

Minister of Industry



Ministre de l'Industrie

Maxime Bernier

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H5

DEC. 11 2006

Dr. Gretchen Harris
Chair
Working Group for Astronomy
Past Co-Chair
Coalition for Canadian Astronomy
190 O'Connor Street, 5th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 2R3

Dear Dr. Harris:

Thank you for your letter of October 26, 2006, in which you provided a report produced by the Working Group on Astronomy entitled "*Supporting Canada's Leadership Role in Astronomy: Untangling the Web of Public Financing,*" and expressed support for the Long Range Plan for Astronomy and Astrophysics.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you and the Coalition on your efforts to bring together the federal agencies that have a role in astronomy to examine the current funding landscape for such research in Canada. I assure you that the suggestions and recommendations identified in your report will be duly examined.

Canada's consistently high international rankings in the domain of astronomy and astrophysics research are a testament to the hard work and ingenuity of our research community. The Government of Canada is pleased to have provided support to the astronomy research community in its efforts.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Maxime Bernier".

Maxime Bernier

Canada