

# MEMBERSHIP SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

Please detach this original and return to:

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**Calgary, Alberta T2V 4L1**

**Deadline: June 22nd**

## A. GENERAL

In order to answer some of the following questions you should be aware of how society funds are handled at present. The National Office of the R.A.S.C. has an annual budget now running in excess of \$200,000. In the figures that follow, extracted from the 1991 budget, office expenses include salaries, building maintenance, etc. Travel costs include centre speaker changes, and travel on National Council business. Membership fees are divided into the part that goes to the National Office, and the portion that is kept by the centres (not including surcharges that some centres require). Distribution costs are combined for the Bulletin, Journal, and the Annual Report.

### Revenue

Membership fees (National) .....	\$63,600
Membership fees (Centres) .....	\$42,400
Journal .....	\$40,400
Handbook .....	\$100,000
Travel .....	\$12,100
Signia .....	\$1,200
Interest income .....	\$16,000
Miscellaneous .....	\$2,000

### Expenditures

Office expenses .....	\$68,000
Travel costs .....	\$17,500
Shipping and postage .....	\$11,000
Awards .....	\$3,800
Journal production .....	\$58,000
Annual Report .....	\$7,000
Bulletin (newsletter) .....	\$13,000
Publications distribution .....	\$19,000
Handbook incl. distribution .....	\$45,000

It can be noted that membership fees represent about 1/4 of total National revenue. That net revenue from the Handbook just about covers net costs of all the other publications. Overall net publication costs are less than \$1.00 per member, plus distribution costs.

**1** How do you rate the application of society funds to the following activities, or potential activities?

- a) Promoting astronomy to its members
- b) Promoting astronomy to the public
- c) Promoting light pollution awareness
- d) Providing educational books, slides etc.
- e) Financial support for exchange speakers
- f) Financial assistance for annual G.A. hosts
- g) Providing awards and scholarships
- h) Providing society publications
- i) Travel grants for Nat. Council business
- j) Donations to third world astronomy
- k) Sponsoring public lectures
- l) Research grants to centres

	Don't Know	Spend Much Less	Spend Less	About Right	Spend More	Spend Much More
a)	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
b)	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
c)	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
d)	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
e)	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
f)	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
g)	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
h)	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
i)	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
j)	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
k)	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
l)	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

**2** Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

- a) I am generally satisfied that I am getting my money's worth for my membership dues.
- b) I am generally satisfied that my membership dues are well spent.

c) I am generally pleased with the selection of services and promotional items.

d) I would buy more R.A.S.C. promotional items if they were made available.

Strongly Disagree

Strongly Agree

a)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
b)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
c)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
d)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

**3** Do you have any suggestions that might enable the society to increase revenues without increasing membership fees?

**4** Do you have any suggestions that might enable the society to better serve the membership and the public?

**5** Any other comments?

## B. PUBLICATIONS

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada several well known publications which members receive. All the publications are the result of the contributions by writers, editors, and publishers covering a diverse range of topics and technical levels. Please answer the following questions about the society's Handbook, Journal, and Bulletin.

### Observer's Handbook

The annual Observer's Handbook has enjoyed eighty years of service, and has over 240 pages of technical information from some thirty contributors.

**6** I use the Handbook:

Always	Frequently	Occasionally	Infrequently
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4

**7** a) Generally I find the Handbook informative:

Very Useful	Useful	Sometimes Useful	Seldom Useful
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4

b) Most useful section

c) Least useful section

**8** a) I find the technical level of the Handbook:

Very Easy	Easy	Average	Difficult
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4

b) Most difficult section

c) Least difficult section

**9** The Handbook is my primary astronomical reference.

Yes  1 No  2

**10** I'd use and buy a smaller, less technical Beginner's Handbook.

Yes  1 No  2

**11** I'd like to have the choice of either the Handbook OR the Beginner's Handbook with membership.

Yes  1 No  2

12 I'd like to see the Handbook unbundled entirely from membership and be given the option to purchase it or the beginner's version.

Yes <sub>1</sub> No <sub>2</sub>

13 Overall impressions:

The Bulletin

The Bulletin of the R.A.S.C. is the newsletter of the society. It appears bimonthly.

14 I read the Bulletin:

Always Frequently Occasionally Infrequently Never  
<sub>1</sub> <sub>2</sub> <sub>3</sub> <sub>4</sub> <sub>5</sub>

15 Generally I find the Bulletin articles:

Very Useful Sometimes Useful Seldom Useful Never Useful  
<sub>1</sub> <sub>2</sub> <sub>3</sub> <sub>4</sub> <sub>5</sub>

16 I find the selection of submitted articles presented:

Very Interesting Sometimes Interesting Seldom Interesting Never Interesting  
<sub>1</sub> <sub>2</sub> <sub>3</sub> <sub>4</sub> <sub>5</sub>

17 I like the fact the Bulletin accepts articles in English and in French.

Yes <sub>1</sub> No <sub>2</sub>

18 I have submitted at least one article to the Bulletin.

Yes <sub>1</sub> No <sub>2</sub>

19 I would consider submitting articles to the Bulletin.

Yes <sub>1</sub> No <sub>2</sub>

20 Overall impressions:

The Journal

The R.A.S.C. Journal is the technical journal of the society. It was first published over eighty years ago, and at present appears bimonthly.

