

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Hon. Roger GRIMES

Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador
MHA, Exploits
Leader, Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador

Roger Grimes was sworn in on February 13th, 2001 as the 8th Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador by His Honour, the Honourable Dr. A.M. House, Lieutenant-Governor.



In the 1989 election, Premier Grimes won a seat in the District of Exploits and was appointed Parliamentary Assistant to then Premier Clyde Wells. Since that time, he has served as Minister in five different portfolios. In 1991, he became Minister of Labour. In 1993, Premier Grimes took over the Tourism, Culture and Recreation department. He was appointed Minister of Education in 1996. After serving three years in Education, Premier Grimes became Minister of Mines and Energy. He subsequently was appointed Minister of Health.

Since becoming Premier, Roger Grimes has prioritised improving access to post-secondary education. Tuition fees have been reduced for most university students for each of the last two years and will be reduced again in September 2003. In total tuition fees have been reduced by 25% over three years, the largest reduction in Canada in almost forty years. Fees for all other public post-secondary students in the province have been frozen during this time. In addition, Premier Grimes re-instated a partial non-repayable grants program last year that replaced an restrictive, complicated loan remission program.

Premier Grimes was born in 1950 in Grand Falls-Windsor. He attended Memorial University of Newfoundland and earned a Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Education and Masters degree in Education. He taught math, physics and chemistry in schools from Grand Falls to Bishop's Falls and Norris Arm. During his teaching career, Premier Grimes held executive positions with the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association and, in 1985, was elected President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Teachers' Federation.