

CANDIDATE STATEMENT



Dear RASC Members, my name is Solstice Vikki Zsohar and I am interested to be elected first time to the national board of the RASC. I understand the eligibility requirements and I meet these requirements. I agree to abide by the RASC Directors and Officers Code of Conduct.

Born and raised in Hungary, I arrived to Canada in 2003. I have a Master's Degree in Metallurgical Engineering (1996), and my chosen field of work is Nursing since 2012.

I have been an observing amateur astronomer for more than 30 years, and a member of RASC since 2015. I am an amateur astronomy buff, love observing the objects of the night sky and I also enjoy building telescopes.

I am a founding member of the Yukon Astronomical Society (YAS, 2015), also called as RASC Yukon Centre since 2016. I served as a society treasurer (2015-2017), president (2017-2021), and this time as vice president.

I established Yukon's first Public Astronomical Observatory (2018) by leading the design, project writing, application for funding, and construction. The teamwork and dedication of both society volunteers and contractors made the completion of the project possible.

During my leadership, the Yukon Astronomical Society received a commendation from the Yukon Legislative Assembly recognizing our work for the community.

Outreach and popular-astronomy education has always been in my heart. I organized and contributed organizing several public outreaches for all ages, and our programs drew hundreds, if not thousands of Yukoners to look into a telescope and discover celestial objects for the first time in their lives. For example, we had Mercury and Venus transit events, Mars and Jupiter opposition events, Partial Solar Eclipse and Lunar Eclipse outreaches, and the summer-long public solar observation Saturdays. Partnered with Parks Canada, the RASC Yukon Centre established the Kluane Northern Nights - Dark Sky Festival, in 2016. This event became our largest event every year.

I taught astronomy workshops for adult members of the RASC Yukon Centre for years. In addition, I reached out to schools, and as a result, hundreds of Elementary and Secondary School students, Cubs, and Girl Guides enjoyed astronomy classroom curriculum and night sky presentation programs. I also teach the "Universe from Your Backyard" continuing education course at Yukon University since 2017.

Utilizing the RASC Public Speaker Program, I helped Guest Speakers to come to the Yukon. Our Guest Speakers gave presentations at society events, outreaches and helped mitigating light pollution with Yukon Government and ATCO Electric. For example, James Edgar, Charles Ennis, Chris Gainor, David Levy, Paul Gray and Pierre Paquet visited the Yukon as part of the PSP program. As a public speaker myself, I enjoy talking about the "Winter Solstice and the Northern Lights", the "Life of Stars" and "Telescopes 101".

Being a founding member of RASC's Inclusivity and Diversity Committee, I participated in "The Stars Belong to Everyone" education video created by Charles Ennis, to help promote inclusivity and diversity within the RASC.

If I am elected to the Board of Directors of the RASC, I will contribute to a welcoming, inclusive and safe environment for all within the RASC. I fully support the Strategic Plan of the RASC, and also fully support the mandate and vision of the RASC. I am very interested to interconnect and support the local RASC Centers, and promote amateur astronomy, public outreach and popular astronomy education. I want to contribute to RASC's success, where I can. I am confident that I have the experience to effectively participate in the work of the national RASC board and want to do so with the best of my ability.

Thank you for considering my application and I wish clear skies to all,

Solstice Vikki Zsohar
RASC Yukon Centre