21 I read the Journal:

Always Frequently Occasionally Infrequently Never  
<sub>1</sub> <sub>2</sub> <sub>3</sub> <sub>4</sub> <sub>5</sub>

22 Generally I find the Journal articles:

Very Useful Sometimes Useful Seldom Useful Never Useful  
<sub>1</sub> <sub>2</sub> <sub>3</sub> <sub>4</sub> <sub>5</sub>

23 Generally I find the book reviews:

Very Useful Sometimes Useful Seldom Useful Never Useful  
<sub>1</sub> <sub>2</sub> <sub>3</sub> <sub>4</sub> <sub>5</sub>

24 I find the selection of submitted articles presented:

Very Interesting Sometimes Interesting Seldom Interesting Never Interesting  
<sub>1</sub> <sub>2</sub> <sub>3</sub> <sub>4</sub> <sub>5</sub>

25 I find the technical level of the Journal:

Very Easy Easy Average Difficult Very Difficult  
<sub>1</sub> <sub>2</sub> <sub>3</sub> <sub>4</sub> <sub>5</sub>

26 I like the fact that the Journal accepts articles in French and in English

Yes <sub>1</sub> No <sub>2</sub>

**27** I have submitted at least one article to the Journal.

Yes <sub>1</sub> No <sub>2</sub>

**28** I would consider submitting articles to the Journal.

Yes <sub>1</sub> No <sub>2</sub>

**29** Overall impressions:

Given the fact that the Journal represents a significant cost, it has been suggested that the society's financial situation could be improved by saving money in this area. In answering the next few questions, please keep in mind that reducing the number of pages in a printing run, or reducing the number of copies printed, does not result in very much saving, since fixed costs make up a large part of the total in any small-scale publishing operation. Moreover, our current arrangement with the University of Toronto Press for printing the Journal is quite favourable given the quality of the resulting product.

**30** Please indicate your first (1), second (2), and third (3) preferences, among the following possibilities:

- a) I'd like to see the Journal continue in its present format.
- b) I'd like the Journal to be published in some less costly format.
- c) I'd like to see the annual number of issues of the Journal reduced from six to four. (Note that since the Bulletin is mailed with the Journal, this would likely mean reducing the Bulletin to only four issues.)
- d) I'd like to see the Journal and the Bulletin merged into a single publication, printed in a format much like the current Bulletin.
- e) I'd like to see the Journal unbundled from membership and be given the option to subscribe to it. (Note that this could drive the per-unit cost of a subscription so high as to make continued publication impractical)
- f) I'd like publication of the Journal to cease entirely.

a <sub>1</sub> b <sub>2</sub> c <sub>3</sub>  
d <sub>4</sub> e <sub>5</sub> f <sub>6</sub>

**31** Any other comments or suggestions?

**C. PERSONAL**

Please feel free to leave out any questions you think are too personal. Although the R.A.S.C. is open to any and all who have an interest in astronomy there is an impression that the membership is made up of able-bodied well-educated middle-class males of essentially European ancestry. If this is the case, the R.A.S.C. may be failing to reach out to some groups of society, to our loss as well as to the benefit of the membership. Personal questions on such topics as sex, income, disabilities, and ethno-cultural origin may help reveal areas in which the R.A.S.C. can expand membership, and/or improve its services.

**32** Male <sub>1</sub> Female <sub>2</sub>

**33** Single <sub>1</sub> Married or equivalent <sub>2</sub>

**34** a) Languages spoken:

b) Languages read:

c) Languages written:

d) Language of usual use in your household:

**35** Number of other family members also interested in astronomy:

**36** Household annual income (thousands)

<\$20 <sub>1</sub> \$20-\$40 <sub>2</sub> \$40-\$60 <sub>3</sub> >\$60 <sub>4</sub>

**37** Ethno-cultural background (e.g.- Chinese, German, Cree, Scots, Afro-American) (whatever you feel applies)

**38** Age:

<16	16-18	19-21	22-25
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
26-35	36-50	51-70	>70
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

**39** Membership class:

Ordinary	Youth	Life	Senior	Honorary
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

**40** Centre Name or Unattached

**41** Years of membership:

<2	2-4	5-7	8-10
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
11-15	16-20	>20	
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	

**42** a) Education:

Secondary School	Technical Institute	University	Post Graduate
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4

b) Degree/diploma:

Sciences	Math	Engineering	Education
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Liberal Arts	Fine Arts	Other	
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="text"/> 7	

**43** Interest level in astronomy:

Armchair	Active	Amateur	Professional	Educator
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

**44** How many R.A.S.C. meetings did you attend in the past twelve months?

<3	3-6	7-10	11-15	>15
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

**45** Did you contribute to any of the above meetings (by speaking, showing slides, chairing, etc.), and if so, providing how much time in total;

<3 min.	3-30 min.	31-59 min.	1-5 hr.	>5 hr.
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

**46** Did you contribute to any R.A.S.C. public education activities (e.g. star nights, As-

tronomy Day, etc.) in the past twelve months?

Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 1	No <input type="checkbox"/> 2
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**47** Ever served on a centre council, or centre committee?

Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 1	No <input type="checkbox"/> 2
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**48** Would you (again) if asked?

Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 1	No <input type="checkbox"/> 2
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**49** Ever served on National Council, or a national committee?

Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 1	No <input type="checkbox"/> 2
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**50** Would you (again) if asked?

Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 1	No <input type="checkbox"/> 2
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**51** a) How many of the society's annual General Assemblies have you attended?

none	1-2	3-5	6-10	>10
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

b) If "none", why not?

**52** How many articles relating to astronomy have you read in the last twelve months?

<3	3-6	7-10	11-15	16-30	>30
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6

**53** How many books relating to astronomy have you read in the last twelve months?

<3	3-6	7-10	>10
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4

**54** From what source(s) does your astronomical reading come? (percentages)

a) Personal purchase/ subscription	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
b) Public library	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
c) Other library	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
d) R.A.S.C. library	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
e) Non-library borrowing (e.g.- friends' books)	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

**55** a) Have you borrowed books or materials from any R.A.S.C. library in the last twelve months?

Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 1	No <input type="checkbox"/> 2
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b) If "No", why not?

**56** How did you learn about the R.A.S.C.?

	Local	Local		
	Centre	Science	Magazine	R.A.S.C.
Friend	Activities	Centre	Ad	Publications
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Other	<input type="text"/>			
	<input type="text"/>			

**57** Why did you want to, or what made you decide to, join the R.A.S.C.?

**58** a) Are you a member of any other astronomy organization(s)?

Yes  1 No  2

b) If so, which one(s)?

**59** Do you own a personal telescope, and if so, is it: (check all that apply)

Dobsonian	Newtonian	Refractor	Catadioptric	Binoculars
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

**60** Its aperture in centimetres (of the largest, if more than one) is:

<5	6-9	10-15	16-21	22-30	31-50	>50
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7

**61** Do you own, or have access to, a personal computer?

Yes  1 No  2

**62** If so, do you use it for any of the following: (excluding work-related, or professional activities)

a) Writing astronomical programs:	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
b) Accessing an astronomical section on a BBS:	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
c) Accessing an E-mail node:	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
d) Running commercial astronomical programs:	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
e) Doing R.A.S.C. related tasks (e.g.- reports, letters)	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

**63** Do you have access to a mainframe computer?

Yes  1 No  2

**64** If so, do you use it for any of the following: (excluding work-related, or professional activities)

a) Writing astronomical programs:	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
b) Accessing an astronomical section on a BBS:	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
c) Accessing an E-mail node:	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
d) Running commercial astronomical programs:	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
e) Doing R.A.S.C. related tasks (e.g.- reports, letters)	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

**65** What percentage of your observing is done

a) Alone	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
b) With friends or family members	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
c) With R.A.S.C. members	<input type="checkbox"/> 3

**66** For what percentage of your observing do you use;

a) No optical aid	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
b) Binoculars	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
c) Telescope <21cm	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
d) Telescope ≥21cm	<input type="checkbox"/> 4

**67** On how many days did you observe in the twelve months?

<3	3-12	13-26	27-52	53-100	>100
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6

**68** What percentage of your observing is done

a) Backyard or neighbourhood	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
b) Site within an hour's drive	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
c) Distant site	<input type="checkbox"/> 3

**69** What are your primary viewing interests? (e.g. planets, deep-sky, astrophotography, variable stars, meteors, binaries, galaxies...)?

**70** a) Do you report observations to any organization or group or headquarters? (e.g. A.A.V.S.O., I.L.O.C., I.O.T.A.)

Yes  1 No  2

b) If "Yes", which group(s)

**71** Have you ever designed, made, or assembled any astronomical equipment (e.g. telescope, mounting, photometer, software)

Yes  <sub>1</sub> No  <sub>2</sub>

**72** If "Yes", was the society of any help in this, through;

	Library		Personal	No
articles	Books	Meetings	Contacts	Help
<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>

**73** Do you have a disability or handicap that does not allow you to take part in astronomical activities to the extent you would like?

Yes  <sub>1</sub> No  <sub>2</sub>

**74** If so, could you offer any suggestions as to services or assistance the R.A.S.C. might be able to provide to enable your fuller participation?

**75** What suggestions do you have for improving the services that the R.A.S.C. provides to members? What problems have you experienced as a member that could be better addressed?

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this survey. Please use the remaining blank space to add any additional comments or to expand on your answers to any of the preceding questions.

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