



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

We are pleased to present the second Annual Report of the Alberta Gaming Research Institute, for the year ending March 31, 2002.

The Alberta Gaming Research Institute was launched in November 1999, a response of the Government of Alberta, and of the three major universities, to the Gaming Summit held the previous year. Among the recommendations of the Summit was the perceived need to increase the amount of research undertaken in Alberta on the costs and benefits of gaming and gambling. In acting on this recommendation, the Alberta government engaged the Universities of Alberta, Calgary and Lethbridge to develop an institute dedicated to increasing the amount and quality of research undertaken in Alberta on gaming issues. As a result of the ensuing discussions, the Alberta Gaming Research Institute was launched.

The Institute has spent its early years developing a program of high quality, independent research that will be of benefit to Alberta and Albertans. The Institute brings together, and further builds upon, the combined capacity of the three universities to conduct research in four domains: bio-psychological, socio-cultural, economic, and government/industry policy and practice aspects of gaming. The core program of the Institute is the awarding of research grants, which are allocated following rigorous review of the proposals by a large group of international experts in gaming research. To date, the Institute has provided over 20 research grants, and the vast majority of these are currently "in the field", which is our way of saying that they are currently in progress. Over the next months, a number of researchers will be providing their reports of this first stage of research. Through this core program of research, the Institute has also provided funding for the selective recruitment of gaming research specialists into Alberta. These researchers are building teams of faculty and graduate students to raise the bar in gaming research, and also are introducing the results of their research to growing numbers of graduate and undergraduate students. The Institute supports its research program through the development and maintenance of a province-wide library collection, accessible from anywhere in Alberta, which is centred on the libraries of the three universities. A coordinating role is played by the University of Lethbridge. The programs of the Institute are rounded out with funds for international linkages and



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collaborations, ensuring the gaming researchers in Alberta have opportunities to meet and interact with leading scholars around the world.

The foundation for an institute of international significance has been laid over the last couple of years, positioning Alberta to be among the leaders in Canada and around the world in gaming research. In this way, the recommendation of the Gaming Summit, to increase high quality, independent research into gaming, is becoming a reality.

Keith Archer

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2001-02, the Alberta Gaming Research Institute achieved increasing recognition in the field of gambling research in the province, across Canada, and internationally. The high calibre of the Institute Universities' researchers in a wide range of associated disciplines was important to our success in attracting peer reviewers for our second round of research grant proposals and their contingent contributions to our Institute-sponsored symposia, public forums, and conference events.

Our ability to move expeditiously into the realm of international research recognition positively reflects on the fine reputations of the University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and the University of Lethbridge. The funding support of the provincial government, through the Minister of Gaming, is equally significant, as is the intermediary role of the Alberta Gaming Research Council. The relevance of Institute-sponsored research is maximized through the Council's function of bringing the research interests of its members' constituents to the attention of the Institute's Board.

Please review this annual report, particularly, the Performance Highlights section for a quick overview of our past year. I welcome your comments on it or, more generally, on any of the Institute's activities. Please e-mail me at vickii.williams@ualberta.ca or phone me at (780) 492-2817. Thank you for your interest.

Vickii Williams



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Note: This Annual Report reflects the fiscal year April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002. The Institute's first Annual Report, for the year July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001, encompassed the first operational year of the Institute. As a result, some elements of this Annual Report will overlap with the first one.

Vision

An institute that is internationally recognized for its contribution to the scientific knowledge base in gambling research

Mission

To significantly improve Albertans' knowledge of how gambling affects society

The primary aim of the Alberta Gaming Research Institute, a consortium of the Universities of Alberta, Calgary, and Lethbridge, is to support academic research related to gambling. This is achieved through building research capacity at the partner universities, sponsoring specific research initiatives, organizing colloquia and conference events, and disseminating information via the library and resource service program and other publication mechanisms, both print and electronic (www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca).

Collaboration among Alberta's principal research universities (University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and University of Lethbridge) provides the Institute with considerable versatility and the opportunity to match researcher expertise with specific projects. Interdisciplinary and inter-University research, both provincially and internationally, are fostered. The Institute is an entity linking policy-makers, community organizations, the gambling industry, other major

stakeholders, and the general public in improving understanding of the impacts of gambling.

The operational/administrative 'hub' for the Institute is located on the University of Alberta campus (4-05H, University Extension Centre) and is staffed by a full-time Executive Director and a part-time Administrative Assistant. A full-time Institute Librarian is located at the University of Lethbridge. Each of the partner-Institute universities has a research 'node' with a resident 'Node Coordinator' and associated researcher funding support.

Core Purposes

The purposes of the Institute are to:

- Expand the breadth and depth of scientific knowledge into gambling;
- Provide education about current knowledge through research publications and reporting of research results;
- Provide research related to emergent gaming activities;
- Act as a clearinghouse for literature related to gaming research; and,
- Forge strong collaborative links with national and international scholars and organizations involved in gaming/gambling research and studies.

ABOUT THE ALBERTA GAMING RESEARCH INSTITUTE

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

The Alberta Gaming Research Institute has four 'core businesses', expressed as goals. The following is a summary of the performance of the Institute with respect to its core businesses, from April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002.

