

*Space Agency**[Translation]*

The space program will also provide for a balanced apportionment of spinoffs across this country. The Government's policy is quite clear in this respect. Regional development objectives will be observed to the greatest possible extent. This objective is now an integral part of the Agency's planning process.

The Agency will encourage the continuing development of automation and robotics technology, satellite communications and remote sensing and ground-based technology. In addition to the retrieval and processing of remote sensing data, the Agency will also promote the development of technology for ground-based control and rocket engineering, and the advancement of space science in all regions of Canada.

More specifically, efforts will be made to develop a space-linked high technology base in Atlantic Canada.

The Space Agency will have its headquarters in Saint-Hubert on the South Shore of the St. Lawrence. Montreal is above all a city of international caliber and an important centre for Canada's aviation and space industry.

[English]

Canada's space program has already provided economic benefits for this country. We have better communication networks and improved ability to manage our resources and strong exports of high technology products. All of those translate into economic returns either in new efficiencies or in direct job creation. The program will continue to do that. The Canadian space program will also contribute heavily to this Government's efforts to create and sustain a high technology base in Canada.

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The technology developed by the Canadian Space Agency for use in the total space program will be transferred to Canadian industrial sectors. The potential spin-offs already show considerable promise. For example, robotics technologies for the Canadarm have applications in harsh environments here on earth. Remote sensing technology, a field in which Canada has already set the pace for the world and the field the Canadian Space Agency will continue to develop will contribute to better management of our precious resources.

The legislation has set the objective for the Canadian Space Agency to sustain those benefits. It will also provide the agency with the tools to carry out that mandate.

The agency will be a department of the Government, reporting to the Minister of Industry, Science and Technology. The Minister will be responsible for co-ordinating the space policies and space programs of the Government of Canada. That co-ordination will be done through the Canadian Space Agency.

The agency will also manage Canada's major international space commitments. For example, the agency will direct Canada's activities in the space station both in development of the mobile servicing system and in the best use of the laboratories in which Canada's astronauts will conduct experiments in microgravity, space technology, space science, and in life sciences such as space medicine.

As well, the agency will manage the Radarsat program, a co-operative venture involving Canada, the United States, nine provincial Governments and the private sector. Radarsat is unique in the nature and extent of its co-operative aspects. The agency will also manage and operate world-class space facilities such as the David Florida Laboratory located in Ottawa. It will also be charged with encouraging the commercial development of space related technology for use in Canada by Canadians.

The agency will continue on the course Canada has already set of international partnership in space exploration, working with other nations on space and space related programs and of course making our space related technology and goods available to the world.

Dr. Larkin Kerwin, who has had a long and distinguished career as an academic and administrator, will be president of the agency. He is a former rector of Université Laval, and I might add that he was rector of that university when I was performing a similar job at the University of Guelph. I knew him well in that capacity. As rector of that university and as president of the National Research Council, Dr. Kerwin will bring invaluable leadership and experience to his role as chief executive officer.

This new agency will work in close partnership with all other Departments with space related responsibility. Links with the Ministry, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, the Department of Communications, the National Research Council, and the Department of Industry, Science and Technology will be