



Canada

Denise Savoie
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT - DÉPUTÉE
Victoria

May 5, 2006

Brian Masse
House of Commons
Suite 701, Justice Building
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Brian,

I have recently had the privilege of meeting with several delegates from the Coalition for Canadian Astronomy and would like to take the opportunity to alert you to the key points raised during this meeting.

As a global leader in astronomy, Canada is currently involved in an ambitious and innovative project to construct the world's largest telescope, referred to as the "Thirty-Metre Telescope". In order to address the long-term planning needs associated with projects such as this, the Coalition for Canadian Astronomy was created in 2000 in order to secure federal funding for the Long Range Plan for astronomy and astrophysics (LRP).

Canada's place of excellence in the field of astronomy generates not only international recognition, but also huge industry and employment benefits across the country. According to the Coalition for Canadian Astronomy, future investments are expected to provide at least a two-to-one direct return to the Canadian economy and an eight-to-one indirect return through technological spin-offs.

An independent Mid-Term Review recently concluded that approximately \$235 million would be required over the next seven years to complete the next phase of the LRP. The Coalition is thus very concerned with securing future funding in addition to ensuring that the Minister of Industry adheres to a previous commitment to provide \$15 million by this fiscal year.

I would therefore urge you consider meeting with the following members of the Coalition for Canadian Astronomy in order to discuss these issues in further detail:



- 1) Pekka Sinervo, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Professor of Physics, University of Toronto
Tel: 416-978-3383 or E-mail: dean@artsci.utoronto.ca
- 2) Michael Jolliffe, Vice President, Government Relations and Communications, AMEC Americas
Tel: 905-829-5400 or E-mail: mchael.jolliffe@amec.com

Please note that I have enclosed some background material which may prove useful.

Best regards,

Denise Savoie
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cc: Pekka Sinervo
Michael Jolliffe
Steven Schumann