



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-03504**

BY: **MR. MAY (CAMBRIDGE)**

DATE: **MAY 3, 2019**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **SIGNED BY THE HONOURABLE NAVDEEP BAINS**

Response by the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Space exploration

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government of Canada agrees with the signatories and recognizes the Canadian space sector is highly innovative. In 2017, it contributed 10,000 direct jobs of which 41% are highly-qualified personnel, and generated \$2.3 billion annually for the Canadian economy. The government is committed to strengthening the Canadian space sector, as demonstrated by new investments of over \$2.6 billion since 2016.

As announced by the Prime Minister and reiterated in Budget 2019, Canada's commitment totalling \$2.05 billion over 24 years to participate in the Lunar Gateway forms the cornerstone of Exploration, Imagination, Innovation: A New Space Strategy for Canada released on March 6, 2019. The Strategy aims to leverage Canadian strengths like robotics, artificial intelligence and biomedical technologies, while advancing science and innovation. Recognizing that science is at the heart of Canada's leadership in space, the Strategy emphasizes the advancement of science in areas like climate change monitoring and Earth observation missions.

The Strategy responds to the public consultations and recommendations of the Space Advisory Board and the views expressed by the sector through initiatives such as the Don't Let Go Canada campaign.

The Strategy also recognizes that space exploration increases the knowledge we have about our planet and the universe, encourages research and discoveries, and creates new business opportunities here in Canada to improve our daily lives. Through the Strategy, the Government of Canada is supporting future generations of innovators and explorers, and ensuring that Canadians are ready to take advantage of the jobs and industries of tomorrow.

Should you be interested in additional information about Canada's commitment to the Lunar Gateway, it can be found on pages 115 and 295 of Budget 2019 on-line: <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2019/docs/plan/budget-2019-en.pdf>.

Similarly, additional information concerning Canada's new space strategy can be found on-line: <http://www.asc-csa.gc.ca/pdf/eng/publications/space-strategy-for-canada.pdf>.