1 Develop and promote gambling-related research programs

- Twelve new high quality research initiatives were approved for funding, in addition to ten continuing from 2000-01, based on expert recommendations through a peer review process
- The range of disciplines (and sub-disciplines) supported includes medicine, addictions, psychology, history, sociology, physical education, statistics, anthropology, native studies, and human ecology
- Numerous Institute-funded research articles were accepted for publication in scholarly journals, including the *Journal of Gambling Studies*, *International Gambling Studies*, and *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*
- Institute-funded researchers presented papers and lectures at major conferences including the American Psychiatric Association Meeting, Canadian Foundation on Compulsive Gambling, National Council on Problem Gambling (US-based), and National Association for Gambling Studies (Australia)
- Research node coordinators at all three Institute Universities continued to generate and promote interest into gambling-related research
- An institute-sponsored prevalence study and assessment of a new diagnostic instrument "Smith & Wynne's Measuring the

Canadian Problem Gambling Index in Alberta" was reported in February 2002

- The University of Lethbridge Gambling Symposium (February 7, 2002) communicated preliminary research findings to attendees from diverse backgrounds (e.g. addictions counsellors, law enforcement officials, general public)
- University of Calgary public forum (March 13, 2002) on Responsible gambling issues with Jan McMillen, Executive Director, Australian Institute for Gambling Research as featured speaker
- An International conference sponsored by the University of Alberta and the Alberta Gaming Research Institute, "Gambling, Law Enforcement and Justice Systems Issues" (March 8 and 9, 2002), was highly rated by attendees and presenters for its contribution to expanding research knowledge

2 Develop and sustain a gambling-related research infrastructure

- Institute-funded researchers from all three partner universities incorporated gaming components into seven undergraduate courses, one graduate course, and numerous guest lectures
- Approximately 600 university students were exposed to gaming and gambling issues through coursework and guest lectures, research assistantships, and research collaboration
- Two international National Council on Problem Gambling (American) best masters thesis awards were presented to graduate students working with Institute-funded researchers
- The Institute librarian responded to approximately 90 requests for research assistance (e.g. literature reviews) from researchers and the general public
- 2,826 visitors accessed the resources on the Institute's website

- Librarians at the three consortium universities collaborated to develop a comprehensive collection of research materials relevant to gambling. More than 100 items were added to the physical collections and 18 topical bibliographies were developed and/or updated

3 Establish and encourage national and international gambling-related research linkages

- Linkages were established with various provincial (e.g. AADAC, First Nations communities, external researchers, industry) and national/international organizations (e.g. Responsible Gambling Council - Ontario, University of Nevada - Las Vegas, Australian Institute for Gambling Research)
- An extensive and diverse disciplinary group (pool of 90) of gambling experts from outside Alberta (including other provinces, USA, UK, Australia, New Zealand) agreed to contribute their expertise for peer review of research grant applications
- Institute-funded gambling conference events attracted more than 150 attendees and included delegates and presenters from Australia, Ontario, Nova Scotia, Rhode Island, Nevada, and New Jersey

4 Establish and efficiently conduct gambling-related research governance and administration

- The Institute conducted a 2001-02 research grant process which attracted a large volume of highly qualified applicants as well as those new to the field of gambling research
- The Institute distributed a bi-monthly Institute newsletter, *Research Reveals...*, an update on gambling research in Alberta, to a wide audience (17,000 hardcopies produced cost-efficiently) in addition to posting the newsletter on the Institute website (www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca)
- The Institute initiated negotiations to renew Government/Universities Agreement
- The Institute produced its 2000-2001 Annual Report, and promotional documents
- The Institute responded to a steadily increasing number of queries to the central administrative office (e.g. through website, by phone, and in person) promptly and thoroughly
- The administrative hub oversaw Institute operations with a staff complement of 1.5

PARTNER UNIVERSITY RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

The Alberta Gaming Research Institute provides funding support to the Institute universities to facilitate, conduct, and promote multi-disciplinary, intra- and inter-university, and other collaborative research into various aspects of gambling. Each of the partner universities has appointed a 'Node Coordinator' to identify and stimulate research interest.

University of Alberta

Node Coordinator Dr. Garry Smith (BPE, Alberta; MA, Western Ontario; PhD, Alberta) taught at the Universities of New Brunswick and Western Ontario, and for 25 years was a professor in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation at the University of Alberta. Dr. Smith has researched gambling-related topics for more than twenty years, has produced numerous articles for academic journals, and made presentations at national and international conferences. His most recent research project was "Measuring Gambling and Problem Gambling in Alberta Using the Canadian Problem Gambling Index", a project undertaken with Dr. Harold Wynne, Wynne Resources Ltd. Dr. Smith is currently involved in two Institute-funded projects and he is also the Institute's media contact.



Gambling research activity at the University of Alberta

- Ten research projects approved (five coming from the 2000-01 grant cycle and five in 2001-02) completed or in process in physical education and recreation, human ecology, public policy, sociology, and psychiatry
- Sixteen researchers actively engaged in gambling research sponsored by the Institute including internal researchers and external collaborative partners

