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- **Part One: The Celtic Tiger Dinner roars through Saint John.**
- **Part Two: Education is too important to be left strictly to the educationalists: King praises AIMS' work.**
- **Part Three: FitzGerald brings AIMS audience behind the scenes of the Celtic Tiger phenomenon.**
- **Part Four: Celtic Tiger Dinner "inspiring, thought-provoking and fascinating": New Brunswick Premier Bernard Lord.**
- **Part Five: Ten years of innovative thinking, pushing the envelope and making a difference: A retrospective on AIMS' first decade.**

Part One: The Celtic Tiger Dinner roars through Saint John.

A King introduced him, a Lord thanked him and in between the former Prime Minister of Ireland shared his insider view of the economic turnaround of Ireland. The King was the former Governor of Maine, Angus S. King, Jr., the Lord was the Premier of New Brunswick, Bernard Lord, and the former PM was Dr. Garret FitzGerald, considered one of the architects of what has become known as the Celtic Tiger.

Nearly 300 people, including many business and community leaders from around New Brunswick, were treated to a night of insight, information, innovation and entertainment at The Celtic Tiger Dinner, AIMS' 10th anniversary celebrations in New Brunswick. The think tank movement around the world is based on the notion that ideas have consequences and no where was that more evident on May 31st than at AIMS' event in Saint John.

The benefit of the event wasn't limited to just those fortunate enough to attend. It also generated much media attention, including a front page story in the New Brunswick Telegraph-Journal, and several days later an editorial in the same paper.

To read the story in the Telegraph-Journal about Dr. FitzGerald, [click here](#).
To read the editorial, [click here](#).

Part Two: Education is too important to be left strictly to educationalists: King praises AIMS' work.

"Ideas aren't just important, ideas are the whole deal. . . . A group like AIMS can make such a difference simply by getting ideas out into the public that then allows the public opinion to move in such a way that you can do things that need doing. And so what AIMS is doing is absolutely wonderful," so explained the former Governor of Maine, Angus S. King, Jr., in his introductory remarks at the Celtic Tiger Dinner.

Governor King used the opportunity to set the scene for the world as it is becoming. "In North America, (we) have enjoyed an extraordinary period of economic conjuration over the last 60 years that isn't God given. It isn't necessarily going to continue. We have to wake up to the fact that there is a fundamental shift that's happening in the way that people are going to do business."

He went on to point out the importance of such AIMS projects as the High School Report Card, "The only answer that I can think of is education and innovation. It's got to be there and it's got to involve technology and it's got to be done on an urgent basis. That's why the AIMS report card on the high schools is so important. Education is too important to be left strictly to educationalists," he told the audience.

To read a transcript of Governor King's comments, [please click here](#).

Part Three: FitzGerald brings AIMS audience behind the scenes of the Celtic Tiger phenomena.

It is one thing to read about it, but nothing compares to hearing the tale of the Celtic Tiger first hand from one of its architects who lived it, and is a master story-teller to boot. Dr. Garret FitzGerald treated the AIMS audience to informed insight about the factors that contributed to Ireland turning around its economy to become the Celtic Tiger.

Dr. FitzGerald had a stern warning too for Atlantic Canada about subsidization and praised AIMS' work on equalization. As he explained, "I also was very interested in [AIMS' work] about subsidization because, you know, the reasons Ireland became independent were to do with politics and culture. But, actually, the most important thing, in retrospect, is we got out from under the British before they started subsidizing us."

To read the complete transcript of Dr. FitzGerald's remarks to the Celtic Tiger Dinner, [click here](#).

Part Four: Celtic Tiger Dinner “inspiring, thought-provoking and fascinating”: New Brunswick Premier Bernard Lord.

It was a night he wasn't going to miss. In spite of the fact, he had to be in the legislature in Fredericton until six o'clock on the night of May 31st, New Brunswick Premier Bernard Lord rushed to Saint John to be part of the Celtic Tiger Dinner. He thought it was worth the rush, and so did the audience.

Premier Lord called the evening inspiring, thought-provoking and fascinating.

He also used the opportunity to praise AIMS for its work and contribution. “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,” he said.

[Click here](#) to read Premier Lord's remarks.

Part Five: Ten years of innovative thinking, pushing the envelope and making a difference: A retrospective on AIMS' first decade.

According to its peers, AIMS "is setting a new standard for think tank performance." AIMS realizes that just having lots of good ideas isn't enough. Those ideas have to be clearly and simply expressed and reach a broad audience if they are to influence opinion leaders, governments, the media and our lives.

For a decade AIMS has been doing just that. In his remarks, president Brian Lee Crowley brought the audience through the first ten years of AIMS, one of the most decorated think tanks in the world.

[Click here](#) to read Dr. Crowley's remarks.

To view pictures of the Celtic Tiger Dinner, [click here](#).

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