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Mr. Steve MacLean, President  
Canadian Space Agency  
240 Sparks Street  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 1A1

October 30, 2009

Dear Mr. MacLean

## **RE: CREATION OF PRIZES TO ACCELERATE SPACE RELATED TECHNOLOGY**

I am a semi-retired mining engineer that for the past nine years has invested in the space industry and at the same time worked to raise the Western Canadian awareness of the importance of space science and technology to Canada and to society in general. I have authored and presented several papers on mineral exploration, mining and finance at space conferences in China, Europe and Canada. In 2008 I was the lead organizer and sponsor of the Return to the Moon event at the BCIT Aerospace Campus in Vancouver that featured Harrison Schmitt, Tom Jones and Robert Richards (see [www.bcit.ca/returntothemoon](http://www.bcit.ca/returntothemoon)). As the "space champion" on the UBC Thunderbird Robotics Advisory Board I am pleased to report that the Team just returned from placing sixth at the NASA Centennial Challenges, Regolith Excavation Challenge at the Ames Center in California. They used UBC students that were US citizens in order to qualify in the Competition.

Now, the reason for me writing this letter is to seek your support in creating a system of prizes for Canadian universities, business and individuals, similar to the NASA Centennial Challenges in the USA. It is my opinion that a Canadian system of prizes will yield greater and faster returns for government and private space investors. I quote from this week's Economist in the Science and Technology Section, "...provided ample demonstration of the effect, long known in technology-prize circles, that the money and effort invested in winning far exceed the financial value of the prize itself...in the right context, and with right design, prizes can work. Their other advantage is that - in contrast to the fat government contracts on which much of the aerospace industry thrives - the money is handed out only when the goals are achieved. That is a lesson in incentives that governments would do well to remember".

I look forward to your response.

Respectfully submitted,



John A. Chapman, B.Sc., P.Eng., FCIM