

**Transcript of remarks by New Brunswick Premier Bernard Lord
At The Celtic Tiger Dinner
AIMS 10th Anniversary celebrations in New Brunswick
May 31st, 2005**

Thank you very much. Good evening, ladies and gentleman. Bonsoir mesdames et messieurs.

It is a pleasure to be here tonight on the occasion of the 10th anniversary to celebrate the founding of AIMS, the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies.

We were extremely honoured tonight to have two distinguished guests with us here. One is a friend of New Brunswick, it's been said, and it's a pleasure to see



New Brunswick Premier Bernard Lord thanks guest speaker Dr. Garret FitzGerald

you again, Governor King. And you spoke tonight with the same energy that I've always known from you, the enthusiasm. You're very inspiring and you share the same sense of urgency of getting things done that you shared with me the first time we met. And, you know, you mentioned Route 9 and I think you'd get elected in this room tonight just by the work you've done on Route 9.

you can point to. Just a few years ago, I was with you in Maine and you shared with me the initiative of bringing laptop notebook computers in classrooms. Well, I want you to know yesterday I visited a class in New Brunswick where we have a pilot project to emulate what you are doing in Maine because I believe it was an outstanding initiative that you launched in Maine and we're trying to do the same thing here in New Brunswick. So I want to thank you for that and I want to thank you for being with us and sharing this evening here with us in Saint John. Thank you.

But I want to just share with you another element of things that

To Dr. FitzGerald, your speech tonight was, frankly, thought provoking and fascinating. And I noted the key policy decisions that you mentioned, the commitment to the European market, the low corporate taxation, the promotion of industrial investments, the expansion of education, the tight fiscal policies, and the social contract with modest pay increases and tax reduction, those are things that I think many of us are trying to emulate here and, frankly, around the world and you are a true example of success.



New Brunswick Premier Bernard Lord praises the work of AIMS and thanks the institute for its contribution to public policy issues in Atlantic Canada and across the country.

And one thing that I noted from both of the speakers tonight is that ideas matter and I couldn't agree more. Making decisions is not just about governing today. It's about adopting the ideas and embracing the change that will have the most profound impact over time.

And, clearly, Dr. FitzGerald, you have done that in Ireland in a remarkable way and it was really refreshing for all of us to hear you share that experience with us and to share your wisdom and for that we thank you all very much for what you have shared and thank you for giving me the copy of the speech, because I will read it again. So thank you, very much, Dr. FitzGerald.

Just before I conclude, I want to say a few words about AIMS.

For ten years now AIMS has been an active voice on public policy issues in our region, throughout the country, and abroad in areas such as taxation, economic development and healthcare. There's no doubt that the

work of AIMS plays an important role in the ongoing development of public policy here in New Brunswick and throughout the region.

I'm convinced that New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada, as a whole, benefit from the research on public policy and public policy alternatives that AIMS undertakes each and every year. Since the inception of AIMS, it has attained many milestones under the leadership of founding president Brian Lee Crowley.

In fact, as you all know, AIMS recently won the 2005 Templeton Freedom Award for institute excellence. This prestigious international prize is awarded in recognition of the outstanding work done by the world's best non-profit research institutes. Once again, congratulations on a job well done.

As many of you know, this is not the first time that AIMS has been recognized for its work. Already, the institute has won the prestigious Sir Anthony Fisher Award for excellence four times, no public policy institute in the world has won it more times than AIMS. This is a remarkable accomplishment and I believe that Brian and your staff at AIMS deserve a warm round of applause in a lot of recognition for the work that you do.

And you also force us policy makers and people that live in this region to think beyond our borders and to look at alternative policies that you promote and push and it helps us all because it comes back to the starting point. It is about ideas, it is about adopting the right policies that will make a difference, and you help us think about that, Brian, and I really thank you for that, as a policy maker and as a policy applier, as well.

So thank you very much and congratulations on ten incredible years and we wish you at least ten more and many more beyond that. So congratulations and thank you very much.