private clinics received considerable media attention and went a long way toward demystifying this rapidly growing sector.

We also addressed the unintended consequences of pharmaceutical cost containment policies in Canada. By trying to control costs using various forms of rationing, the government in fact reduces access to health care services and treatments. Our *Research Paper* showed the importance of shrinking the obstacles that prevent patients from accessing new prescription drugs in order to allow them to benefit sooner from the numerous advantages they provide.

Métro, May 9, 2013



Absence de consensus dans la lutte contre l'obésité

Financial Post,
June 4, 2013



FP COMMENT... National pharmancare.
New Canadian drug plan won't improve access

National pharmancare

Le Devoir,
December 17, 2013

LE DEVOIR

Libre de penser

ÉDITORIAL LIBRE OPINION

La médecine privée ne nuit pas au système public

JASMIN GUÉNETTE
Vice président de l'Institut économique de Montréal (IEMM)

JULIE FRAPPIER

Économiste de la santé et titulaire d'une maîtrise en économie de l'Université de Montréal

À cours des derniers mois, le ministre québécois de la Santé, Réjean Hébert, a multiplié les déclarations alarmistes au sujet de la médecine privée. En tout, il qualifiait d'« abus » le départ de médecins vers les cliniques privées et estimait que ce phénomène préoccupait gravement la pérennité de médecine dans le réseau public. En septem-

bre, il a déclaré que le Québec compte plus de médecins par habitant que le moyenne canadienne et que sept autres provinces. On peut donc difficilement prétendre que ce développement restreint de la médecine privée est responsable des problèmes du système public de santé. Les données officielles en ce qui a trait aux cliniques sont très sommaires. Nos recherches ont permis de constater que les médecins non participants seraient affilés à 385 cliniques médicales. La plupart d'entre eux (58%) travaillent seuls ou sont les seuls médecins non participants dans des cliniques comptant aussi des médecins participants. Il est intéressant de constater que les services de spécialistes a grégré de 1716.

Par ailleurs, le Québec compte plus de médecins par habitant que le moyenne canadienne et que sept autres provinces. On peut donc difficilement prétendre que ce développement restreint de la médecine privée est responsable des problèmes du système public de santé. Les données officielles en ce qui a trait aux cliniques sont très sommaires. Nos recherches ont permis de constater que les médecins non participants seraient affilés à 385 cliniques médicales. La plupart d'entre eux (58%) travaillent seuls ou sont les seuls médecins non participants dans des cliniques comptant aussi des médecins participants. Il est intéressant de constater que les services de spécialistes a grégré de 1716.

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La Presse +,
December 10, 2013



Métro,
December 12, 2013



L'IEDM défend le privé en santé

Santé. L'hémorragie de médecins qui passent du public vers le privé ne s'est pas produite, selon une nouvelle note de l'Institut économique de Montréal (IEMM).

MATHIAS MARCHEL
mathias.marchel@iemedm.com



Alternative

48 %

Selon les données de l'IEDM, 48 % des clients des cliniques privées ont tenté sans succès de se faire soigner au public.

20 % des dépenses qui excèdent 3 % du revenu net sont admissibles.

Du côté de l'Institut de recherche et d'information socio-économique (IRIS), on s'inscrit

The Gazette,
December 5, 2013



There's no need to panic about private medicine in Quebec

Jasmin Guénette

is vice-president of the Montreal Economic Institute.

Julie Frappier

is a health economist who holds a master's degree in economics from the University of Montreal.

increased since the start of the 2000s, physicians who do not participate in the public health plan still account for just 1.38 percent of all doctors in Quebec: 1263 out of a total of 10,060. Of this number, 106 were general practitioners, and 17 were specialists. As for the number of doctors working in the public system, far from decreasing because of departures to the private sector, it is on the rise. From 2004 to 2012, there was a net increase of 1,129 general practitioners, while the number of specialists climbed by

either 204, 200, or 201 in the only non-participating physician in clinics where parties putting physicians into work. It is interesting to note that "large" medical clinics are not representative of the private medical ecosystem, accounting for just 15 per cent of those doctors. We tried to get a better sense of the nature of the clientele of private clinics, about which rumors had been circulating before we carried out our own field study of the practice of private doctors. (See the *Montreal Economic*

independents also said they had tried to go to a hospital or public clinic for the same reason, before making their private appointments. Finally, the reason mentioned as being very important was by gradually all patients (66 per cent) was the ability to get an appointment quickly. Some of the other reasons considered most important were the ability to get treatment or surgery quickly, good patient follow-up, the fact that medical personnel were good at examinations

Finally, we published a *Research Paper* on the problem of obesity in Canada in collaboration with Dr. David Gratzer. There is no question that the growing proportion of overweight people in our society has become an important public health problem with economic consequences. However, the solutions that many pressure groups champion rely on taxation, coercion, excessive regulation and more government involvement in people's lives.

