

PSICAN Internal Document – January 28, 2012
THIS DOCUMENT ALSO AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

**Paranormal Studies and
Investigations Canada:**
***General Information & Codes of
Governance/Presentation***

Version 3.0.1

Written By: Matthew Didier
Written By: Sue Demeter-St.Clair

Paranormal Studies and Investigations Canada

This document is an internal document that is applicable only to PSICAN. It is not applicable to our affiliate or 'daughter' groups (without their specification) or any group outside of PSICAN.

Our Mission Statement...

The overall purpose of Paranormal Studies and Investigations Canada is to examine reports and information of reported perceived paranormal phenomena without prejudice to any hypothesis of causation and to collect and to document these cases from a purely evidentiary point of view to the very best of our abilities.

Defined PSICAN member roles...

Founders:

This refers to Sue Demeter-St.Clair and Matthew James Didier. As PSICAN is truly a group of colleagues ahead of anything else, the founders are not responsible for anything save organisation, management of resources, and asking (not telling, demanding, or "ordering",) other members to help or take on tasks when applicable

Team or Project Leads:

This refers to members, investigators or researchers who take up active management of a case, experiment, or investigation who acts as an administrator to their team involved with said specific case or project.

Members, Investigators, and/or Researchers:

Within PSICAN, every person is effectively a member, investigator, or researcher. This designation simply denotes that the person is a volunteer with our group and is helping us look into these fields of study and have passed the necessary qualifications within our set standards. They have agreed to work within the Rules of Governance as well as our Code of Presentation which are both presented in this document below.

Resolution Committee:

This refers to a group of five appointed senior members whose task is to discuss, advocate, and make decisions should there be any conflicts or concerns from any of PSICAN's membership on any level. **As of January 28th, 2012, this group consists of Sue Demeter-St.Clair, Matthew Didier, Stu Finlay, Penny Eileen Dobson, and Heather McKenzie.**

PSICAN RULES of GOVERNANCE:

1: The safety, security, and overall comfort of a witness is paramount in our efforts.

- (i) Personal and private data including contact information must and will be held in the strictest confidence within PSICAN and its members, investigators, researchers, and founders unless the individual who shared the information has given express permission to publish or make said data publicly accessible or the information has been previously published or noted in a public manuscript, document, periodical, or other printed (televised/broadcast) source.
- (ii) Although PSICAN and its members, investigators, researchers, and founders are bound by neutrality, we remain open minded to any or all possible faiths, beliefs, and favoured hypothesis of anyone we are working with or sharing information with. It is not the responsibility for anyone within PSICAN to “correct” or otherwise argue any position with belief or faith as an absolute without empirical evidence to substantiate the members, investigators, researchers, or founder’s stance.
PLEASE NOTE that in discussion of the study overall and outside of an investigation proper, a particular member, investigator, researcher, or founder may voice an opinion or challenge a viewpoint on the basis of an untested hypothesis or simple thought, this is within the confines of “Rule of Governance #5” below.
- (iii) A witness may ask a team leader or a founder to remove or change an investigator or researcher working on the case without issue or problem if they so desire. (Any concerns or questions about any changes like this can be made by a PSICAN member to a member of the standing Resolution Committee.)
- (iv) Witnesses and others who experience the paranormal should be made aware that PSICAN does not certify, validate, or otherwise suggest anything may or may not be happening of a paranormal nature without empirical data to support that stance.
- (v) PSICAN does not use psychics, seers, sensitives, mediums, or other psychical help as a front-line tool of any investigation. We do not offer psychical services, house clearings, channeling communications, or exorcisms (or similar efforts) if so requested. We work strictly from a neutral observational standpoint as documentarians when investigating.
- (vi) PSICAN and its investigators, researchers, and founders must be as professional as possible while dealing with a witness and respect any property, local laws, schedules, or any legitimate requests put forward by anyone directly responsible for an investigation on any level.
- (vii) PSICAN and its investigators, researchers, and founders must work and strive to be within the realm of societal acceptability in deportment and

communication and maintain a professional attitude towards the study at all times when dealing with a witness or on an investigation.