- Fourteen publications (accepted or publication pending) on gambling-related research by Institute-sponsored faculty
- Six conference and colloquia presentations by Institute-sponsored researchers
- Participation in interdisciplinary, tri-university planning for longitudinal study (focus on social and economic factors)
- Feature article on Dr. Garry Smith's research in first issue (October/ November 2001) of Institute newsletter, *Research reveals...an update on gambling research in Alberta*
- Completed research report, "Measuring Gambling and Problem Gambling in Alberta Using the Canadian Problem Gambling Index", February 2002
- Eight research and graduate student assistants engaged in gambling-related research
- Co-sponsor, with the Institute, of a conference on gambling, law enforcement and justice system issues, March 8 and 9, 2002 which attracted national and extensive local media coverage with more than 90 conference delegates and presenters from Alberta, other provinces, UK, USA, Australia, and New Zealand
- Node hosted a symposium on March 11, 2002 for regulators and treatment agency personnel on Responsible Gambling Issues with Jan McMillen, Executive Director, as featured speaker from the Australian Institute for Gambling Research
- One undergraduate and one certificate course offered that included a gambling research component
- More than 350 undergraduate (university and college) and 15 graduate students exposed to courses or guest lectures on gambling research

- Recruitment process commenced for Assistant Professor in area of gambling research in Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation
- Gambling researchers served as peer reviewers for affiliated agencies (e.g. Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre)

University of Calgary

Node Coordinator Dr. David Hodgins (MA, PhD, Queen's) joined the Department of Psychology as an Associate Professor in July 2001, and has developed a program of research in the area of gambling treatment. He supervises two doctoral students (one whose project has received Institute funding), one master's and one undergraduate student. The concept of self-help is a focal point of his research. Dr. Hodgins is currently involved in four Institute sponsored research projects and other gambling related research activities.



Gambling research activity at the University of Calgary

- Six research projects approved (three continuing from the 2000-01 grant cycle and three in 2001-02), completed or in process in psychology, psychiatry, addictions, public policy, and management
- Nine researchers actively engaged in gambling research sponsored by the Institute involving internal researchers and external collaborative partners
- Four publications (accepted or pending) on gambling-related research sponsored by the Institute
- Eleven conference and colloquia presentations by Institute-sponsored researchers

- Participation in interdisciplinary, tri-university planning for longitudinal study (focus on addictions factors)
- Feature article on Dr. David Hodgins' research in second issue (December 2001/January 2002) of *Research Reveals...an update on gambling research in Alberta*, the Institute's newsletter
- Three research and graduate student assistants engaged in gambling-related research
- Two undergraduate courses and one graduate course offered that included gambling research as a major component
- 55 undergraduate and 15 graduate students exposed to courses or guest lectures on gambling research
- In the past two years, two University of Calgary graduate students, Kate Diskin (2000) and Karyn Makarchuk (2001), both working with Institute-funded researchers, were recipients of best thesis awards from the National Council on Problem Gambling (USA)
- Gambling researchers contributed expertise as peer reviewers for affiliated agencies
- Appointment of post-doctoral fellow from Brazil in the Department of Psychiatry engaged in gambling research

University of Lethbridge

Node Coordinator Dr. Robert Williams (BA, PhD, McMaster, CPsych) was recruited in January 2001 as Associate Professor in the University of Lethbridge's School of Health Sciences. He has research interests in several areas of gambling. Dr. Williams is currently involved with four Institute sponsored research projects as well as other gambling-related research initiatives.



Gambling research activity at the University of Lethbridge

- Six research projects approved (two continuing from the 2000-01 grant cycle, four in 2001-02) completed or in process in history, native studies, addictions, statistics, anthropology, medicine, and gerontology
- Eight researchers actively engaged in gambling research sponsored by the Institute involving internal researchers and external collaborative partners
- Two publications (accepted or pending) on gambling-related research by Institute-sponsored faculty
- Three conference and colloquia presentations by Institute-sponsored researchers
- Participation in interdisciplinary, tri-university planning for longitudinal study (focus on developmental psychology, mental health, cross-cultural factors)
- Feature article on Dr. Robert Williams' research in third issue (February/March 2002) of *Research Reveals...an update on gambling research in Alberta*, the Institute's newsletter
- Seven research and graduate assistants engaged in gambling-related research
- Co-host of a public forum with the Southern Alberta Council on Public Affairs (March 15, 2002) on Government and Gambling: Social Responsibility and Harm Minimization with Jan McMillen, Executive Director, Australian Institute for Gambling Research as featured speaker
- Two undergraduate courses offered that include gambling research as a major component
- More than 170 undergraduate students exposed to courses or guest lectures on gambling research
- Gambling Symposium held on February 7, 2002 arranged by the School of Health Sciences to showcase the gambling

research being done at the University of Lethbridge, included eight presentations and 70 attendees from the academic community, treatment agencies, and government

Library Collections and Clearinghouse

The Alberta Gaming Research Institute Library supports the work of researchers and the general public who are interested in gaming and gambling issues. To effectively study these issues it is important to have access to relevant and up-to-date sources of information. The Institute's website (www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca) serves as the Library's major gateway.

The Institute Librarian, Rhys Stevens, is located at the University of Lethbridge and the Library is administered in close association with the Institute hub. Since commencing work with the Institute on April 9, 2001, Mr. Stevens has established comprehensive hyperlinks to the online versions of many gambling publications (published by the Institute as well as other groups). In addition, he has established instructions on how to access the physical and proprietary electronic gambling collections of the three Institute university libraries.

Over the past year, librarians at the three consortium universities collaborated to develop a comprehensive collection of research materials relevant to gambling. Nearly 200 scholarly items were added to the physical collections during the year and approximately 18 topical bibliographies were developed and/or updated. These librarians also provide answers to questions that range from the general to the highly specific, and seek to broaden access to important information through the use of innovative services. Items available in Institute-sponsored libraries include books, journals, government reports and studies, and video recordings. All items are searchable using individual university library catalogues or through a combined search using The Alberta Library Online (www.talonline.ca/). The Institute Library Resources section of the Alberta Gaming Research Institute's website is a useful starting point for people seeking information about gaming and gambling in Alberta and around the world.