According to Dr. Gratzer, though, we need to shift the debate and put forward positive, realistic policies that rely on promoting individual responsibility.

Government Finance

The MEI has always emphasized the importance of sound government finance and a tax system that encourages and rewards work, saving and investment. A few years ago, we created our "Quebec Debt Clock" in order to communicate, in a dynamic, visual manner, the importance of the growth of Quebec's public debt. Today, our Debt Clock has become an indispensable tool for discussing the debt. Indeed, its popularity is remarkable. It is so well known that it is sometimes the object of caricature in the major daily newspapers, and our estimate of the debt is often cited by the media. Using a simple and accessible Q&A available on our website, we explain among other things why it makes more sense to talk about the gross debt rather than the net debt (www.iedm.org/27-quebec-debt-clock).

Quebec's Debt Clock

\$265,325,385,433.52

Too often, the Quebec government spends beyond its means. Today, many people admit this fact, but it is with a certain amount of pride that I note that we were pioneers in raising awareness on this topic.

These subjects, like many others, often require technical knowledge to be properly understood. The MEI's role is among other things to demystify them, to bring out the most important facts and issues and to propose reforms for improving our public policies.

Once again, our objective is to enable the average person, mostly through major mainstream media outlets, to be better informed and eventually demand that politicians adopt measures that will move us in the direction of better management of public assets and greater economic freedom, which is essential to wealth creation.

La Presse,
March 7, 2013



FINANCES DU QUÉBEC

Une hausse de taux ferait mal

The Gazette,
March 6, 2013

The Gazette

Higher rates could squeeze Quebec

Bloomberg,
March 6, 2013

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Quebec's debt: how much would higher interest rates cost?

MONTREAL, March 6, 2013

Quebec's direct debt amounts to 47% of GDP, the highest ratio among all Canadian provinces. Unusually low interest rates make this heavy burden sustainable, at least for the time being. But what will happen when borrowing costs rise? Lenka Martinek, chief

Economic Action Plan 2013

The MEI's work was explicitly cited in the 2013-2014 federal budget. Indeed, in its 2013 *Economic Action Plan*, the federal government announced its decision to phase out the federal tax credit for Labour-Sponsored Venture Capital Corporations (LSVCC) between now and 2017. This decision was justified by the denunciation of stakeholders who criticized the LSVCC tax credit "as being an ineffective means of stimulating a healthy venture capital sector," but also by the suggestion of several commentators calling for "the elimination of the tax credit."

Our organization was among those cited as having influenced this decision. Our work in this area clearly shows that labour-sponsored funds are financial instruments that do not attain their economic and financial objectives. Here, then, is another concrete example of the influence of our work on a very specific public policy issue. Having said that, we do not generally meet with bureaucrats or politicians in order to present our work, but we are quick to agree to answer their questions when they get in touch with us to do so.

MEI's work cited in
the 2013-2014
federal budget

Supporting Jobs and Growth
Investing In World-Class Research and Innovation













All things considered, labour-sponsored funds are financial instruments that fulfill neither their economic objectives, namely to make venture capital available to help Quebec businesses, nor their financial objectives of offering a good return to contributors, their performance being interesting only by taking into account the additional tax credit.

—Louis Fortin, Youri Chassin, Michel Kelly-Gagnon
Montreal Economic Institute Research Paper, October 2011

Media Impact and Influence

Last year, once again, we exceeded the best results ever registered by the MEI, with 4,076 media mentions in a single year! Our media reach continues to grow and has reached cruising speed, which is worth emphasizing both in terms of the quantity and the quality of the coverage.