2: PSICAN will strive to investigate, collect, and present data within a neutral standpoint without prejudice to possible hypothetical causations, beliefs, or faiths.

- (i) If the data is being produced for a possible demonstrated hypothesis or is presented as being solely for possible consideration as a hypothetical situation, it must be presented as such. PSICAN will never make a proclamation of fact without empirical evidence to substantiate a claim that is made.
- (ii) PSICAN and its investigators, researchers, and founders will always strive for accuracy, evidence of claims, and cite all works we may compile or use as material when producing or presenting data for consideration. We will never knowingly plagiarize or neglect giving appropriate credit for information and data used in our pursuits.
- (iii) PSICAN and its investigators, researchers, and founders will always work from an ethical viewpoint and try to ensure as much empathy is given to any person(s), property, or cultural groups as possible. We will not pursue, publish, or make public any information or case that may be deemed (after consideration of any investigative or research team,) inappropriate or possibly “hurtful”. We will always try to wait an appropriate amount of time to pursue any study or data that may still involve a person or group of people’s comfort levels.
- (iv) “Hoaxing”, falsifying data, or perpetrating any sort of intentionally fraudulent information or events within what is currently considered the paranormal is forbidden to all PSICAN investigators, researchers, and founders. PSICAN and its investigators, researchers, and founders will also refrain from knowingly working directly with, supporting, or promoting anyone who has been found to be (or have been) part of a “hoax”, fraud, or other illicit activities within the realm of the paranormal.

3: PSICAN acknowledges its responsibility to those who come to us for help or assistance, but must stay within the scope of our own studies.

- (i) If there’s a concern on an investigation, within a case, or experimentation where a PSICAN investigator or researcher suspects there may be an issue at play that is far beyond the paranormal (such as a criminal acts or similar issues,) but was not witness to it directly, they should temporarily cease their efforts for PSICAN. The concern should be then brought to the attention to one other PSICAN investigator or researcher and one or all of the Resolution Committee. From this point, it is not a PSICAN issue, but simply a situation where three people should come to a 2/3 majority on if or how to proceed in suggesting a course of action to the

witness or contacting the appropriate authorities. PSICAN activities can only resume if a satisfactory result has been found for the situation.

- (ii) If a crime is witnessed or evidence of a crime presents itself without question to a PSICAN member, investigator, researcher, or one of the founders while on an investigation or working on a case, then the appropriate authorities must be contacted (as per local and established laws and/or simple local legal expectations,) at the earliest possible convenience.
- (iii) PSICAN investigators, researchers, and founders must be bondable and as such, not have any criminal records in order to work with us in any capacity.

4: PSICAN is a completely not-for-profit organisation. There will never be a fee for PSICAN's publishable information online or for any assistance or purely investigative/research work PSICAN is involved with pertaining our studies.

- (i) If a member of the PSICAN team stays within the framework of our "Rule of Governance #1", then said individual member, investigator, researcher, or founder can produce books, articles, or other media based on PSICAN data that they can market on a personal level. If using PSICAN material, please give proper citations and ensure the reader knows that this is a book by a PSICAN member, investigator, researcher, or founder and is not a "PSICAN" book from the group as a whole. Copyright will be retained by the author/producer.
- (ii) PSICAN "swag" (shirts, bags, articles, etc.) can also be marketed with an agreement on use (of logos and name) and upon any fees requested for/by PSICAN for said use between the manufacturer/seller and at least one of the PSICAN founders (or the two senior members of the Resolution Committee). PSICAN reserves the right to always demand immediate cessation of production and sale of any merchandise in production displaying the PSICAN name or logo at any time.
- (iii) A witness, "experiencer", or someone who has come to us with something for PSICAN to look at should never be charged a fee, asked for any money (even for expenses,) or otherwise billed, charged, or have money(s) requested on behalf of PSICAN or its investigators, researchers, and founders. If a witness is adamant about giving or donating to PSICAN, it should be made very clear that this is not necessary and not expected. If someone still wishes to help us, please have them give through the website and not discuss the gifts or any money(s) with our investigators or researchers that may be involved with a case that affects them.
- (iv) As with "Rule of Governance #4i" above, if a PSICAN member, investigator, researcher, or founder is asked to speak or be involved with a media presentation and a fee is offered, this would be considered a

personal matter between the PSICAN person and whomever is organising the event or project. We do believe our people should be compensated for their time if they are working with these types of events and projects. Again, however, this is between the PSICAN person involved and the event/project managers... and although the person can and will be listed as a PSICAN member, investigator, researcher, or founder, their contribution is as an individual who happens to hold that designation and is therefore, NOT considered as something that involves PSICAN as a group.

