

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF
The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

ADOPTED JUNE 16, 1908; IN FORCE DECEMBER 1, 1908.
WITH AMENDMENTS TO DECEMBER 1, 1927.

I. CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

THE Society shall be called the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

ARTICLE II.

The Executive Headquarters, the Library, and other property of the Society shall be located in the City of Toronto.

ARTICLE III.

The objects of the Society shall be:

(a) To study Astronomy and Astro-physics, and such cognate subjects as shall be approved of by the Society and as shall, in its opinion, tend to the better consideration and elucidation of Astronomical and Astro-physical problems; and to diffuse theoretical and practical information with respect to such subjects.

(b) To publish from time to time the results of the work of the Society; and

(c) To acquire and maintain a Library, and such apparatus and real and personal property as may be necessary and convenient for the carrying into effect of the objects of the Society.

ARTICLE IV.

The officers of the Society shall consist of an Honorary President, a President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a General Secretary, a General Treasurer, a Librarian, a Curator, and a Recorder.

ARTICLE V.

The Officers and 12 additional elective members, together with the past Presidents, and the elected presiding officer for each Centre as hereinafter provided in Article VII., shall form a council which shall have general charge of the affairs of the Society.

ARTICLE VI.

The Officers named in Article IV., and the 12 additional elective members of the Society who serve on the Council, shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Society.

An official ballot paper shall be sent to each member one calendar month prior to the annual meeting. Each such ballot paper shall contain one or more names proposed by the Council, for each vacancy, as well as the names of any who may have been nominated by five members in good standing at least two weeks before the issue of the ballot papers; with blank spaces in which the voter may substitute other names; and to be valid the envelope containing the ballot must, when returned, bear the signature of the voter and must be received by the Secretary before the time of closing the poll at the annual meeting.

In case of an equality of votes cast for any office the members present at the annual meeting shall choose between the two candidates having the highest number of votes.

Should an office for any reason become vacant, or should any elected member of the Council die or resign before the expiration of his term, the vacancy for the unexpired portion of the term shall be filled by vote of the Council.

ARTICLE VII.

When, at any Centre, a sufficient number of members of the Society desire to organize regular meetings, the Council may by resolution authorize such meetings.

These shall be known as meetings of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, and shall be under the control of the Council, which shall make an annual appropriation to defray the cost thereof. Their organization and conduct shall be deputed to a Board of the Members comprising them, who shall be elected annually at a special meeting called for the purpose.

ARTICLE VIII.

The Constitution of the Society shall be amended only at the annual meeting; and due notice of any proposed amendment must, after authorization by a majority of the Council, be sent to every member of the Society at least four week in advance of the date of voting. Such amendment to be adopted must receive at least two-thirds of the votes cast, (in person or by mail); voting to be governed by general provisions laid down in Article VI.

When any important measure affecting the policy or welfare of the Society is presented to Council, supported by five members of the Council or five members of the Society in good standing, such measure shall be submitted by mail to every member of the Council to determine upon; and a majority vote of the entire Council shall then be necessary to secure the recommendation or adoption of such measures.

All amendments to the By-laws shall be subject to the same conditions as those governing changes in the Constitution, but they may be made not only at the annual meeting but at any time when found expedient.

II. BY-LAWS

I. MEMBERSHIP

The members of the Society shall be enrolled in two divisions; to be known as Active Members and as Honorary Members respectively.

The Active Members shall consist of persons duly elected as members, and of Fellows elected as hereinafter provided.

Candidates who are elected to membership will be attached to a particular Centre, or to a Section known as "Members at Large". Members of the Society who live outside of Canada, or in a province in which there is no centre of the Society will be considered members at large and not attached to any particular Centre, unless these members are expressly nominated for Membership and attachment to a particular Centre. Members may be transferred from one Centre to another, or to the section "Members at Large" by the Council of the Society if written application for such transfer is made by such member of the Council.

The Honorary Members shall consist of Honorary Fellows, of whom there shall at no time be more than thirty; of Corresponding Members; of Patrons and of an Honorary President.

(a) Honorary Fellowship may be conferred as a recognition of scientific attainments or services of the highest order.

(b) Corresponding Members shall consist of persons interested in the objects of the Society, living outside of Canada, and duly elected as such.

(c) Any person may be named and enrolled as a Patron of the Society if he shall have rendered illustrious services to the Society or shall have presented to it substantial gifts.

Honorary Members shall pay no fees and shall have no votes.

II. ELECTION OF MEMBERS

Any person desirous of being proposed for membership shall be recommended by at least two Active Members of the Society. The proposal and recommendation shall be read at one of the meetings of the Society, and election may take place at any subsequent meeting. Voting shall be by ballot; and, to be elected, the candidate must receive at least two-thirds of the votes of the members present. Upon the election of the candidate, the Presiding Officer of the meeting or a duly authorized member shall indorse the fact upon the nomination paper and transmit it to the Recorder. The Recorder shall then forward same to the Treasurer, who shall notify the candidate of his election and shall supply him with a copy of the Constitution and By-laws of the Society.

Every candidate elected a member shall pay his fee within sixty days of the day of his election, otherwise his election shall be void.

The Council shall have power, upon a two-thirds vote of those present at a lawful meeting thereof, to remove from membership in the Society any member, whenever the best interests of the Society shall, in its opinion, seem to require such removal.

III. ELECTION OF FELLOWS

Fellowship in the Society may be conferred by Council upon any member in good standing, in recognition of original scientific work of merit, (observational, experimental, or literary); or in virtue of high scientific attainments or services. The nomination shall be sent to the Secretary, who shall present the same at a meeting of the Council. If the candidature is favorably received, ballots shall be sent to all members of the Council, and unless at least two-thirds of such members favor election the nomination shall be held to have failed.

