

THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA  
LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA



136 DUPONT STREET, TORONTO, ON M5R 1V2  
PHONE: (416) 924-7973 FAX: (416) 924-2911  
EMAIL: rasc@rasc.ca

Prof. Russ Taylor, President  
Canadian Astronomical Society  
Department of Physics and Astronomy  
University of Calgary  
2500 University Drive NW  
CALGARY, ALBERTA T2N 1N4

Dear Russ.

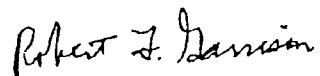
On behalf of the Executive and the National Council of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC), I congratulate the Canadian Astronomical Society (CASCA), the National Research Council (NRC), and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) for commissioning and producing the Long Range Plan (LRP) for Canadian Astronomy and Astrophysics in the 21st Century.

The vision of astronomy presented in the LRP is one that the RASC will support strongly. The RASC Council, at its most recent meeting (Winnipeg, 2000 July 1), enthusiastically endorsed the plan. I was pleased to hear also that the comprehensive plan has been welcomed enthusiastically by both the academic and the industrial communities.

While I recognize and applaud the significant benefits that will accrue from the fulfillment of the LRP, what appeals most to the RASC is the idea of a revitalized research community which is committed to education and public outreach - principal mandates of the RASC. There are 4000 members of the RASC, many of whom are involved in increasing public awareness through the projects of the 25 Centres. With the addition this year of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, each province now has at least one centre. This vast volunteer workforce could be an invaluable asset in joint efforts to promote scientific literacy on a national scale.

Finally, I appreciate CASCA's efforts to inform the RASC membership about the Plan and to ask us to play a role in its promotion. I sincerely hope that most if not all of the vision can be realized.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert F. Garrison".

Dr. Robert F. Garrison  
Professor of Astronomy, University of Toronto  
**President, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada**