



**IMAGES ALBERTA CAMERA CLUB**  
**POLICY WITH RESPECT TO SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**  
**(JUNE 01, 2017)**

**Purpose of Policy Document**

The purpose of this document is to formalize a policy with respect to the role that Special Interest Groups (SIGs) play within Images Alberta Camera Club (IACC), for the understanding of the IACC membership, and for consistency of operations of the SIGs.

**Concept and Definition of SIGs**

A SIG consists of a group of IACC members who share a common interest in a particular topic or area within photography. These members typically meet to discuss, view images, and informally teach and learn about the shared area of interest. They may also be involved as a group in hands-on photography in the area of interest in an outing or workshop environment. SIG outings and workshops are often informal and sometimes impromptu activities, and are not intended to replace organized IACC outings and workshops.

SIGs provide an opportunity for their members to pursue common areas of photographic interest for pleasure and learning, and offer an additional means for social interaction and camaraderie within IACC.

**Functional Characteristics of SIGs**

The Club facilitates the formation of specific groups, to make available for its members, an opportunity to explore common areas of photographic interest, in an environment outside the Club's formal meeting structure. Support of ongoing SIGs includes promotion within the Club, communication of relevant SIG-related information to the Club members, and assistance with SIG initiations and operations as necessary.

The types of groups that exist as SIGs are intended to reflect the interests of Club members. As such, a group may be formed when there is sufficient interest from members of the Club. Likewise if the members of a specific group feel that there is no longer sufficient interest to continue, the group may choose to disband. In this way, SIGs are fluid, and those that exist at any given time will ideally reflect the current interests of IACC members.

Although SIGs fall within the overall offerings of the Club, generally speaking they operate in an independent fashion. As far as is practical, individual SIGs are self-managed. The members of each group decide where and how often the group will meet, and what form the meetings or other get-togethers will take. Because the activities of individual SIGs are not directly overseen by IACC, the members of individual SIGs are overall responsible for all aspects of the operation of their group. This includes safety and financial aspects. At all times, SIGs carry out their activities in a manner that reflects well on the IACC and its membership.

## **Organizational Structure**

Overall facilitation and coordination of the SIGs falls under the mandate of the IACC Board, and specifically, the Special Interest Groups Chair.

The SIG Chair supports the various groups in accordance with the IACC Job Descriptions document including but not limited to: promoting SIGs within the Club, communicating relevant information to the IACC membership, helping to facilitate the operation of existing SIGs and the formation of new SIGs.

Each of the groups has a Leader or Co-Leaders who coordinate their individual group. This is primarily in the area of maintaining communications, both to the group members and the SIG Chair, about activities and other issues relevant to the group. It is intended that members of a SIG will actively support the Leader through cooperation, providing ideas, organizing and/or taking part in activities, so that the role of Leader will not be too onerous.

## **IACC Financial Support**

Given that SIGs may operate for an extended period of time, and that membership of any one SIG usually represents only a small portion of the Club membership, each special interest group operates independent of IACC in terms of its funding for operations. Normal and ongoing expenses of each group are covered by its members.

The IACC board may elect to include a small budget for SIG operations, intended to assist in the initiation of new SIGs or for other special circumstances that may arise from time to time.

## **Equipment for Use by SIGs**

At the discretion of the Vice President or the Board, certain IACC-owned equipment may be made available for use by one or more SIGs, as long as the use of this equipment does not negatively impact other Club operations.