

**GOVERNANCE POLICY #4 – LEVELS AND DIVISIONS OF GOVERNANCE
FOR SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
ASSOCIATION DE LA SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONALE DU CANADA**
(a federal corporation)
hereinafter referred to as “SGI Canada”.

Policy Type: Governance

Policy #4

Status: Approved by Corporate Members on September 27, 2014

This Governance Policy emanates from General Operating Bylaw No. 8 for SGI Canada, as amended from time to time, and is to be read in conjunction with Bylaw 8 and the other Policies adopted pursuant to Bylaw No. 8.

The definitions contained in Bylaw No. 8, as amended from time to time, shall apply to the provisions of this Governance Policy.

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BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THIS POLICY

This Policy describes the levels and divisions of SGI Canada, which apply to SGI Canada’s programs and leadership. The Levels, as described in Section 1.01 of this Policy, are as follows:

- The Districts, where monthly discussion and study meetings and other gatherings, including occasional Divisional gatherings organized by Group Leaders to help develop the Districts, occur to encourage the Practitioners within each District and to help them further their faith in Soka Gakkai Nichiren Buddhism;
- Chapters, composed of several Districts; Chapters encourage and oversee the Districts under their care to further each Practitioner’s SGI Nichiren Buddhist Faith;
- Areas, composed of several Chapters; Areas encourage and oversee the Chapters under their care to further each Practitioner’s SGI Nichiren Buddhist Faith;
- Regions, composed of several Areas; Regions encourage and oversee the Areas under their care to further each Practitioner’s SGI Nichiren Buddhist Faith; and
- The National Level, composed of all of the Regions; the National Level encourages and oversees all of the Regions to further each Practitioner’s SGI Nichiren Buddhist Faith.

As described in Section 1.02 of this Policy, each Level is divided into four Divisions; 1) the Men’s Division (or Men’s Group), 2) the Women’s Division (or Women’s Group), 3) the Young Men’s Division (or the Young Men’s Group), 4) the Young Women’s Division (or the Young Women’s Group) and

certain Levels also have a Youth Division (which encompasses the Young Men's and Young Women's Groups) and the Future Division for children. The Young Men's and Young Women's Divisions include additional sub-divisions for High School and Student (post-secondary students) Divisions.

There are SGI Canada Leaders for each Division and Level as described in Sections 1.03 and 1.04 of this Policy. For example in each District, there is a Men's Division Leader, a Women's Division Leader, a Young Men's Division Leader and a Young Women's Division Leader that work together to oversee the District.

1.01 Levels of Governance

The governance of SGI Canada shall be carried out according to the following geographic Levels of Governance:

- (a) Groups – consisting of the smallest unit of governance whereby monthly discussion meetings, as well as other gatherings for prayer, planning, study, spiritual encouragement and introduction to Soka Gakkai Nichiren Buddhism, the teachings of Nichiren Daishonin and the Three Founding Presidents of the Soka Gakkai are held in order to provide a sense of community and encouragement in Soka Gakkai Nichiren Buddhism;
- (b) Districts – consisting of the next largest unit of governance whereby monthly discussion and study meetings, as well as other gatherings for prayer, planning, study, spiritual encouragement and introduction to Soka Gakkai Nichiren Buddhism, the teachings of Nichiren Daishonin and the Three Founding Presidents of the Soka Gakkai are held in order to provide a sense of community and encouragement in Soka Gakkai Nichiren Buddhism;
- (c) Chapters – consisting of networks of Districts, for purposes of providing support to the activities carried out at the District Level, and conducting periodic Chapter Level meetings for prayer, planning, study, spiritual encouragement and introduction to Soka Gakkai Nichiren Buddhism, the teachings of Nichiren Daishonin and the Three Founding Presidents of the Soka Gakkai;
- (d) Areas – consisting of networks of Chapters, for purposes of providing support to the activities carried out at the Chapter Level, and conducting periodic Area Level meetings for prayer, planning, study, spiritual encouragement and introduction to Soka Gakkai Nichiren Buddhism, the teachings of Nichiren Daishonin and the Three Founding Presidents of the Soka Gakkai;
- (e) Regions – consisting of networks of Areas, for purposes of providing support to the activities carried out at the District, Chapter and Area Levels, and conducting periodic Regional Level meetings for prayer, planning, study, spiritual encouragement and introduction to Soka Gakkai Nichiren Buddhism, the teachings of Nichiren Daishonin and the Three Founding Presidents of the Soka Gakkai with the over-arching objective of connecting with each Practitioner through the spirit of mentor and disciple, although in practical terms, the Regional Leaders are responsible for connecting the Practitioners in their respective Regions to SGI Canada and the National Leadership; and
- (f) National – consisting of all of the Regions, for purposes of providing support to the activities carried out at the District, Chapter, Area and Regional Levels, and conducting

