



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
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**MARLENE JENNINGS, MP / députée**  
Notre-Dame-de-Grâce – Lachine

Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Canada – US Relations)  
Secrétaire parlementaire du Premier ministre (Relations Canada - États-Unis)

OTTAWA, January 20, 2005

The Right Honourable Paul Martin  
Prime Minister of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

**RE: Long Range Plan (LRP) for Canadian Astronomy and Astrophysics**

Dear Prime Minister:

As you are well aware, Canada's number one exported science is astronomy. Canada ranks third in the world in astronomical and astrophysical research, despite the fact that less than 98 cents per capita is invested in astronomy. Recently, our federal government has demonstrated its view that the LRP is a priority through its decision to invest some \$63,8 million in the Plan: \$7,9 million from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI), \$35,9 million (over 5 years starting in 2002/2003) from the National Research Council and finally, \$20 million allocated to the NRC, for 5 years, as part of the cluster initiative for the Expanded Very Large Array (EVLA) project, now in its 2<sup>nd</sup> year of allocation.

The overall funding of approximately \$63,8 is allocated as follows:

<b><u>Project</u></b>	<b><u>Source</u></b>	<b><u>Amount (\$ millions)</u></b>
Atacama Large Millimetre Array (ALMA)	CFI	7,926
Atacama Large Millimetre Array (ALMA)	NRC	17,420
Expanded Very Large Array (ELVA)	NRC	20,000
Square Kilometre Array (SKA) / Large Adaptive Reflector (LAR)	NRC	2,430
Very Large Optical Telescope (VLOT)	NRC	4,350
Canadian Galactic Plane Survey (CGPS)	NRC	0,530
Gemini / Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope (CFHT)	NRC	6,410
Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics (HIA) – development	NRC	4,760
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>63,826</b>

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Recently, an independent panel of highly respected senior Canadian astronomers, appointed by the Canadian Astronomical Society, conducted a thorough review of the LRP and concluded that an additional \$235,7 million over the next seven years (2005 to 2011) is required to meet the LRP goals for ground-based astronomy. The majority of that money would be used to support Canada's continued participation in the above-mentioned international projects. While the new investment requirement is a significant increase from the original LRP for ground-based astronomy estimates, this increase is primarily the result of significant progress on world observatories already being made while originally expected only between 2010 and 2020.

Prime Minister, Canada must "step up to the plate" and commit to further funding of the LRP if we are to ensure that our previous investments (\$63,8 million) are not squandered and our leadership role in astronomy lost! The projects in which we've already invested will be completed and Canada must continue to be an active partner.

Please find attached further documentation regarding LRP benefits achieved to date as well as its future needs. I trust you will give serious consideration to my recommendation that our government commit to providing the additional \$235,7 million to the LRP over the next 7 years, starting in 2005. Given the year has already started, I would look forward to an early and positive response.

Sincerely,



Marlene Jennings, P.C., M.P.  
Notre-Dame-de-Grâce – Lachine

Encl.

cc: Hon. David Emerson, Minister of Industry  
Hon. Ralph Goodale, Minister of Finance  
Mr. Steven Schumann, Senior Consultant, TSA  
Mr. Pekka K. Sinervo, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science, Prof. of Physics, University of Toronto  
Dr. Gilles Joncas, Université de Laval