- (v) Reproduction of existing PSICAN books, materials, and documents for the purpose of sale is allowed with permission from either one of the founders (or, if the founders are no longer part of the organisation, one of the two senior members of the Resolution Committee) and with the understanding that the documents be properly credited as PSICAN documentation and that a consideration of a fiscal gift of some of the profits, if any, can be made back to PSICAN for possible future projects or current expenses.
- (vi) People wishing to reproduce PSICAN original documents for non-profit or educational uses may do so through Creative Commons/Fair Use dealings and ensure that credit is given to PSICAN and, if applicable, the individual author/creator of the work.

5: PSICAN does not hold or express any corporate views. Any opinions expressed through its articles, papers, websites, or via other means are, therefore, those of the PSICAN member, investigator, or researcher alone.

- (i) All reports, academic papers, presentations, and work of that nature *must* be presented with a viewpoint as neutral as possible in terms of belief, faith, or spirituality and must concentrate only on the data at hand.
- (ii) Exempt from this are critiques, editorials, and casual notes, but it should be maintained that these are opinions and not presented as fact.
- (iii) Elements of any statement made publicly by a member that would, by Canadian Law, be considered "Hate Speech" or that could be or are received negatively as either considered racism, sexism, or negative "culturalism" will be presented to the Resolution Committee for potential (eventual) action.
- (iv) Any concerns with any PSICAN (or related) material about this can be brought forward to a PSICAN member and presented to one of the members of the Resolution Committee.

6: If any member of PSICAN sees a potential problem, has a request for a fundamental change to the group or its policies, or wishes to voice a concern, they may contact any one of the five members of the standing Resolution Committee to be heard. The committee member, upon approval of the request,

will bring it forward to the other four members for a discussion and, if necessary, a popular vote amongst the standing committee members.

- (i) If a point is brought to the attention of a committee member by a PSICAN member, it will be either accepted by the member of the committee or, if the member (approached) of the committee feels they cannot advocate the situation on behalf of the person submitting the request, pass the request via the person submitting it to another committee member. If the request is passed to other committee member who also cannot advocate on the request's behalf three times, it will not be considered by the committee for discussion.
- (ii) The committee will not have "formal" meetings, but will simply communicate thoughts and concerns from members on an irregular basis as the need arises through whichever medium is deemed best.
- (iii) If even one committee member voices (or votes) against the others, each member will be allowed to make one statement of their reasons for their decision on the standing matter and the vote will be re-cast once. In this case, a three-to-five majority will carry the vote.
- (iv) The committee will be initially formed of the five most senior members of PSICAN and/or its directly related groups. Should one member be unable to fulfill their roll on permanent basis, either the next most senior member will take their place or the remaining committee members may appoint someone only by a complete consensus of opinions.
 - (a) Any "vote" or decision that is considered important or vital in terms of action must wait for all members of the committee to weigh the options and consider a plan of action up to 72 hours... after which, a majority decision with whomever will determine the course of action which will be taken.
 - (b) Any action taken quickly or immediately (such as the removal of a comment or user from the message board,) must be "saved" with the option to restore or repair any alterations made if the committee decides the action was precipitous. Action on Facebook Group(s) or other social media outlets not in our direct control are exempt from Rule 6, Section IV, B
- (v) The committee's decisions will be honoured by all members regardless of standing in the group.

7: All PSICAN investigators, researchers, or founders are governed by the Rules of Governance listed above. Any investigators, researchers, or even its founders found in breach of the above will be held accountable either by the founders directly or by the Resolution Committee if necessary.

8: Any changes, additions, or alterations to this document (as a whole) made after January 28th, 2012 must first be passed by a majority of the Resolution Committee and stand up to a potential “veto” vote from the founding members or, in lieu of them, the two senior members of the standing committee.