Columns and other regular contributions from MEI associates in 2013

	Media outlets	Columnists	Formats	Readership/Audience
	<i>Sun media</i> (group of 40 newspapers published in Canada)	Michel Kelly-Gagnon	Newspaper	2,767,700
	<i>Huffington Post Québec</i>	Youri Chassin	Blog	830,000
	<i>Huffington Post Canada</i>	Michel Kelly-Gagnon	Blog	3,900,000
	<i>Le Journal de Montréal</i>	Nathalie Elgraby-Lévy	Newspaper	1,130,000
	<i>Le Journal de Québec</i>	Nathalie Elgraby-Lévy	Newspaper	158,000
	<i>Le Journal de Montréal</i>	Youri Chassin, Michel Kelly-Gagnon, Jean-François Minardi	Blog	235,000
	<i>Le Journal de Québec</i>	Youri Chassin, Michel Kelly-Gagnon, Jean-François Minardi	Blog	158,000
	<i>La Presse</i>	Michel Kelly-Gagnon	Newspaper	861,900
	<i>Canal Argent</i>	MEI team	TV	256,000
	<i>Economic Newsflashes in 76 regional Quebecor weeklies</i>	MEI team	Newspaper	2,500,000
Total potential readership/audience				12,796,600

Also worth mentioning is that the English Canadian media is calling upon our expertise so often that it now accounts for over half of our total media coverage. And this is all the more impressive given that this widening of our sphere of influence was achieved while simultaneously increasing our influence in Quebec. Our voice is heard in literally all of the major media outlets. The MEI is a credible source of expertise that is much sought after by the media when the time comes to properly understand public policies in Quebec and in Canada as a whole.

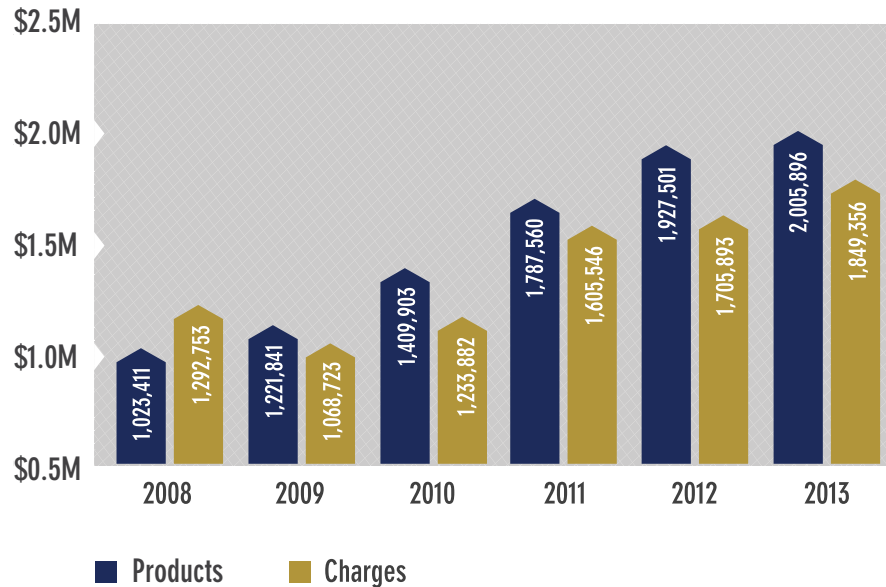
It must also be mentioned that our influence stretches beyond Canada's borders. For example, our work merited a special mention in an article on Canadian think tanks published last summer by the prestigious *Forbes* magazine, in which our publications on health care reforms were singled out for praise.

“ The MEI is a credible source of expertise that is much sought after by the media when the time comes to properly understand public policies in Quebec and in Canada as a whole. ”

Financial Performance – New Heights

The MEI is a non-profit organization financed by voluntary donations and contributions from individuals, businesses and foundations that support its mission. In order to preserve the independence required for its work in the examination of public policies, it does not accept any government funding.

Financial Results 2013



Our total revenues grew from \$1,927,501 in 2012 to \$2,005,896 in 2013, an increase of 4%. Moreover, since 2009, the year of my return to the presidency of the MEI, our revenues have risen by 64%, thanks to the excellent work of our team and the support of the members of our Board of Directors.