periodic National Level meetings for prayer, planning, study, spiritual encouragement and introduction to Soka Gakkai Nichiren Buddhism, the teachings of Nichiren Daishonin and the Three Founding Presidents of the Soka Gakkai with the over-arching objective of connecting with each Practitioner through the spirit of mentor and disciple.

1.02 Divisions of Governance

The activities and programs of SGI Canada shall be carried out according to the following Divisions; for greater certainty Leaders for all of the Divisions shall be represented at each Level of Governance, as much as possible:

- (a) The Men's Division, also referred to as the Men's Group (35 years of age and above);
- (b) The Women's Division, also referred to as the Women's Group (35 years of age and above);
- (c) The Young Men's Division, also referred to as the Young Men's Group (from 14 years of age to 34 years of age. This Division includes High School and Student (post-secondary students) Divisions, which are sub-divisions of the Young Men's Division);
- (d) The Young Women's Division, also referred to as the Young Women's Group (from 14 years of age to 34 years of age; This Division includes High School and Student (post-secondary students) Divisions, which are sub-divisions of the Young Women's Division);
- (e) The Youth Division (coordination of Young Men's and Young Women's Divisions); and
- (f) The Future Division (children up to 13 years of age).

1.03 Levels of Leadership

The levels of reporting and accountability for Leaders shall be co-ordinated at the Levels of Governance outlined in section 1.01 of this Policy, as much as possible, as outlined below:

- (a) In each District, there shall be Group Leaders who shall work with each other and report to the applicable District Leaders;
- (b) In each District, there shall be District Leaders who shall work with each other and report to the applicable Chapter Leaders; In each Chapter, there shall be Chapter Leaders who shall work with and report to the applicable Area Leaders;
- (c) In each Area, there shall be Area Leaders who shall work with each other and report to the applicable Regional Leaders;
- (d) In each Region, there shall be Regional Leaders who shall work with each other and report to the National Leaders; and
- (e) The National Leaders shall work with each other and report to the General Director.
- (f) At each level, there shall be Assistant Leaders who shall work with and report to their respective Leaders at the same level (e.g. Assistant District Leaders shall work with and

report to the applicable District Leaders, Assistant Chapter Leaders shall work with and report to the applicable Chapter Leaders, etc.)

1.04 Divisions of Leadership

The Divisions of Leadership shall be coordinated according to the Divisions of Governance outlined in section 1.02 of this Policy, as much as possible, as outlined below:

- (a) The Divisional Leaders, Assistant Leaders and Group Leaders within each District shall work together to support and encourage the Practitioners in their faith, practice and study and to coordinate activities at their District;
- (b) The Divisional Leaders and Assistant Leaders within each Chapter shall work together to support and encourage the Practitioners in their faith, practice and study and to coordinate activities at their Chapter;
- (c) The Divisional Leaders and Assistant leaders within each Area shall work together to support and encourage the Practitioners in their faith, practice and study and to coordinate activities at their Area;
- (d) The Divisional Leaders and Assistant Leaders within each Region shall work together to support and encourage the Practitioners in their faith, practice and study and to coordinate activities at their Region; and
- (e) The Divisional Leaders and Assistant Leaders at the National Level of Leadership shall work together and with the General Director to support and encourage the Practitioners and coordinate activities at the National Level.