

Minister of Industry



Ministre de l'Industrie

SPEAKING POINTS

**COLIN CARRIE, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
TO THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, ON BEHALF OF
THE HONOURABLE JIM PRENTICE,
MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CANADIAN
SPACE AGENCY**

RADARSAT-2 LAUNCH EVENT

**JOHN H. CHAPMAN SPACE CENTRE
CANADIAN SPACE AGENCY
LONGUEUIL (SAINT-HUBERT) QUEBEC**

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Canada

Good morning.

It is a pleasure to be here today, at the Canadian Space Agency, on behalf of the Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Industry, for this Radarsat-2 launch event.

Looking at the audience I can sense your excitement.

The excitement that comes from a dedicated team that has designed Radarsat-2, Canada's advanced, next-generation Earth Observation satellite.

Radarsat-2 builds on the legacy of Radarsat-1, with its state-of-the-art microwave-derived images that launched Canada into a highly competitive global niche market.

Just last month, Radarsat-1 celebrated its 12th year of operation.

That is quite an achievement for an earth observation satellite that was originally thought to have a five-year lifetime.

So, bravo to the CSA engineers who have kept it aloft and providing government, scientists and business clients with precise imaging since 1995!

There is every expectation that Radarsat-2, once launched and declared operational, will also far exceed its planned seven-year lifetime.

Radarsat-2 is an important space asset for Canada. It will capture images of the Arctic waterways, day and night — in all weather conditions.

In the Speech from the Throne, our government committed to developing a northern strategy to strengthen Canada's sovereignty, security and sustainable development in the Far North.

Our government is committed to helping the Arctic realize its true potential, as a healthy and prosperous region within a strong and sovereign country.

Our northern strategy will build on four primary objectives:

- to vigorously protect our Arctic sovereignty as international interest in the region increases;
- to encourage economic development that benefits northerners through efficient and responsible regulation of the North's vast resource potential;

- to respond to the challenges of climate change in the North and make sure that its countless ecological wonders are protected for future generations; and
- to provide northerners with more control over their own economic and political destiny.

Our government is committed to the Arctic and will continue to work with the three territories to improve opportunities and help meet the needs of northerners.

Radarsat-2 is proof of Canada's commitment to leading-edge research, the development of innovative technologies, and the establishment of dynamic partnerships to commercialize these innovations in the increasingly competitive international marketplace.

Radarsat-2 will enhance our ability to track ships navigating our icy waterways.

It will help to strengthen our efforts to monitor ships illegally dumping bilge oil in our territorial waters.

It will also improve our fisheries interdiction efforts off our Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

Radarsat-2 will also contribute to the better understanding of the effects climate change will have on Canada's environment, especially in the Far North.

This is especially relevant during International Polar Year, 2007–2009.

It will provide critical data for the active management of natural resources.

In case of disaster, Radarsat-2 will be an indispensable tool to speed rescue and humanitarian aid to those most in need.

Radarsat-2 is the product of a unique public–private sector partnership between the Government of Canada, the CSA and MDA.

This partnership leverages Canada's renowned leadership in the development, operation and marketing of highly specialized remote sensing technologies and applications.

All Canadians should be proud of the design of Radarsat-2, which incorporates state-of-the-art technology that makes it one of the world's most advanced commercially available Earth observation radar image providers.

Today, as we watch the countdown to launch, I look forward to learning more about how Radarsat-2 will contribute to enhancing our government and scientific programs, while maintaining Canada's niche advantage in an internationally competitive remote sensing marketplace.

Radarsat-2, in service to Canada and the world — delivering social and economic benefits for all Canadians.

Thank you.