Moreover, I am happy to announce that the MEI is approaching closer and closer to its goal of building up a financial reserve equivalent to twelve months of activity, around \$1.8 million. Building up such a reserve is often recommended as being a sound practice for think tanks like the MEI. In the event of a major economic crisis, it would allow us among other things to keep in place our key human resources, who are obviously our organization's main asset. Furthermore, it represents a de facto consolidation of our editorial independence, especially given that none of our donors contributes more than 10% of our annual budget. And the only MEI donor who even comes close to this mark is actually deceased... so there's no danger of being influenced from that corner!

Our team is small and dynamic, and convinced that our economic education work is essential if we want to change things. This work obviously could not have been carried out without the generosity of our donors.

Like our Chairman of the Board, I want to thank our many donors and invite them, with all my heart, to continue supporting us, and even to increase their support.

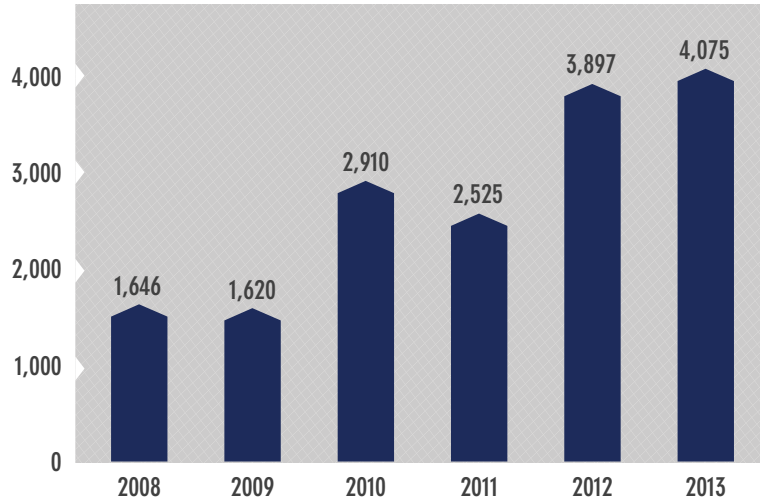
This is particularly important given the great societal debates that will surely arise in Quebec in the near future.

Michel Kelly-Gagnon

Media Influence

Our remarkable ability to relay our message of economic education through the media constitutes one of the key ways in which we accomplish our mission. It is in this spirit that we continue to work closely with nearly all the major media groups, and on multiple platforms including television, radio and large daily newspapers, as well as their online platforms.

Media coverage



Numerous articles about our different publications were published in the biggest daily newspapers in Quebec and Canada. To these reports are added 91 opinion pieces and columns signed by our employees and associate researchers and published in Canadian newspapers. Finally, this year, our opinion pieces even crossed Canada's borders. For example, one of our Associate Researchers published an opinion piece in German in the pages of *Wirtschaftswoche*, the largest business weekly in Germany (900,000 readers). Our Research Director also published an article in the opinion pages of *La Tribune*, one of the two biggest business dailies in France.



As for radio and television, our researchers are regularly invited to appear as guests on popular shows on public, private and specialized channels. For example, Canal Argent, a specialized channel on the TVA network, as well as the *RDI Économie* show, frequently call upon our expertise.

More and more people, especially among the younger generations, are participating in social media and online discussions. In this context, we devote substantial energy to producing pieces each week for the websites of the *Journal de Montréal*, the *Huffington Post Québec* and the *Huffington Post Canada*. We are also very conscious of the fact that blogs are dynamic platforms that allow us to react quickly to current events, all the while giving us the opportunity to interact more directly with the general public.

According to statistics provided by these three media outlets, the posts we publish on their blogs can reach a potential readership of over 3.4 million people.

Moreover, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube are yet other means of broadening our audience and interacting with people. In this regard, we have observed significant growth, especially on our YouTube channel, which

experienced a spectacular 299% increase in views! Video reaches a younger audience, one that is perhaps less interested in informing itself through more traditional media or in reading publications. Finally, we put a very large number of our televised interviews up on YouTube, the second most popular search tool in the world after Google.

// We have observed significant growth, especially on our YouTube channel, which experienced a spectacular 299% increase in views! Video reaches a younger audience, one that is perhaps less interested in informing itself through more traditional media or in reading publications. //

Not only do we upload many of our interviews, but we also share our short documentaries, which are an effective tool, highly valued by the media for their “ready-to-broadcast” format.

For example, our documentary on the state of Quebec’s forests was viewed thousands of times on YouTube the day it was launched. What’s more, the MEI’s Vice President had the opportunity to reach Quebecers across the province through interviews on radio and television and in newspapers in order to counter certain myths concerning forest management in Quebec.

