

November 2023 - Zone Competitions

Suggestions received:

- **Current individual CAPA member survey (478 responses received):**

- A. Not in favour of zone ones - should explain why decision made and what's its benefit. (18)
- B. More regional level competitions (3)
- C. A zone competition for Quebec with theme selected by them (1)

- **past individual CAPA member survey (138 responses received):** no responses for this topic.

- D. Promote & support Quebec Zone (1)
- E. There is no zone competition for Quebec (1)

- **current CAPA Camera Club survey (48 response received):**

- F. Not continue improving CAPA presence in Quebec (1)

- **past CAPA Camera Club survey (8 responses received):** no responses for this topic.

No comments received on this topic

Response: Thanks for these suggestions, and we appreciate the opportunity to address each which are included in my responses below:

The idea of CAPA Zone competitions was initially conceived in early 2019 by Michiko Nishijima (Atlantic Zone Director). I, in my role as the Director of Competitions, readily embraced the concept and approved it as a pilot project.

The pilot project was designed to accommodate a maximum of 100 submitted images from both camera club members and individual photographers.

Purpose of this pilot project was to:

- foster the growth of the photographic community in the Maritimes
- cultivate a heightened enthusiasm for photography within the Maritimes

- motivate photographers who may have been hesitant to submit their images to a national CAPA photo competition
- provide scores and supportive comments on submitted images by Certified CAPA Judges outside the zone
- ensure that Maritime photographers attain well-deserved recognition through CAPA Awards, setting them apart from the competitions that are predominately populated by photographers from outside the Maritimes
- actively encourage smaller, non-CAPA camera clubs to become part of CAPA
- elevate the visibility and reputation of Maritime photographers.

This pilot test proved to be a resounding success. Numerous Maritime camera clubs and individual CAPA members are now proudly receiving CAPA awards in various national competitions.

From CAPA's perspective, the zone competitions offer an invaluable opportunity for zone photographers to gain valuable feedback before potentially transitioning to submitting their images in our national competitions.

Camera clubs play a crucial role by providing photographers with the opportunity to learn and share their photography skills with fellow club members and invited guests. Club may also have in-club photo competitions.

Zone competitions are seen as a vital intermediate step to prepare and introduce photographers to our national competitions. In these zone competitions, judges provide support comments, a feature not offered in our national competitions.

Our national competitions are where experienced photographers submit their images to be evaluated by teams of Certified CAPA Judges. Due to the high volume of image submitted, it is not realistic to score and provide comments on each submitted image. Notably, judges' comments are not provided at international photo competitions.

It's important to note that the top 80 images from each competition cycle are selected to represent Canada at the **international Four Nations Competition**.

In the competition cycles spanning 2020-2021, we introduced the Pacific and Prairie Zone competitions. In 2021-2022 cycle, we further expanded with the addition of the Ontario Zone competition. Looking ahead to 2023-2024 cycle, we are pleased to announce the inclusion of the Quebec Zone competition, with a closing date of January 15, 2024.

The theme for the Quebec Zone was reviewed and approved by the David Boutin (Quebec Zone) and his team prior to the competition being posted on the CAPA website.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Contrary to some perceptions, it's important note that our competitions do not consistently favour the same top photographers. Many creative and highly skill photographers do indeed emerge as winners in our national competitions.

Participating in competitions is an integral aspect of the learning journey towards becoming a proficient photographer.

Rather than solely striving for a CAPA award a more realistic and meaningful goal is to aim for your images to be scored in the top 20% of a competition. Achieving this milestone means that the judges collectively concur that your image effectively meets the competition's criteria. It's imperative to stress that photographic competitions primarily serve as an evaluation process. Any recognition, such as winning a medal or merit award, should be viewed as an additional and well-deserved bonus.