Research Grants (#) related to Domains and Research Topics

Research Topics	Research Domains				
	Bio-psychological and healthcare	Socio-cultural	Economic	Government and Industry policy and practice	Other
	Youth	9, 10			
	Seniors	2, 16, 17, 18			
	First Nations	9			
	Problem Prevention	5, 9, 10, 14, 19	15		
	Assessment	3, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20	4, 8, 15	4	
	Public Policy	20, 22	12	1, 8, 12, 21, 19	
	Suicide	7			
	Social/ Economic Impacts	12, 18	8, 20, 21, 22		
	Prevalence Measures	8	18		
	History				6
	VLTs	13	20		

RESEARCH PROJECTS AND GRANTS: TWO ROUNDS IN TWO YEARS

The Alberta Gaming Research Institute has now completed two approved cycles of gambling-related research projects. Following is an overview of each of the funded projects, which are listed by title, description, names of Principal (PI) and Co-Investigators (CI), and a brief report on the status of projects funded in the first cycle.

Projects approved in 2000-01

1. A consumer model for the regulation of gaming:

This project will attempt to place the focus of gaming activity into the perspective of a consumer transaction, so that researchers may apply the standard model of "consumer protection legal regulation" to gamblers. The objective is to determine if the model can be extended to gaming activity. *Dr Peter Bowal, Faculty of Management, University of Calgary. Status: Professor Bowal was on sabbatical until June 2002. His work on this project resumed on July 2002 with an expected completion date of 31 December 2002.*

2. High quality aging or gambling with health? The lifestyles of elders who play bingo:

This project studied three questions: (1) who plays bingo after age 65? (2) what do elders believe they "get" out of playing bingo? (3) what are the day to day patterns of a "bingo lifestyle" and the implications for health and well-being? *Dr. Sandy O'Brien Cousins (PI); Mr. Chad Witcher, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, University of Alberta. Status: The database was refined; since only 16% of original sample (400) were regular bingo players, we focused on more regular players (approx. 6%). Through supplementary funding (2001-02 Institute grant), the database was augmented with strategic sampling of more active bingo players in Edmonton; preliminary data are being analyzed; related conference presentation, published abstract,*

and media interest; manuscript and four scholarly papers are under development.

Timeframe: January 2001 - December 2002.

3. **Gambling craving and its relation to addiction and**

personality: This project explores whether gambling craving among pathological gamblers is similar or different from alcohol craving among alcohol-dependent individuals, and what is the relation of craving to personality structure. *Dr. Nady el-Guebaly (PI), Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Calgary; Dr. Hermano Tavares (CI), Department of Psychiatry, Sao Paulo Medical School, Addiction Centre/University of Calgary; Dr. David Hodgins (CI), Department of Psychology, University of Calgary.* Status: This project commenced in January 2001. In April 2001 and continuing, 71 patients were interviewed; regular contact was established with Calgary treatment agencies to assist with sample collection; a control group was established to follow clinical sample identification; sample collection completion is forecast by end of June 2002; data analysis and submission of main results to peer-reviewed journal by November 2002.

4. **How near wins and near losses affect gamblers' self-**

perceptions, risk estimations, and future gambling behaviour:

Identifying the effects of near wins and near losses on gaming decisions is the focus of this study. Theory suggests that these experiences may significantly affect a gambler's self-perceptions, risk estimations and future gambling behaviour. *Dr. Michael Enzle (PI); Mr. Michael Jeremy Adam Wohl (CI); Dr. Donald C. Heth (CI), Department of Psychology, University of Alberta.* Status: three series of studies, eight experiments in total, have been completed; one series focused on illusory control mechanisms in gambling, the second focused on counterfactual thinking; two studies were submitted, separately, and accepted for publication in peer reviewed journals; two more experiments were completed

and the manuscript is being prepared for publication over summer 2002; a related conference presentation took place in May 2001. Timeframe: January 2001 - 31 December 2002.

5. **Preventing relapse in former gamblers:**

This is a low cost, easily accessed relapse prevention approach for problem gamblers who have recently quit gambling. A minimal degree of intervention, involving repeated mailings of relapse prevention materials to participants, is required. *Dr. David Hodgins (PI), Department of Psychology; Dr. Shawn Currie (CI), Dept of Psychiatry; Ms. Katherine Diskin (CI), Department of Psychology; Dr. Nady el-Guebaly (CI), Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, Addiction Centre, Foothills Hospital, University of Calgary.* Status: the project is in two phases: development of relapse prevention materials and evaluation of two approaches. The first phase is complete: eight relapse prevention booklets have been written; 168 participants were recruited (80% in Alberta); to date, 131 participants have completed the six week follow-up interview (84%); 88 have completed the 6-month assessment (83% follow-up rate); the 12-month interview is currently underway. A number of associated provincial, national and international conference presentations, and media interviews have been conducted.

Timeframe: January 2001 - 31 July 2003.

6. **A social history of gambling in Alberta to 1970:**

This history of gambling in Alberta and its role in Alberta's diverse popular cultures will identify the province's gambling traditions, as well as attempts by agencies and government to either suppress or regulate gambling, and the persistence of gambling as part of Alberta's culture. *Dr. Christopher Hosgood (PI), Department of History, Faculty of Arts and Science, University of Lethbridge.* Status: the process of recovering, examining and interpreting archival material throughout the province was conducted in summer 2001; a

typology of gambling in Alberta was developed that requires additional evidence to determine the extent to which it has changed over time; the next phase involves research at the National Archives in Ottawa (over summer 2002).