Jean-François Minardi



LE JOURNAL DE MONTRÉAL

Hong Kong est-il l'avenir de la Chine ?

JEAN-FRANÇOIS MINARDI - 20 NOVEMBRE 2013

Michel Kelly-Gagnon



THE HUFFINGTON POST

Michel Kelly-Gagnon
Président, Institut Économique de Montréal

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Canada Should Consider Healthcare the Swiss Way

Youri Chassin



LE HUFFINGTON POST QUÉBEC

Youri Chassin
Économiste, Institut économique de Montréal

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FAN RSS EMAIL Suivre J'aime 75

Les Québécois sont toujours les plus taxés en Amérique du Nord, hélas!

Le Journal de
Montréal,
October 3, 2013



Un film soutient que notre forêt n'est pas menacée

Un documentaire donne la réplique à L'erreur boréale

National Post,
August 20, 2013



A telecom compromise

MICHEL KELLY-GAGNON

Les Affaires,
November 9, 2013

les affaires

Le travail à temps partiel a ses avantages

PAR PIERRE THÉROUX

“ Our researchers are regularly invited to appear as guests on popular shows on public, private and specialized channels. ”

RDI,
Economic Club



RDI,
Pipelines debate



LCN,
Canada Post



Canal Argent,
Oil sands



Ma TV,
Debate on Quebec's
healthcare system



The World Show with Robert Guy Scully “The Energy Series”

In 2013, we pursued our partnership with *The World Show* on American PBS’s network of affiliated television stations. Having collaborated on the “Free Markets Series,” we are collaborating this time on a television series dealing with energy questions. This series arrives at a crucial time since important decisions on energy-related matters are on the agenda and decision makers are in the process of deploying their strategies. It is imperative that we contribute to this debate through our research and our educational activities.

This series shines a light on some of the most dynamic and influential decision makers and intellectuals in Canada and the United States. The episodes present in-depth interviews with such figures as the Honourable Joe Oliver, Canada’s Minister of Natural Resources at the time of the interview; Pierre Desrochers, professor in the geography department at the University of Toronto Mississauga; and Rick George, a partner of the Novo Investment Group and the former CEO of Suncor Energy.

The interviewer is the well-known host Robert Guy Scully, recipient of numerous prizes and honours. Each of the interviews aired on the PBS network of affiliated stations, which includes 230 stations across 42 American states covering 114 markets whose total audience (including rebroadcasts) can reach 1.5 million viewers per episode.

The Honourable
Joe Oliver, Canada’s
Minister of Natural
Resources at the time
of the interview



Publications Other Notable Contributions in 2013

The work of the MEI's research team constitutes one of the pillars supporting the media appearances of our researchers and authors. During the year 2013, we produced 10 *Economic Notes*, 2 *Viewpoints* and 3 *Research Papers*, as well as two short documentary videos. Our publications notably dealt with energy production and the development of natural resources, the importance of sound government finance and the promotion of concrete solutions for improving our health care system by relying more on competition and patient freedom of choice.



Economic Note – The Consequences of a Fixed Book Price

The establishment of a fixed book price was called for by several lobby groups and organizations, ostensibly in the name of ensuring the survival of Quebec books. But far from contributing to the vitality of Quebec culture, the establishment of a fixed book price would in all likelihood reduce sales of Quebec titles by some 17%, as the work of our economists demonstrated. The actual goal of this protectionist measure is to further subsidize a number of players and to limit competition from big-box stores in favour of smaller bookstores.

In fact, our position regarding the negative consequences of imposing a fixed book price found its way into the National Assembly. When the question was brought up again at the end of the year, the two main opposition parties' cultural spokespersons changed course and declared themselves against such a policy.

Documentary – The State of Quebec's Forests

Released on October 3, this MEI documentary looks at Quebec's forests. Certain activists claim that our forests will disappear if we continue cutting down trees the way we do now. In this enlightening documentary on the subject, Mr. Jasmin Guénette, Vice President of the MEI, went out into the field to interview people who have daily contact with this resource to see the true state of our forests and measure the impact of tree cutting on biodiversity. Thanks to this field study, and based on solid facts, he was able to show that our forests are not disappearing, quite the contrary.

