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9 NOV. 2006

Dr. Gretchen L.H. Harris  
Chair, Working Group for Astronomy and  
Past Co-Chair, Coalition for Canadian Astronomy  
190 O'Connor Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Ottawa ON K2P 2R3

Dear Dr. Harris:

Thank you for sending me a copy of the report from the Working Group of the Coalition for Canadian Astronomy entitled "Supporting Canada's Leadership Role in Astronomy: Untangling the Web of Public Financing". Key members of the Canadian Space Agency's (CSA) staff and I have read the document and have taken note of your recommendations.

We would like to thank you for taking the time and making the effort to bring together the right people, and for leading these important discussions. As noted in your report, Alain Berinstain and Denis Laurin from our Space Science branch participated in some of your deliberations. We are pleased to have been able to support these discussions and we hope our input was useful to the Working Group.

Of particular interest to us is that, although this Working Group was brought together to deal with matters concerning Astronomy in Canada, it is clear that the recommendations developed, and gaps and issues identified, apply to a wider science community than Astronomy. We commend you for taking this leadership role that we believe could ultimately benefit many other scientific disciplines including Space Science disciplines supported by the CSA.

It is the view of the CSA that the recommendations the Working Group proposes would benefit the scientific community in Canada. I hope that all of the relevant government agencies involved will share our opinion and I can commit to you that, if this report initiates a set of discussions within the federal government and we are invited to participate, we will do so.

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We at the CSA will continue to participate in Science and Technology Committees and Working Groups at the federal level in order to harmonize funding, develop horizontal policies and improve communications. We are committed to best serving the Canadian Space Science community, and we thank the Working Group again for investing the energy to help make this happen. In addition, every great effort takes a champion, and I would like to specifically thank you, Dr. Harris, for your leadership in this key activity.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Lacombe', written in a cursive style.

Carole Lacombe  
Acting President