Timeframe: January 2001 - 28 February 2003.

7. Association between pathological gambling and suicide

attempt/ideation: Data from interviews using the "Diagnostic Interview Schedule" with 25,017 residents in Edmonton and five US urban centres are being analyzed to determine whether a lifetime history of pathological gambling (DSM-III) is associated with suicide attempt/ideation. Dr. Stephen C. Newman (PI), Department of Psychiatry; Dr. Angus H. Thompson (CI), Departments of Psychiatry and Public Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Alberta. Status: the project was completed in May 2001, and the manuscript submitted to a scholarly journal for publication.

8. Measuring problem gambling in Alberta with the Canadian

Problem Gambling Index (CGPI): The focus of this project was the evaluation of the newly developed Canadian Problem Gambling Index in Alberta. CPGI items were imbedded in a telephone survey of a random sample of adult Albertans. The results provided a baseline status of problem gambling in Alberta communities. Dr. Garry J. Smith (PI), Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta; Dr. Harold J. Wynne (CI), Wynne Resources, Edmonton. Status: the project was completed in February 2002, and the report is posted on Institute website.

9. Prevention of pathological gambling: This project will develop, implement, and evaluate an evidence-based gambling prevention program to high school students at two sites: the Calgary Catholic system and Aboriginal students in tribal-operated high schools on the Blood and Peigan reserves. Dr. Robert J. Williams (PI); Dr. Virginia McGowan (PI), School of Health Sciences, University of Lethbridge.

Status: the first year was spent developing the program; the second year involves implementation including delivery in the Grade 10 CALM curriculum of two Calgary High Schools and cultural adaptation for delivery in two First Nations High Schools; and post-intervention assessment as well as further curriculum modifications, conference presentation and media coverage. Timeframe: January 2001 - 30 November 2002.

Projects approved in 2001-02

10 Impact of statistical knowledge on gambling attitudes and behaviour of university students:

This study examines the impact that an introductory statistics class studying gambling probabilities has on actual gambling knowledge, attitudes and behaviour of first year university students. Dr. Dennis Connolly (PI), Dept of Mathematics & Computer Science (PI); Dr. Robert Williams (PI), School of Health Sciences; Dr. Joy Morris (CI), Department of Mathematics & Computer Science, University of Lethbridge.

Timeframe: March 2002 - 31 May 2003.

11 Functional magnetic resonance imaging of pathological gamblers:

An evaluation of the differences in brain function between pathological gamblers and a normal 'control' group is the focus of this study. The pilot project uses functional magnetic resonance imaging in order to understand the underlying neurobiologic basis of pathological gambling and potentially aid in its treatment. Dr. David Crockford (PI), Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine; Dr. Bradley Goodyear (CI), Department of Clinical Neurosciences & Radiology; Dr. Hermano Tavares (CI), Department of Psychiatry, Sao Paulo Medical School; Dr. Nady el-Guebaly (CI), Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, Addiction Centre - Foothills Hospital; Dr. Richard Frayne (Consultant), Department of Clinical Neurosciences & Radiology; University of Calgary.

Timeframe: March 2002 - 31 March 2003.

12 Casino patrons, travel behaviour, place attachment and

motivations: A study of Alberta residents: What role does 'place' play in the travel decisions of Alberta residents who are casino gamblers? This study surveys 1,200 Alberta residents to: (1) identify the travel patterns and trip characteristics of casino gamblers, (2) examine the importance of place attachment and mode of experience in relation to these travel decisions, and (3) examine the relationship between place attachment and the motivations of casino gamblers. *Dr. Tom Hinch (PI); Dr. Gordon Walker (CI), Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, University of Alberta.*
Timeframe: November 2001 - 31 January 2003.

13 Psychophysiological and subjective responses in video lottery

gamblers: Psychophysiological responses (heart rate and skin conductance) and subjective ratings of excitement and tension are measured while participants gamble on video lottery terminals in a casino and in a laboratory situation. The study investigates the relationship between indices of arousal and problem gambling criteria in a real world situation and compares responses in casino and laboratory situations. *Dr. David Hodgins (PI); Ms. Katherine Diskin (CI), Department of Psychology, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Calgary.*
Timeframe: January 2002 - 31 December 2002.

14 Effects of a motivational interview on problem gambling

behaviour: A brief motivational interview for problem gamblers is being developed and evaluated. A 'motivational interview' is a non-confrontational interaction that allows an individual to discuss his or her concerns, express and explore ambivalent feelings about changing problem behaviour, and consider alternatives. The effects of a single motivational interview on subsequent gambling behaviour will be evaluated. *Dr. David Hodgins (PI); Ms. Katherine Diskin (CI), Department of Psychology, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Calgary.*
Timeframe: January 2002 - 31 December 2003.

15 Understanding how gamblers really think: Psychological and cultural aspects that motivate gamblers:

This research focuses on cognitive processes among problem gamblers. To date, extensive research has been conducted that highlights the use of cognitive distortions to rationalize continued gambling. The themes, archetypes, and mythic structures identified in this research will provide a starting point for culturally sensitive clinical applications as well as future prevention projects. *Dr. Virginia McGowan (PI); Dr. Gary Nixon (PI), School of Health Sciences; Ms. Lois Frank (CI), Department of Native Studies, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, University of Lethbridge.*
Timeframe: December 2001 - 30 November 2003.

