



Montreal Economic Institute

MEDIA REACTIONS TO THE [MEI STUDY ON ALCOHOL TRADE](#)

“Valentin Petkantchin, research director of the Montreal Economic Institute, a private think-tank, issued a solid paper this week arguing that rationalizations are paper-thin and the best course is full liberalization of the sort enjoyed in, say, France, where Mr. Petkantchin spent several years studying and researching. (...) Consumer convenience is a good, not an evil. There is no compelling reason for governments to remain in the liquor business.”

– **Editorial, *The Globe and Mail***
October 6, 2005

“The study by the Montreal Economic Institute puts forward solid arguments in favour of privatization.”

– **François Pouliot, *Le Journal de Montréal*
and *Le Journal de Québec***
October 10, 2005

“Nobody has yet challenged the numbers in their report. (...) All told, this is a slam-dunk case for privatization.”

– **Éditorial, *The Gazette***
October 16, 2005

“The study by the Montreal Economic Institute [...] effectively and rigorously brushes aside any final arguments that could be made by proponents of state presence in such an industry.”

– **Alain Dubuc, *La Presse*
and other Gesca dailies**
October 8, 2005

“The Ontario government’s arguments against privatizing the provincial liquor monopoly, already intellectually thin, became thinner on Tuesday with the release of a Montreal Economic Institute (MEI) study showing that for convenience, selection, employment and government revenue, Alberta’s private liquor stores top the government outlets in both Ontario and Quebec.”

– **Editorial, *The National Post***
October 6, 2005

“... a very well documented study by the Montreal Economic Institute...”

– **Jean-Paul Gagné, *Les Affaires***
October 15, 2005

“The Montreal Economic Institute drew attention this week by publishing a study showing the benefits of privatizing the Société des alcools. [...] the numbers speak for themselves: Alberta consumers, with more stores, a larger choice of products and better prices, are the winners, and yet their government continues to make as much money.”

– **Claude Picher, *La Presse***
October 8, 2005

“Hopefully, a report just released by an economic think-tank in Montreal will rouse the Dalton McGuinty government out of its stupor and prod it into updating archaic and moralistic liquor laws [...]. The study, which should be required reading for Ontario’s cabinet ministers, concluded that neither theoretical arguments nor economic performance justified maintaining provincial liquor monopolies.”

– **Editorial, *Windsor Star***
October 12, 2005

“The government of Jean Charest has demonstrated that it is not afraid of casting off the Quebec model and reducing the state’s role. The Montreal Economic Institute’s study on the SAQ provides the government with the arguments and data needed to privatize the SAQ.”

– **Jean-Claude Leclerc, *Le Devoir***
October 11, 2005

“... is it not possible to at least discuss the question? It would seem not, given the reactions to the (excellent) study by the Montreal Economic Institute, which recommends privatizing these vestiges of the 1920s known as liquor commissions in Canada.”

– **Yves Boisvert, *La Presse***
October 7, 2005