

THE ORIGINS OF STRUCTURE IN THE UNIVERSE

CANADIAN ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS IN THE 21ST CENTURY



Statement from the Coalition for Canadian Astronomy regarding Canada's new Space Policy Framework

The Coalition for Canadian Astronomy made the following statement today regarding the Government of Canada's new Space Policy Framework:

“The Coalition welcomes the Government's new Space Policy Framework, and in particular the renewed commitment to the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) announced by the Minister of Industry. The JWST is a key component of Canada's Long Range Plan for Astronomy and Astrophysics, the roadmap to sustain Canada's international leadership in this field. The JWST is the successor to the Hubble Space Telescope and will, for the first time, allow us to detect signals from the very first galaxies in our Universe. It is in the category of world observatories so critical to the future of Astronomy and Astrophysics.

The Minister has correctly recognized that participation in international projects like the JWST benefits all astronomy stakeholders, including industry, academia and astronomers themselves. Like other world observatories of which Canada is a partner, such projects challenge Canadian industry to develop new technologies and equipment to allow researchers to push the boundaries of science. Canada's participation in such projects also attracts the world's best and brightest to this country to take advantage of the scientific opportunities on offer.

Finally, the Coalition is pleased to see the new Space Policy Framework include as a priority inspiring the next generation of Canadians to pursue a career in space. We share this goal and have made it an underlying pillar of our efforts. Canada's international leadership in ground and space-based astronomy, coupled with our participation in projects like the JWST, position this country very well for continued scientific excellence in the years to come.”

About the Coalition

The Coalition for Canadian Astronomy was formed in 2000 and is unprecedented in the Canadian science community. It brings together all Canada's astronomy stakeholders to focus on a plan for international excellence in the field. The Coalition is comprised of:

- Academia: represented by the Association of Canadian Universities for Research in Astronomy (ACURA), which has 20 member universities;
- Professional astronomers: represented by the Canadian Astronomical Society (CASCA);
- Industry: bringing together Canadian companies involved in major astronomy projects.

The Coalition's road map to international leadership in this field is the Long Range Plan for Astronomy and Astrophysics, or LRP. The LRP vision document was created by a Blue Ribbon Panel to chart a course for Canadian astronomy. It calls for Canadian participation in the next generation of global astronomy projects, coupled with investments in technology development in Canada, the training of young Canadian scientists and engineers, and intellectual leadership in the planning and operation of facilities by Canadian astronomers.

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