16 Alberta retirees who gamble: Entertainment or problem:

This study includes an initial systematic review of the literature and the development of a testable hypothesis that evaluates gambling among retired individuals. *Dr. Brenda Elizabeth Munro (PI); Dr. Marlene Cox-Bishop (CI), Department of Human Ecology, Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics; Dr. Wayne McVey (CI), Department of Sociology, University of Alberta; Mr. Gordon Munro (CI), Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, Edmonton.*
Timeframe: February 2002 - 31 March 2003.

17 Seniors and gambling:

Towards a better understanding: To gain a better understanding of the issue of seniors' gambling in Alberta, this study (1) assesses the validity of existing gambling screens for seniors, (2) explores seniors' experience of non-problem and problem gambling, including the positive and negative aspects of gaming for seniors, and (3) investigates how seniors recover from problem gambling, and any barriers that exist to effective treatment. *Dr. Gary Nixon (PI); Dr. Robert Williams (CI); Dr. Brad Hagen (CI), School of Health Sciences, University of Lethbridge.*
Timeframe: December 2001 - 30 November 2003.

18 High quality aging or gambling with health? The lifestyles of elders who play bingo: Supplementary study.

A supplementary study (from the 2000-01 approved project) to increase the numbers in the target group to enable the exploration of the three main questions (1) who plays bingo after age 65? (2) what do elders believe they 'get' out of playing bingo? (3) what are the day-to-day patterns of a 'bingo lifestyle' and the implications? *Dr. Sandra O'Brien Cousins (PI), Faculty of Physical Education & Recreation, University of Alberta; Ms. Jennifer Hystad (CI); Dr. Judith Moodie (CI), Older Adult Research Unit, Alberta Centre For Active Living, Edmonton.*

Timeframe: January 2002 - 31 December 2002.

19 Opportunistic screening and intervention strategies for problem gamblers in the emergency department: an exploratory study:

This project will develop, implement and evaluate strategies for screening, intervention and treatment of problem gamblers within an integrated health promotion framework. This pilot study will enable the research team to focus on the construction and testing of the survey instrument. *Prof. Donna L. Smith (PI), Faculty of Nursing; Dr. Sharon Ann Warren (PI), Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, University of Alberta; Dr. Garnett Cummings (CI), Royal Alexandra Hospital, Edmonton; Dr. Angus Thompson (CI), Departments of Public Health Sciences & Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Alberta.*

Timeframe: February 2002 - 28 February 2003.

20 A preliminary analysis of video lottery terminal gambling in

Alberta: This project explores a controversial, widely practiced, but understudied gambling format: video lottery terminals (VLTs). The aim is to develop grounded theory related to luck-based gambling formats and gain an understanding of the social and economic impacts of VLT gambling, with a view to assisting public policy decision-making. *Dr. Garry J. Smith (PI), Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta; Dr. Harold J. Wynne (CI), Wynne Resources, Edmonton.*

Timeframe: February 2002 - 31 January 2003.

21 Using police files to assess gambling impacts:

This study will analyze police files for the purpose of documenting and analyzing linkages between gambling and criminal behaviour, and to compare and contrast gambling-related crime trends over three different time spans. *Dr. Garry J. Smith (PI), Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta; Dr. Harold J. Wynne (CI), Wynne Resources, Edmonton; Dr. Timothy F. Hartnagel (Collaborator), Department of Sociology, University of Alberta. Timeframe: November 2001 - 30 November 2002.*

22 Proportion of gaming revenue derived from problem versus

nonproblem gamblers: This is an investigation into the proportion of gaming revenue derived from problem versus nonproblem gamblers. In prior research into this issue, self-reported expenditures have not matched per capita gaming revenues. This study will re-investigate this issue using improved methodology to obtain self-reported expenditures. *Dr. Robert Williams (PI), School of Health Sciences; Dr. Robert Wood (CI), Department of Sociology, University of Lethbridge. Timeframe: January 2002 - 31 December 2003.*

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, APRIL 1, 2001 - MARCH 31, 2002



AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of the Alberta Gaming Research Institute

I have audited the statement of financial position of the Alberta Gaming Research Institute as at March 31, 2002 and the income statement and statement of changes in financial position for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Institute's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Institute as at March 31, 2002 and the results of its operations and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Original signed by
Fred Dunn
CA
Auditor General
Edmonton, Alberta
September 16, 2002

**Alberta Gaming Research Institute
Income Statement
For the Year Ended March 31, 2002**

	2002 Budget	2002 Actual	2001 Actual
Revenues			
Contributions from the Department of Gaming	\$ 1,630,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 1,345,000
Expenses (Schedule 1)			
Research	1,072,000	335,771	676,813
Infrastructure and Library	308,000	6,536	209,013
Research Linkages	50,000	18,062	19,355
Research Administration	200,000	155,965	109,786
Total Expenses	<u>1,630,000</u>	<u>516,334</u>	<u>1,014,967</u>
Net Operating Results	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (16,334)</u>	<u>\$ 330,033</u>

