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DEC 09 2009

Mr. John A. Chapman  
43-1725 Southmere Crescent  
White Rock, BC V4A 7A7

Received  
2009/12/18

**Subject: Creation of prizes to accelerate space-related technology development**

Dear Mr. Chapman:

Thank you for your letter dated October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009, in which you seek the support of the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) for the creation of a program of prizes for universities, private companies and individuals similar to NASA's Centennial Challenges Program.

I believe that prize competitions, if carefully structured, can have significant potential in accelerating the pace of innovation, in stirring the imagination, especially of students and young professionals, in providing a communications and outreach platform to highlight the benefits of space, and in promoting an entrepreneurial spirit.

Space science and technology capacity building is one of the main thrusts of the new Long Term Space Plan (LTSP) that the CSA has developed after extensive consultations with industry, academia and federal government departments. Building and maintaining Canadian space capabilities and providing hands-on experience to young scientists and engineers is key to the future success of the Canadian Space Program. During the coming months, we will be developing the programs that will support this thrust of the LTSP. In particular, we will be looking at Space Challenges as an instrument to develop Canada's excellence and promote collaboration in a number of strategic science and technology disciplines.

As we move into the implementation phase of the LTSP over the next year or so, we intend to conduct a series of consultations with stakeholders and thus this suggestion, as well as others, will have an opportunity to be discussed and refined.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steve MacLean