

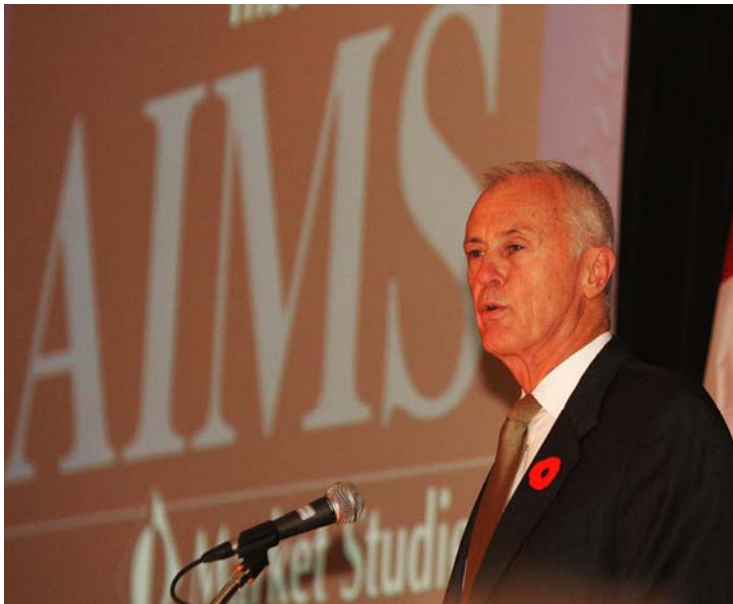
**AIMS 10<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Banquet  
November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2004  
Casino Nova Scotia Hotel, Halifax (NS)**

**Transcript of Remarks by the  
Honourable John F. Hamm, MD, MLA  
Premier of Nova Scotia**

Many distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

First of all, allow me to congratulate AIMS for organizing such an engaging evening. An evening to mark to mark its' 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

AIMS has always been a trailblazer in identifying issues of the future, and pushing very hard active public debate.



Nova Scotia Premier John Hamm congratulates AIMS on its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary during his speech to the dinner guests.

It's a pleasure to be part of all of this, this evening and a privilege to share the stage with such eminent speakers. A former Prime Minister, and the architect of free trade, the Right Honorable Brian Mulroney. And our special international guest this evening, former US Secretary of Defence and Senator from our neighbor, the great state of Maine, William Cohen.

There are many issues that Senator Cohen could cover with us this evening. In this, the first full wake where Canadians are free of election news south of the border, there remains many questions unanswered about what the election results portend for US-Canada relations. As a Republican who served in a Democratic administration, Senator Cohen has a perspective, and an insight, on the political climate of his country that few others could claim. I also

look forward to hearing his insight on cross-border issues that challenge the Canada-US relationship and require decisive action on both sides of the border. And former Prime Minister Mulroney, I know, could both entertain and enlighten us a great deal with the story behind the story of how Free Trade became a reality.

And while it's a different era with different leaders today, there remains more than a few parallels to the issues that face our nations today. From the discussion around a permanent and fair solution to the softwood lumber impasse. To the mad cow fall out that faces our cattle industry. To the ongoing dialogue around cross-border co-operation on immigration, security and trade. Managing the world's largest and most elaborate cross-border economic relationship, while at the same time cooperating in the war on terror; this is a challenging issue that cuts across all ideologies, party affiliations, regions and nationalities.

And Nova Scotians are proud, proud to have a long standing relationship with our American neighbours. The American market accounts for 80% of our province's exports. Thank you for free trade Prime Minister Mulroney.

It is estimated that in our province, fifty thousand jobs depend on the strength of our cross-border trade. But equally important is our legacy of shared history and of shared values. That while Canadians and Americans have diverse political traditions, diverse heritages and cultures, there is more uniting us than divides us. And when this relationship has ever been tested, it's been proven strong.

In what was perhaps Nova Scotia's darkest day, December the 6<sup>th</sup>, 1917, the people of New England were first in line to provide assistance and aid in the wake of the Halifax explosion. Decades later when we all bore witness to the horrors of September the 11<sup>th</sup>, it was Nova Scotians' turn to rise to the challenge together, and to provide whatever measure of comfort and security we could to the eight thousand travelers stranded in our province in the aftermath of the attack.

And in this, the week where Canadians mark Remembrance Day, and Americans mark their Veterans Day, we should learn from the lessons of our veterans who courageously stood shoulder to shoulder against a

*Hon. John Hamm, AIMS 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

common foe and demonstrated that working together there is no obstacle that our countries cannot overcome. And let's make sure that this is the sentiment that colors our future relationship and that wherever issues may arise, that cooler heads will prevail and that both continental neighbours treat each other with decorum and respect.

I look forward to Secretary Cohen's contribution tonight. So thank you once again for this opportunity. I look for tonight's remarks to be most information. Thank you.