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

**Alberta Gaming Research Institute
Statement of Financial Position
As At March 31, 2002**

	2002	2001
Assets		
Cash (Note 4)	\$ 409,095	\$ 459,685
Accounts receivable (Note 5)	2,533,532	1,501,091
Prepaid expenses	1,433	843
Capital Assets (Note 6)	4,874	8,181
	<u>\$ 2,948,934</u>	<u>\$ 1,969,800</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 1,299	\$ 5,831
Deferred contributions (Note 7)	2,500,000	1,500,000
	<u>2,501,299</u>	<u>1,505,831</u>
Net Assets		
Net assets at beginning of year	463,969	133,936
Net operating results	(16,334)	330,033
Net assets at end of year	<u>447,635</u>	<u>463,969</u>
	<u>\$ 2,948,934</u>	<u>\$ 1,969,800</u>

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

On Behalf of the Board:

Original signed by
R. Szostak
*Audit Committee Chair/
Board Member*

Original signed by
E.LeSage
Board member

**Alberta Gaming Research Institute
Statement of Changes in Financial Position
For the Year Ended March 31, 2002**

	2002	2001
Operating Transactions		
Net Operating Results	\$ (16,334)	\$ 330,033
Non-cash items:		
Amortization	3,307	2,229
Increase in Accounts receivable	(1,032,441)	(150,841)
Increase in Prepaid expenses	(590)	(843)
Increase (decrease) in Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(4,532)	5,593
Increase in Deferred contributions	1,000,000	155,000
	(50,590)	341,171
Investing Transactions		
Purchase of Capital assets	—	(10,410)
Net Cash Provided (Used)	(50,590)	330,761
Cash, Beginning of Year	459,685	128,924
Cash, End of Year	\$ 409,095	\$ 459,685

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

**Alberta Gaming Research Institute
Notes to the Financial Statement
March 31, 2002**

Note 1 Authority and Reporting Entity

The Alberta Gaming Research Institute (the Institute) is an unincorporated organization. It is a research consortium comprised of the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, and the University of Lethbridge (the Institute universities). Relations between the Institute and the Government of Alberta are defined in an Agreement between the Institute universities and the Alberta Government dated November 26, 1999.

As required under the Agreement, the Institute reporting entity for the purpose of these financial statements is that portion of Institute operations funded by the Department of Gaming. The Institute universities contribute certain services and supplies, including research and administrative personnel and services, to the consortium. The fair value of these contributions, and the cost of these services and supplies, is not reflected in these financial statements.

Note 2 Purpose

The purpose of the Institute is to:

- expand the breadth and depth of scientific knowledge into gambling;
- provide education about current knowledge through research publications and reporting of research results;
- provide research related to emergent gaming activities;
- act as a clearinghouse for literature related to gambling research; and,
- forge strong collaborative links with national and international scholars and organizations involved in gaming/gambling research and studies.

Note 3 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Reporting Practices

Revenue

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the period they become receivable. Restricted contributions, including contributions received or receivable for specific purposes or future periods, are deferred and recognized as revenue in the period these restrictions are met.

Expenses

Grants are recorded as expenses when all the terms and conditions of eligibility have been met and the Institute has authorized payment of the grant.

Assets

Capital assets (item value of \$1000 or greater) are recorded at historical cost less accumulated amortization. Capital assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives at the following annual rates:

Furniture and equipment	20%
Computer equipment	33%

Liabilities

Liabilities represent all financial claims payable by the Institute at the fiscal year end.

Net Assets

Net assets represent the difference between the value of assets held by the Institute and its liabilities.

Fair Value

Fair value is the amount of consideration agreed upon in an arm's length transaction between knowledgeable, willing parties who are under no compulsion to act. The fair values of accounts receivable, prepaid expenses and accounts payable and accrued liabilities are estimated to approximate their book values.

Intellectual Property

Intellectual property rights with respect to all research conducted with the financial support, or under the auspices, of the Institute are governed by the policies of the Institute university the researcher is affiliated with. These rights do not accrue directly to the Institute and are not recognized in these financial statements. The Government of Alberta and the Institute universities are entitled to freely use and copy, other than for commercial purposes, any intellectual property so created.

Note 4 Cash

Cash is held in trust by the University of Alberta. Interest earned on the Institute's cash balance is credited to the University of Alberta and is not reflected in these statements.

Note 5 Accounts Receivable

	2002	2001
Department of Gaming	\$ 2,500,399	\$ 1,501,091
Other	33,133	—
	<u>\$ 2,533,532</u>	<u>\$ 1,501,091</u>

Accounts receivable are unsecured and non-interest bearing.

Note 6 Capital Assets

		2002		2001
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	Net Book Value
Furniture and equipment	\$ 1,222	\$ 346	\$ 876	\$ 1,120
Computer equipment	9,188	5,190	3,998	7,061
	<u>\$ 10,410</u>	<u>\$ 5,536</u>	<u>\$ 4,874</u>	<u>\$ 8,181</u>

Note 7 Deferred Contributions

Deferred contributions consist of \$2,500,000 (2001 - \$1,500,000) receivable from the Department of Gaming. In accordance with the originating agreement between the Government of Alberta and the Institute, the Institute must meet certain conditions, including submission of a budget, business plan and annual report, before it can access these funds.

Note 8 Grants to Institute Universities

Grants are provided to the Institute universities for capacity building, nodal research development, library and collections, and research node administration. The following table provides an accounting for the grant funds received, and amounts spent by the Institute universities, to the year-end. Any unspent funds held by an Institute university at the conclusion of these programs or activities will be returned to the Institute for distribution according to its usual practices.

