



Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC), Halifax Centre

Dedicated to the Advancement of Astronomy and Allied Sciences

G10: Policies Regarding Permitted Commercial Activities at RASC Halifax Centre Meetings and Events

(Original Approval: 2000; Revised: June 18, 2020)

Background:

RASC Halifax Centre holds regular Board of Directors and Members' meetings, and from time to time hosts Centre-organized outreach events. There are occasions when our Centre is asked by another group, institution or commercial entity to provide volunteers for an event or meeting they are hosting. A previous policy had been approved by RASC Halifax Centre in 1999-2000 when meetings had been held at the Maritime Museum of Natural History.

Rationale

The Halifax Centre, as a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of astronomy, encourages interaction between its members to discuss and exchange information on the various aspects of astronomy so that they may benefit intellectually and gain from their membership in the Centre. Because of its non-profit status, the Centre reserves the right to place certain limitations on the activities of its members and non-members at its meetings and events that may be construed as violating its non-profit status.

It is important to provide guidance regarding limitations to commercial activities accepted at RASC Halifax Centre meetings and related events, such as Nova East Star Party and Centre-organized outreach events.

Policies Related to Commercial Activities at Members' Meetings

Subject to the following limitations, sale of goods and merchandise is limited to those items sold by the Centre to raise money to meet its expenses and objectives. The following limitations are placed by the Centre on members' and non-members' activities at the Centre's Members' meetings.

Sale by Members: Items which individual members of the Centre have for sale or trade may be displayed and sold by requesting permission from the Centre's Board of Directors at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting at which said items are to be displayed. The requirement for such permission is waived for "swap" or "sale" events at meetings organized by the Centre.

Sale by Commercial Entity: Upon request, firms or companies may be issued a written invitation by the Board of Directors or their designate to mount displays of goods or services which they have for sale. Without such an invitation, no firm or company may display goods or services at meetings of the Centre.

Invitation to Display: An invitation to display at general monthly members' meetings may be granted to a firm or company a maximum of two (2) times in any calendar year by the President or their designate and shall stipulate the following restrictions:

1. No items may actually be sold at the meeting;
2. The display shall be restricted to the area and time period assigned by the Board of Directors or their designate;
3. A sign (provided by the Centre) shall be visibly displayed adjacent to the display stating that the Centre does not necessarily endorse the products or services displayed, and takes no responsibility for the performance of either the vendor or their product and/or services;
4. Any other stipulation(s) which the President or the Board of Directors may make.

The Board of Directors shall not issue an invitation to display for a period of one (1) year to any firm or company which has failed to comply in any respect with the above stipulations.

Policies Related to Commercial Activities at Public Observing Sessions and Nova East

Where meetings or events are held on the premises of another institution, any limitations on commercial activity imposed by the hosting institution will be respected. Individuals may sell or trade personal items provided no laws, rules or regulations governing the hosting authority are violated.

It shall be the responsibility of the firm or company to determine from the hosting authority that no rules or regulations will be violated by the display or sale of goods or any other commercial activity.

Commercial displays may not be placed, nor sales be made on sites assigned to the RASC Halifax Centre if they violate the hosting authority's rules and regulations for commercial activity.

Firms or companies wishing to carry on commercial activities in conjunction with Centre activities must provide written proof to the Board of Directors or their designate that they will be permitted to carry on business at the specific location and time assigned to the RASC Halifax Centre.

Once such proof is provided, and upon request to the Board of Directors, firms or companies may be issued a written invitation to display which shall be granted at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Without such an invitation, no firm or company may display or sell goods or services at any site assigned to the Centre.

The invitation to display for such events shall carry the following restrictions:

1. The display shall be restricted to the area and time period assigned by the Board of Directors or their designate;
2. A sign (provided by the Centre) shall be visibly displayed adjacent to the display stating that the Centre does not necessarily endorse the products or services displayed, and takes no responsibility for the performance of either the vendor or their product and/or services;
3. Any other stipulation(s) which the Board of Directors may make.

Dispute Resolution

If there is a dispute on the interpretation or application of these guidelines, the Centre's Board of Directors shall be the final arbiters and their decision shall be final.

**Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC), Halifax Centre
Invitation to Display**

The RASC Halifax Centre hereby grants approval for _____ to display at
(Name of Firm or Company)

_____ to be held on _____
(Name of Halifax Centre Activity) (YYYY/MM/DD)

at _____.
(Location)

The following restrictions shall be adhered to the unless crossed out and initialed by the Centre President or their designate:

1. No items may actually be sold at the meeting;
2. The display shall be restricted to the area and time period assigned by the President or their designate;
3. A sign (provided by the Centre) shall be visibly displayed adjacent to the display stating that the Centre does not necessarily endorse the products or services displayed, and takes no responsibility for the performance of either the vendor or their product and/or services;
4. Any other stipulation(s) which the Board of Directors may make.

(President or Designate Name – please PRINT)

(President or Designate Signature)

(Location)

Date Valid YYYY/MM/DD)

I, _____, acting on behalf of _____
(Please PRINT) (Firm or Company Name)

agree to adhere to the above restrictions and acknowledge that my firm or company is permitted to place its display at the invitation of the RASC Halifax Centre and that failure to comply with the restrictions may result in the withdrawal of the invitation and, if withdrawn, I will remove the display immediately upon request by the Board of Directors or their designate.

I assume all liability on behalf of the firm or company I represent for the performance or quality of goods or services advertised during Centre-sponsored activities and for any accident or injury incurred which might result from the presence of the display.

(Signature)

(YYY/MM/DD)