IV. FEES

Unless otherwise provided, the Annual Fees of an Active Member shall become due and shall be payable on the first day of January in each year. The fee shall be two dollars per annum. If the Member be elected before the first day of September the full fee shall be paid; if after that date, in proportion to the unexpired portion of the year.

Any Active Member at any time, all sums then due being first paid, may compound for his annual contributions by the payment of Twenty-five dollars (\$25), and become a Life Member. The Society at an Annual Meeting, on recommendation of the Council, may confer Life Membership on any Active Member in recognition of services rendered.

When an Active Member shall be one year in arrears in payment of his annual contribution, the Council may erase his name from the roll of membership.

V. MEETINGS OF COUNCIL

The Council shall meet at the Society's Executive Headquarters, on the call of the President. In his absence, or in case of his refusal to act, any three members of Council may issue or cause to be issued notices for an Emergency Meeting. The Notices shall state clearly the reasons the Councillors have for calling the meeting; and no other business shall be transacted at such meeting than that of which specific notice has been given. Under no circumstances shall the notice of any meeting be less than seven clear days. The quorum of Council shall be Five.

VI. THE PRESIDENT OR PRESIDING OFFICER

It shall be the duty of the President to take the Chair at the meetings of the Society and of the Council; and in his absence one of the Vice-

Presidents or other authorized member shall act in his stead. The President shall not vote at any meeting of the Society or Council, except where a casting vote is necessary to decide a question, in which he shall give such casting vote. As occasion requires, the President may nominate any committee other than a standing committee, and charge such committee with the duty of examining into and reporting upon any subject connected with the welfare of the work of the Society. The President shall *ex officio* be a member of every committee, and may vote as such member unless he is in the Chair, when he shall only exercise the right of giving if necessary a casting vote.

VII. THE GENERAL TREASURER

It shall be the duty of the General Treasurer to receive all moneys due to the Society, to keep all books pertaining to his office, to make all payments, to prepare the cash and balance sheets and have them duly audited, and generally to act under the instructions of the Council. He shall make no payment on behalf of the Society unless such payment is first authorized by the Council. He shall, on receipt, deposit to the credit of the Society, in some Chartered Bank to be approved by the Council, all and any moneys which come into his possession as such Treasurer. He shall pay only by cheque, signed by himself and countersigned by the President.

VIII. THE GENERAL SECRETARY

It shall be the duty of the General Secretary to conduct the official correspondence of the Society, and to report such to Council at the first meeting thereafter; and to issue notices calling meetings of the Society or of the Council as required.

IX. THE RECORDER

It shall be the duty of the Recorder to keep exact minutes of the proceedings of the Society and of the Council. The Recorder shall keep a record of the minutes of the Society and of the Council at the Library of the Society, so that they may be referred to when occasion requires.

X. EDITOR AND EDITING COMMITTEE

The Council may appoint an Editing Committee, one member of which shall be designated as Editor.

It shall be the duty of the Editor to prepare and submit in writing estimates of the cost of publications, and, when instructed by Council, to obtain tenders for work to be done. He shall in no wise incur any liability for printing or engraving, or the like, unless and until he has been duly authorized to do so. Every report or document, the printing of which is estimated to entail an expenditure of ten dollars or more, shall be offered to competition by tender unless the Council otherwise direct.

XI. THE LIBRARIAN

Subject to regulations approved by the Council, the Librarian shall have entire charge of and be responsible for the safe-keeping and proper condition of the books and publications, maps, charts, photographs, pictures, and like property of the Society. He shall report the names of publications, donations, etc., received by him. He shall also take charge of the Exchange List of the Society, and shall oversee the distribution of the Society's publications. He shall see that the rules governing the issue and return of books are obeyed, and it shall be his duty to report to Council any member disregarding such rule.

XII. THE CURATOR

Subject to regulations approved by the Council, the Curator shall have entire charge of and be responsible for the safe-keeping and proper condition of all property belonging to the Society except that named in By-law XI., and shall keep an accurate list thereof. Under no circumstances shall the property of the Society be loaned unless the person to whom the loan is to be made has signed a statement including a list of such property and an agreement to make good on demand any loss or injury such property may sustain as a consequence of such loan.

XIII. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held between the first and the twentieth day of January in each year. At this meeting the officers of the Society shall make reports of all their acts and doings in the year. The Annual Meeting of each Centre shall be held before the fifteenth day of December in each year. At this meeting the report of the Secretary and that of the Treasurer, duly audited, on the work of the Centre for the year, shall be considered; and, after approval by the meeting, they shall be transmitted, before the 31st day of December, to the General Secretary of the Society.

2. The Society shall have a Common Seal of such devise as shall be approved by the Society.

3. Order of Business for Annual Meeting:—

1. Reading of Minutes of last Annual Meeting.
2. Report of General Secretary.
3. Report of General Treasurer.
4. Report of Librarian.
5. Report of Curator.
6. Election of Officers for ensuing year.
7. Election of Auditors for ensuing year.

4. Suggested order of Business for an Ordinary Meeting:—

1. Reading of Minutes.
2. Business arising out of the Minutes.
3. Communications.
4. Reports from Council.
5. New Business.
6. Election of Members.
7. Nominations for Membership.
8. Librarian's Report.
9. Reports of Committees.
10. Predictions of Phenomena.
11. Reports of Observations.
12. Announcements—Paper for the next meeting.
13. Paper for the Evening.
14. Notes and Queries.
15. Adjournment.

5. All By-laws of the Society heretofore adopted are hereby repealed, and for them are substituted the By-laws hereinbefore set forth.