	2002			2002	2001
	University of Alberta	University of Calgary	University of Lethbridge	Total	Total
Opening balance	\$89,838	\$143,113	\$253,193	\$486,144	\$–
Funding (1)					
Capacity building	–	–	–	–	300,000
Nodal research development	–	–	–	–	90,000
Library and collections	–	–	–	–	150,000
Research Node Administration	–	–	–	–	45,000
Cohort study (2)	5,000	5,000	5,000	15,000	0
	5,000	5,000	5,000	15,000	585,000
Total Funding Available	94,838	148,113	258,193	501,144	585,000
Actual Expenditures	61,918	95,619	222,590	380,127	98,856
Unexpended Funds	\$32,920	\$52,494	\$35,603	\$121,017	\$486,144

(1) Funding was provided to the universities on October 27, 2000. Funding was not available for approved budget transfers during 2001-02.

(2) Research assistance for development of cohort study proposal.

Note 9 Commitments

The Institute has the following commitments:

Year	Research Grants ^(a)	Grants to Universities ^(b)	Lease (c)	Total
2003	\$267,484	\$1,350,000	\$3,371	\$1,620,855
2004	13,224	–	842	14,066
Total	\$280,708	\$1,350,000	\$4,213	\$1,634,921

(a) Research Grants

At the time a research proposal is approved, the Institute authorizes payment of 80% of the grant request. The remaining 20% is withheld pending satisfactory interim reporting by the researcher. For research proposals extending beyond one year, authorization of subsequent period amounts is subject to funding availability. Commitments consist of the 20% of grant requests withheld, subsequent period amounts, and any other approved grant requests for which the researcher has not yet met all the eligibility criteria.

(b) Grants to Institute Universities

The Institute has committed to provide funding to the Institute universities for their ongoing capacity-building, nodal research development, libraries and collections and research node administration activities, subject to funding availability.

(c) Lease

The Institute has a three-year lease with the University of Alberta for the period July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2003.

Note 10 Economic Dependence

The Institute receives its funding from the Department of Gaming. The three year agreement between the Alberta Government and the Institute provided funding of \$1,500,000 annually for the three years ending March 31, 2002. The Institute is currently negotiating a new funding agreement with the Alberta Government for three years ending March 31, 2005. The Institute's ability to maintain viable operations is dependent upon continued support from the Alberta Government.

Note 11 Related Party Transactions

During the year, the Institute authorized payments to two Institute Board members, in capacity as principal researchers, for research grants totalling \$13,086. Commitments also include \$40,440 for further research grants to the same two Board members.

Note 12 Budget

The 2001-02 budget was approved by the Institute's Board of Directors on June 1, 2001.

Note 13 Comparative Figures

Certain 2001 figures have been reclassified to conform to the 2002 presentation.

**Alberta Gaming Research Institute
Schedule of Expenses
for the Year Ended March 31, 2002**

	2002 Budget	2002 Actual	2001 Actual
Research			
Grant Competition (1)	\$ 592,000	\$ 335,771	\$ 286,813
Research support funding (2)	90,000	—	—
Position funding (3)	300,000	—	300,000
Nodal research development (4)	90,000	—	90,000
	<u>1,072,000</u>	<u>335,771</u>	<u>676,813</u>
Infrastructure and Library			
Website maintenance (5)	3,000	250	2,305
Library and collections (6)	220,000	180	150,000
Events, colloquia (7)	40,000	6,106	11,708
Research Nodes (8)	45,000	—	45,000
	<u>308,000</u>	<u>6,536</u>	<u>209,013</u>
Research Linkages			
Communications (9)	10,000	7,583	17,027
Exchange (10)	40,000	10,479	2,328
	<u>50,000</u>	<u>18,062</u>	<u>19,355</u>
Research Administration			
Personnel costs (11)	130,000	128,238	72,688
Contract services (12)	15,000	2,775	—
Administrative hub (13)	55,000	24,952	37,098
	<u>200,000</u>	<u>155,965</u>	<u>109,786</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 1,630,000</u>	<u>\$ 516,334</u>	<u>\$ 1,014,967</u>

- (1) Includes research grants and cohort study research assistance.
- (2) One-time researcher start-up (\$30,000/university).
- (3) Grants to Institute universities (\$100,000/university/year) to attract research scholars.
- (4) Grants to Institute universities (\$30,000/university/year) to develop internal research expertise.
- (5) Includes development and maintenance of the Institute's home and library websites.
- (6) Grant to the University of Lethbridge to build and maintain a special collection of gambling publications for use by the consortium universities. The grant also provides funding for specialized information services to interested parties on gambling and gaming matters, and includes funding for a junior grade professional librarian.
- (7) Supports program of formative and summative learning events and forums. Includes the net cost of an annual conference bringing together all Institute associates and fellows and other interested persons, specifically, *Gambling, law enforcement and justice system issues, March 8-9, 2002* at University of Alberta.
- (8) Costs associated with administering node operations including local/rotating board meetings, internal and administrative support.
- (9) Includes print and promotional materials, annual report, and conference attendance to facilitate information dissemination about the Institute.
- (10) Includes support for Alberta scholars to travel to other locales to investigate gambling-related matters as well as the travel of national and foreign scholars to Alberta to assist with Institute research.
- (11) Salary and benefits compensation (Executive Director and administrative support).
- (12) Special project consulting (eg. document drafting, graphic design work).
- (13) Includes business and board members meeting travel, hub operational requirements.

