

Minister  
for the Atlantic Gateway



Ministre de la  
porte d'entrée de l'Atlantique

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K2

FEB 16 2009

Mr. Barry Dawe  
Chair  
Newfoundland and Labrador  
Association of Technology Industries  
391 Empire Avenue, Suite 5  
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador  
A1E 1W6

Dear Mr. Dawe:

Thank you for your letter of January 16, 2009, and your subsequent e-mail to my colleague the Honourable Keith Ashfield, advocating additional financial resources for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) to continue support for the advanced technology industries.

The current challenges being faced by businesses throughout the Atlantic provinces is of great concern to the Government of Canada. On January 27, 2009, the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Jim Flaherty, tabled Budget 2009, outlining a two-year economic action plan designed to stimulate the Canadian economy in response to the global economic recession. Budget 2009 provides timely and targeted measures while maintaining fiscal sustainability over the longer term.

I am pleased that the \$40-billion fiscal stimulus will include new resources to strengthen the activities of ACOA, signalling a renewed commitment to the important role of the Agency in supporting economic diversification throughout Atlantic Canada. Furthermore, Budget 2009 contains a number of important measures committed to increasing investments in innovation, science and technology, and research and development.

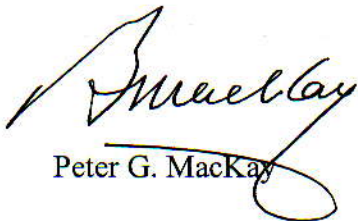
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Canada

I recognize the valuable contribution the advanced technology sectors make to the economy of Atlantic Canada, and the role the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Technology Industries (NATI) and other organizations play in its continued growth and success.

Together, Minister Ashfield and I look forward to working with NATI and other associations and stakeholders to ensure the ongoing development and success of Atlantic Canada's technology industries and the creation of a strong, innovative and highly productive economy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MacKay", with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the name.

Peter G. MacKay

c.c.: The Honourable Keith Ashfield, P.C., M.P.