- (i) If a change, addition, or amendment is “vetoed” by one of the two founding members or by the two senior committee members, any notes, requests, changes, or suggestions for the alteration must be presented to the Resolution Committee for a potential re-draft and re-submission.

PSICAN Code of Presentation:

#1: Our first priority is respecting the needs and wishes of those who claim experiences with perceived paranormal phenomena. We will endeavour to maintain your safety, security and privacy to the best of our abilities and will not publish, report, "sell" or market any information you give us without your express permission. We do, however, reserve the right to publish a report without exact information (such as exact addresses and names) if a request to use/publish has been made and we've had no reply within fourteen (14) days.

#2: Ownership and "copyright" of a report or article submitted to us remains solely with the original witness/reporter/author/creator. We only ask that we have the ability to use or otherwise publish what the witness/reporter/author/creator has given us permission to work with for our studies or those elements that we have put into our "own words" in perpetuity.

#3: We will always take a neutral view on unexplained phenomena.

#4: We will always try our best to maintain proper and accepted methods of research and science within the limits of an investigation or any of our studies.

#5: We will never wilfully and/or knowingly fabricate or "manufacture" (hoax) evidence or findings to be displayed or otherwise officially distributed in a misleading representation of evidence, proof, and data and we will not proclaim these things as such without empirical evidence to back up the claim.

#6: We will NEVER charge for our work or for the display of our findings. PSICAN is "non-profit". (See "Rules of Governance – Section 4")

#7: We will never wilfully or knowingly break any laws or by-laws of an area or site in the pursuit of our studies.

#8: We will endeavour to the best of our abilities to meet the needs of those who ask for assistance, be that a request for information or help with an event or occurrence.

#9: We will read and respond to any or all reports and requests made to us within seven business days (unless otherwise stated on our website's main page).

#10: We will not "clear homes" or offer elimination of any phenomena. If a witness requests assistance in this area, we will offer what help we can through third-party contacts free of charge, but will never recommend any "fee based" help for someone requesting this assistance.

#11: PSICAN as a group will never proclaim anything as an absolute (in terms of phenomena or evidence) without proper study and investigation, which must yield empirical data that we are able to present. We will never preach a "belief" or "faith" as "fact" unless this criterion is met. Individual researchers, and investigators may offer personal opinions if requested.

#12: We do not offer "psychical" help such as readings or séances to the public.

#13: PRIVACY: We will never sell market or otherwise distribute any "mailing lists" or information that is sent to us to third-party companies or organisations. We will not "spam" people with unsolicited e-mails or send information to a group/company/business that will do this. All information is private and for use with PSICAN members, investigators, researchers, and founders only unless otherwise approved by the person who originates the information.

#14: LIABILITY: A browser, viewer, witness who submits a report or otherwise someone using information from PSICAN or its site assumes all liability for any actions or reactions that may arise from said visit or information.

#15: COMPLAINTS: If you have a complaint about PSICAN, we ask that you first contact the party who you have issue with and see if a resolution is possible. If you are not satisfied with a response or need further assistance, please e-mail admin@psican.org and give us the details of the issue. We will do our best to address any or all concerns.

#16: PSICAN will never knowingly display information or data from a third-party source without proper credit and/or consent of the owner of that information.

#17: PSICAN cannot be held responsible for content of site(s) outside of our group that we may have a link to. We can only be responsible for our own work and content.

#18: We will do our utmost to ensure accuracy with information (historical or otherwise) and will always credit sources (where possible and allowed) and welcome any corrections or notes from readers. We do ask, however, that if you do send these corrections or notes that you include a source for us to be able to check and use as a resource to make sure that the information is as correct as possible. Also note if something is listed as "folklore" or a "legend", it may mean that there is either no proper resource for that information or that there are multiple "versions" of events or data that have been presented within listed resources.

#19: We welcome people to use and reproduce our displayed work from our website online provided that proper credit and a "link back" is included in the reproduction and that the information is available freely to anyone visiting the site, blog, or other internet entity where the information is being used. We also ask you e-mail admin@psican.org first. (We work within the framework of Creative Commons.)