

THE ORIGINS OF STRUCTURE IN THE UNIVERSE

CANADIAN ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS IN THE 21ST CENTURY



October 26, 2006

The Honourable Maxime Bernier, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Industry
235 Queen Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H5

Dear Minister,

Since 2000, the Coalition for Canadian Astronomy has been lobbying the Federal Government to fund the Long Range Plan on Astronomy and Astrophysics (LRP). Through an extensive lobby effort and despite various challenges, the Coalition has been able to secure approximately \$64 million in Federal Government financial support provided through the National Research Council and the Canada Foundation for Innovation. These funds have allowed Canada to proceed with several key recommendations of the LRP, but approximately another \$235 million will be needed to complete its remaining elements. In their efforts to secure this additional funding, the Coalition has continued to face numerous obstacles and challenges because there is no simple funding solution for LRP.

In the Spring 2004, the Coalition met with Dr. Arthur Carty, National Science Advisor who suggested the Coalition bring together all the Agencies that have a role in astronomy and examine how Canada funds astronomy in light of the experiences the Coalition have faced over the previous five years. In the Fall 2004, the Working Group for Astronomy was formed to consider and examine options for a coherent funding system that would ensure that Canadian astronomy and astrophysics remains at the cutting edge of the field and sustains its remarkable past record of scientific achievement for years to come. This report summarizes our discussions and presents our conclusions. This Report makes a number of suggestions and presents two main recommendations. We urge you to send your comments.

Sincerely,

Chair, Working Group for Astronomy and
Past Co-Chair, Coalition for Canadian Astronomy

c.c. The Honourable Jim Flaherty, P.C., M.P.
Dr. Arthur Carty
Dr. Pierre Coulombe
Dr. Suzanne Fortier
Ms. Carole Lacombe
Dr. Eliot Phillipson