

## CONVENTION CENTRE

### Auditory results

In my December 2010 study of the convention centre proposal, “Economic Wellspring or Bottomless Pit?” for the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives I concluded that, “Even factoring in wider economic impacts and spinoffs that have the potential to generate tax revenues, there is no scenario under which the project as a whole can even break even. Prudent and conservative numbers derived from the various studies of the centre itself indicate that it will lose in excess of \$200 million over 25 years.”

It’s sadly depressing to have my conclusions confirmed by this year’s auditor general’s report (“Auditor slams convention centre projections,” Reality Bites by Tim Bousquet, November 22). Jacques Lapointe’s study focused on only a small portion of the issues related to the convention centre project, but he quite properly excoriates Trade Centre Limited (TCL) for their highly flawed 2010 report which included wildly inflated projections of revenues based on little more than wishful thinking.

Although Lapointe recommends that the government seek “an independent second opinion of the market potential for a new convention centre,” both the government and TCL rejected this recommendation even before the report was released. Canadian, Nova Scotian, and HRM citizens and taxpayers deserve a better response and more transparency and accountability for the investment that they are paying for.

– **Christopher Majka, Halifax**

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