



research reveals...

an update on gambling research in ALBERTA

About The Alberta Gaming Research Institute

The Alberta Gaming Research Institute is a consortium of the Universities of Alberta, Calgary, and Lethbridge. Its primary purpose is to support and promote research into gaming and gambling in the province. The Institute's identified research domains include bio-psychological and health care, socio-cultural, economic, and government and industry policy and practice. The Institute aims to achieve international recognition in gaming-related research. It is coordinated by a Board of Directors working in collaboration with the Alberta Gaming Research Council. The Ministry of Alberta Gaming provides funding to the Institute.

OUR MISSION:

To significantly improve Albertans' knowledge of how gambling affects society

Your comments and queries are welcome either by e-mail abgaming@ualberta.ca or phone 780.492.2856.

Alberta Gaming Research Institute Board of Directors, 2002

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Conference 2003: prevention of problem gambling, March 27 & 28, 2003

PREVALENCE STUDIES in Alberta and other provinces consistently indicate that, of Canadians who gamble, most do so in a responsible manner. But what can be done for that small minority of individuals who do experience problems with gambling? An upcoming conference, co-sponsored by the School of Health Sciences at the University of Lethbridge and the Alberta Gaming Research Institute, will provide an excellent opportunity to learn about efforts to minimize gambling's harmful effects. The Prevention of Problem Gambling conference will take place on Thursday, March 27 and Friday, March 28, 2003 at the University of Lethbridge.

Dr. Robert Williams, Associate Professor of Addictions and Institute Node Coordinator at the University of Lethbridge, is principally responsible for planning the conference program. "Conference attendance will be of interest to the general public and anyone promoting responsible gambling but particularly school educators, school counsellors, students, people involved in developing and implementing problem gambling prevention programs, and people in the addiction treatment field," says Williams.

The conference will focus on two distinct themes. First, delegates will have the opportunity to hear details about leading problem gambling prevention programs across North America from those directly involved in implementing them. A second theme will examine what prevention research has found to be important for these programs to be effective.

Developers of highly regarded gambling prevention initiatives from various jurisdictions will share their experiences and lessons learned. Scheduled speakers include Ms. Elizabeth George (Minnesota), Dr. Robert Murray (Ontario), Dr. Richard Labrie (Massachusetts), Dr. Tom Walker (Ontario), and Mr. Ken Surovy (Manitoba). A distinguished roster of addictions experts will contribute what their research tells us about prevention effectiveness. These include Dr. Gary Roberts (Ontario), Dr. Robert Ladouceur (Quebec), Dr. Ken Winters (Minnesota), Dr. Colin Mangham (British Columbia), and Dr. Harold Wynne (Alberta).

In the Province of Alberta, the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (AADAC) is a recognized leader in initiatives to prevent problem gambling. AADAC has produced numerous brochures and educational materials that are designed to increase

2002-03 Research Grants

The Institute's grant awards include the following newly approved research projects. Further details about each of the research projects, including the names of all principal and co-investigators, can be found on the Institute website (www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/research.htm).

- The Influence of substance dependence and mood disorders on outcome from pathological gambling
Dr. David Hodgins, University of Calgary
(January 1, 2003 - December 31, 2003)

The role of coexisting substance abuse and dependence and mood disorders from pathological gambling will be investigated over a five-year period. The study will follow a sample of pathological gamblers who have recently quit gambling.

- Problem Gambling in the Asian-Canadian Community in Calgary
Dr. Daniel Lai, University of Calgary
(November 1, 2002 - October 31, 2003)

This project will explore the meaning of gambling and problem gambling among the Asian community in Calgary. It will also study the impact of socio-cultural factors that contribute to the problem.

- Developing a Gambling Awareness and Prevention Program: Impacting Gambling Behaviour in Prison Populations
Dr. Gary Nixon, University of Lethbridge
(October 1, 2002 - June 30, 2004)

A gambling awareness program will be developed and implemented at the Lethbridge Correctional Centre. It will be offered twice followed by an examination of its attitudinal and behavioural impact.

- Gambling, Identity & Community: Evaluating the place of chance in the formation of moral cultures
Dr. William Ramp, University of Lethbridge
(November 1, 2002 - December 1, 2004)

The research will concentrate on how people and organizations involved in gambling, or

having a connection to the gaming industry, understand gambling in relation to cultural definitions of self, agency, identity and community.

- The Effect of Culture on Gambling
Dr. Gordon Walker, University of Alberta
(October 1, 2002 - October 31, 2003)

The purpose of this project is to describe the prevalence of gambling among Chinese/Canadians residing in Edmonton, Alberta and to compare these findings with Anglo/Canadians.

- Economic Analysis Alternative Betting Duty Regimes
Dr. W. David Walls, University of Calgary
(December 1, 2002 - November 30, 2003)

The research aims to evaluate alternative mechanisms to extract revenue from betting activity in Alberta.

- Prevention of Problem Gambling: A School-Based Intervention
Dr. Robert Williams, University of Lethbridge
(November 1, 2002 - November 30, 2004)

This project will expand on a previous Institute sponsored evidence-based problem gambling prevention program. It will be delivered to high school students at three sites including the Calgary Catholic and the Edmonton Public systems as well as students in rural high schools in southern Alberta.

- Using On-Line Survey Techniques To Profile the Internet Gambler: A Pilot Study
Dr. Robert Wood, University of Lethbridge
(March 1, 2003 - February 28, 2004)

This study aims to create a demographic and gambling activity profile of Internet gamblers, using an Internet-based survey methodology.

2001-02 Annual Report available

The Alberta Gaming Research Institute 2001-02 Annual Report is now available on the Institute website (www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca) or by calling (780) 492-2856 or sending an e-mail to catherine.anley@ualberta.ca to have a print copy forwarded.

12th International Conference on Gambling and Risk-Taking

Fairmont Waterfront Hotel, Vancouver, BC, May 26 - 30, 2003

The Institute for the Study of Gambling and Commercial Gaming at the University of Nevada, Reno is sponsoring the 12th International Conference on Gambling and Risk-Taking. The Alberta Gaming Research Institute is one of the Associate Sponsors. It will take place May 26-30, 2003 at the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel in Vancouver, British Columbia. The objective of the conference is to stimulate research and facilitate discussion and debate about gambling and commercial gaming throughout the world. Paper submission proposals will be accepted until January 15, 2003. See the conference web page (www.unr.edu/coba/game/confer.asp) for further details.

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youth and adult awareness of problem gambling and the available treatment resources. AADAC also funds community-based prevention projects designed and delivered at the local level. The Commission works closely with the gaming industry to reduce potential harm. Initiatives include the Casino Voluntary Self-Exclusion program, and Problem Gambling awareness and early intervention training for staff in casinos and VLT venues.

Additional information about Conference 2003: Prevention of Problem Gambling, including a conference agenda and registration form, is available on the Institute's website (<http://www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca>).

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