



International  
Commission  
of Jurists

### Guidelines for ICJ Canada Student Groups

#### **Our objectives:**

ICJ Canada is seeking to establish a student chapter at Faculties of Law across Canada to support the goals of the organization, namely, the promotion of the rule of law, judicial independence, and human rights in Canada and abroad. By developing a strong student network, we hope that we will foster an appreciation for these values among future lawyers. We also hope that students will remain involved in our organization in the long term.

Faculty chapters are important to help develop and implement research and advocacy relating to our core mission; we expect each chapter to organize and participate in activities that align with ICJ's mandate. Students and law professors are welcome to be creative and take the initiative to develop new ideas and activities.

In particular, we envisage the development of a volunteer student research network to support and contribute to the growth of ICJ Canada and as a team to work on ongoing research projects that relate to our mission. Projects would potentially have input from senior lawyers and professors who are part of ICJ Canada's executive, academic advisors, and ICJ members. Students would be encouraged to bring fresh perspectives on issues within our focus areas that are of particular interest to them, and which require more critical analysis and thinking. The ultimate goal of the research would be to submit reports on their research and activities to the national executive of ICJ Canada and where appropriate to forward them to the headquarters of the organization in Geneva.

#### **Expectations of student chapters:**

- Student chapters should aim to have a minimum of 5 members, working in conjunction with a faculty representative
- All members of student groups are encouraged to become formal members of ICJ Canada. Membership is an indication of commitment to our community of jurists, and joining ensures that all students will receive information about ICJ events and activities across Canada. Faculty members and student leaders should provide student group participants with instructions for how to join.
- Each Faculty group should organize a minimum of one event per semester. Events may include speaker events, networking events, quiz events, debates, human rights letter writing meetings, etc.
- Student groups are not to attribute positions on policy issues to ICJ Canada without prior consent

- Each group can have its own budget and is expected to independently fundraise to cover any costs associated with organizing their event or events
- We hope student groups will assist in spreading information about ICJ Canada and its events
- Student leaders and/or faculty representatives should provide a brief end of semester written report to the ICJC Executive Director, via email: [janine.lesperance@icjcanada.org](mailto:janine.lesperance@icjcanada.org). This report does not need to be formal, but allows ICJC's head office to be informed of activities in law faculty chapters across Canada. Basic information requested may include number of students involved, projects initiated, outcome of events, etc.

**ICJC Board of Directors / Executive Director engagements:**

- We will provide students with background and promotional materials about ICJC as required
- We may be able to provide some funding for events if necessary costs are discussed in advance. Additional logistic or organizational support may be provided by regional Directors and Council members.
- We will publicize faculty events.
- We will endeavour to allow students to increase their profile through involvement with ICJC, such as by publishing news items or research written by students on the ICJC website, and providing students the opportunity to network and work with ICJC Directors, Council members, and members.
- We will connect faculty groups with Board members, Council members, and other ICJC members if helpful, and will otherwise assist in coordinating projects as required.

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Faculty representatives listed at: <http://icjcanada.org/index.php/en/people/student-branches.html>