The MEI on the front page of the *Métro* newspaper, February 7, 2013



On the day it was released, the video experienced tremendous success and was viewed over 4,000 times on YouTube. To date, it has garnered over 12,000 views, and it continues to be shared over the Internet. In whole or in part, this MEI documentary was also broadcast by the major television networks and gave rise to some debate over the sometimes mistaken perceptions Quebecers have of the real state of their forests.

The State of Quebec's Forests documentary



Events

The Canadian launch of MEI Senior Fellow Pierre Lemieux's new book – *The Public Debt Problem*
February 12, 2013

The European public debt problem was in the making long before the 2007-2009 recession. According to the author, a similar crisis is developing in America, where the same fundamental causes have been at work. *The Public Debt Problem* provides an overview of the causes and challenges of public debt, with special emphasis on the American situation.

The Policy Briefings Series with Frederik Roeder, health economist – Better access to public health care through increased private provision, May 29, 2013

Mr. Roeder explained how a growing proportion of private health care providers has led to improved quality of public care for the whole population in Germany, all while maintaining public coverage of medically required care that is in fact more generous than what currently prevails in Quebec.

Luncheon speech with J. Anthony Boeckh – What future for gold in the context of stimulus policies?
June 19, 2013

Tony Boeckh, celebrated investor and financial economist, presented various perspectives on this topic.

The George Lengvari Sr. Lecture Series – Presentation by Mario Vargas Llosa, October 16, 2013

The 200 guests in attendance had the privilege of hearing a talk by Peruvian novelist Mario Vargas Llosa. This recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature and famous defender of freedom delivered an inspiring speech about his intellectual journey toward liberalism. The event took place under the honorary presidency of Mrs. Maria del Carmen Denegri Birks and Mr. H. Jonathan Birks, and thanks in particular to the generous support of Mr. George Lengvari Jr. who created this series of conferences in honour of his father. Many people told us that they found Mr. Vargas Llosa's talk quite simply exceptional. Moreover, in 2014, we will be publishing a booklet containing an edited version of this speech. It can also be viewed on the MEI's website at www.iedm.org/46367-mario-vargas-llosa.

Presentation of Mario
Vargas Llosa, Nobel
Prize in Literature



From left to Right: George Lengvari Jr, Mario Vargas Llosa and Michel Kelly-Gagnon

Other Presentations by Members of the MEI Team

Whether to explain energy issues or to introduce students to basic economic concepts, MEI staff and associate researchers took part in 22 events organized in various colleges and universities and as part of important conferences and seminars. This year as well, 3 briefs were presented, to the Forums sur les hydrocarbures Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine, to the Commission nationale d'examen sur l'assurance-emploi and to the National Assembly's Committee on Culture and Education.

1. Débat sur la gestion de l'offre, January 18, 2013

Participation by Mario Dumais, Associate Researcher at the MEI, in a debate organized by the Université Laval's Faculté des Sciences de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation as part of the Semaine de l'agriculture, de l'alimentation et de la consommation (SAAC).

2. Comment les universités sont-elles financées?, January 26, 2013

Participation by Germain Belzile, Senior Fellow at the MEI, in a roundtable discussion as part of the École d'hiver (Spécial Sommet) organized by the Institut du Nouveau Monde.

3. Public Debt - Why European governments should follow the Canadian example, February 3, 2013

Presentation by Germain Belzile, Senior Fellow at the MEI, as part of the conference program of the Canadian Embassy in Paris.

4. L'exploitation des ressources naturelles non renouvelables au Québec, February 8, 2013

Participation by Germain Belzile, Senior Fellow at the MEI, in a roundtable discussion on "the exploitation of non-renewable natural resources in Quebec" as part of the first edition of La soirée économie, organized by the Association des étudiants en sciences économiques de l'UQAM.

5. La crise économique et les plans de relance, February 20, 2013

Presentation by Martin Masse, Senior Writer and Editor at the MEI, as part of the Semaine de l'économie autrichienne at the Université Laval.

6. European Healthcare Reform, February 22, 2013

Presentation by Yanick Labrie, Economist at the MEI, at the First Thinkers' Conference in Manitoba.

J. Anthony Boeckh
on: What future for
gold in the context of
stimulus policies?



7. Health Care – Breaking Up the Monopoly, March 8, 2013

Talk by Jasmin Gu nette, Vice President of the MEI, as part of the MNC 2013 hosted by the Manning Centre for Building Democracy in Ottawa.

