



Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC), Halifax Centre

Dedicated to the Advancement of Astronomy and Allied Sciences

G14: Policies Regarding Donations to the RASC Halifax Centre

(Adopted: October 30, 2023)

Background:

Halifax Centre welcomes donations – both financial and equipment donation made by members or by their families posthumously. Their donations were and continue to be greatly appreciated; however, a consistent method for determining whether or not to accept the donation has not been determined. It has been at the discretion of the Board elected at that time.

Rationale:

There is the need for a consistent approach to accepting donations to the Centre.

Policies:

1. Evaluating and approving the donations shall be the responsibility of the Board of Directors.
2. Potential donors must understand and accept that Halifax Centre is not a registered charity; therefore, it cannot offer tax receipts for monetary donations or for the equivalent value of in-kind donations.

Re: Financial Donations:

3. Financial donations are welcome. However, they may not be automatically accepted. Donations made with the expectation or requirement that they be used for certain specified purposes, may be declined if they would incur additional unfunded expenses, or if they do not meet the operational requirements of the Centre at the time of donation.

Re: Equipment Donations

4. Donations of astronomical equipment, while appreciated, may be accepted if the equipment is determined to be suitable to the purposes of the Centre. It may be declined depending on the resources available to the Halifax Centre at the time of the intended donation. Those resources include volunteer availability, storage and physical plant/utilities availability, applicable funding, and the operational requirements of the Halifax Centre and its members.
5. The Halifax Centre cannot guarantee to any donor how the donated equipment may be used. Nor can the Centre consider buying such equipment or selling it on the donor's behalf.
6. Maintenance and repair of donated equipment shall be at the sole discretion of the RASC Halifax Centre.
7. Donors must also understand and agree that the Halifax Centre is under no obligation to keep donated equipment in perpetuity. Centre resources, finances, and operational conditions change over time, and the Centre must be free to sell or otherwise dispose of astronomical equipment it can no longer house, support, or utilize.
8. It will be the responsibility of the Board to maintain a record of donated equipment, including the donor and their contact information.

Re: Donation Recognition

9. Donations made shall be recognized and the donors acknowledged. The method of recognition, such as through a certificate, a thank you letter, article in Nova Notes, or other form shall be at the discretion of the Board of Directors.