8. Hand Up or Handout – Options for a New Equalization Formula, March 8, 2013

Talk by Yuri Chassin, Economist at the MEI, as part of the MNC 2013 hosted by the Manning Centre for Building Democracy in Ottawa.

9. Les carr s rouges ont eu tort: les faits sur les frais de scolarit , March 23, 2013

Presentation by Yuri Chassin, Economist at the Montreal Economic Institute, as part of a Fraser Institute Student Seminar on Public Policy Issues.

10. Le m tier d' conomiste en 10 questions, April 10, 2013

Presentation by Yanick Labrie, Economist at the MEI, before C gep Marie-Victorin students.

11. L'apr s printemps qu b cois, April 15, 2013

Participation by Yuri Chassin, Economist at the MEI, in a round table discussion on "L'apr s printemps qu b cois" as part of the 11th edition of the Coll ge Ahuntsic's Colloque des Sciences humaines.

12. Comit  des finances de la Chambre des communes, April 16, 2013

Presentation by Yanick Labrie, Economist at the MEI in front of the Standing Committee on Finance at the House of Commons of Canada.

13. Market Diversification in the Energy Sector, April 23, 2013

Participation by Yuri Chassin, Economist at the MEI, and Germain Belzile, Senior Fellow at the MEI, at the House of Commons Standing Committee on Natural Resources.

14. Forums sur les hydrocarbures Gasp sie– les-de-la-Madeleine, June 11-13, 2013

Participation by Jean-Fran ois Minardi, Public Policies Analyst at the MEI, in the Tourn e des Forums sur les hydrocarbures Gasp sie– les-de-la-Madeleine, organized by the Conf rence r gionale des  lus Gasp sie– les-de-la-Madeleine.

15. Les changements au programme d'assurance-emploi, July 12, 2013

Tabling of a brief entitled "Les changements au programme d'Assurance-emploi" before the Commission nationale d'examen sur l'assurance-emploi.

16. Des livres accessibles au meilleur prix possible, August 26, 2013

Brief tabled by Michel Kelly-Gagnon and Yuri Chassin, respectively President and CEO and Economist at the Montreal Economic Institute, before the National Assembly's Commission de la Culture et de l' ducation.

17. La r alit   nerg tique du Qu bec, September 17, 2013

Presentation by Yuri Chassin, Economist at the MEI, before the students of the  cole de technologie sup rieure ( TS).

18. Les régimes de retraite, October 7, 2013

Presentation by Youri Chassin, Economist at the MEI, as part of a conference organized by the Université Laval's AELIES.

19. Syndicalisme et travail décent, October 7, 2013

Presentation by Youri Chassin, Economist at the MEI, as part of the "Syndicalisme et travail décent" conference organized by the Alliance sociale.

20. The Advantages of a Flexible Labour Market: A Case for Staffing Services, November 7, 2013

Presentation by Michel Kelly-Gagnon and Youri Chassin, respectively President and CEO and Economist at the MEI, as part of a conference organized by ACSESS (Association of Canadian Search, Employment and Staffing Services).

21. La libéralisation du marché de l'énergie au Québec, November 12, 2013

Presentation by Claude Garcia, Associate Researcher at the MEI, as part of a series of lectures at the École des technologies supérieures for engineering students.

22. Public Health and Private Liberty, November 13, 2013

Participation by Pierre Lemieux, Senior Fellow at the MEI, at a Liberty Forum organized by the Atlas Foundation.

23. How Competitive Is Canada's Telecom Sector?, November 18, 2013

Participation by Martin Masse, Senior Writer and Editor at the MEI, in a round table discussion as part of the IIC Canada (the Canadian Chapter of the International Institute of Communications) 12th Annual Conference.

24. L'inversion du flux de l'oléoduc 9B d'Enbridge, December 2, 2013

Presentation by Youri Chassin and Jean-François Minardi, respectively Economist and Public Policy Analyst at the MEI, as part of the Special consultations and public hearings to examine the acceptability for Québec of Enbridge Pipelines Inc.'s proposed

25. Le métier d'économiste, December 5, 2013

Presentation by Youri Chassin, Economist at the MEI, as part of an event organized by the Association des étudiants en économie à l'Université de Montréal.

Presentation of
Martin Masse



