

REPORT

2004

FOCUS

2005

ALBERTA
GAMING RESEARCH
INSTITUTE

ANNUAL

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THE ALBERTA GAMING RESEARCH INSTITUTE

From my unique perspective as the Chair the Alberta Gaming Research Council and a member of the Institute's Board, I am extremely gratified with the high level of research quality and productivity that has been accomplished in the relatively short period since the Institute was established. Thanks to the commitment of many, it has made a significant contribution to increasing Albertans' knowledge of how gambling affects society.

Mrs. Sheila Murphy, Chair, Alberta Gaming Research Council and Director, Alberta Gaming Research Institute Board

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 University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and University of Lethbridge, is to support academic research related to gambling. It is achieved through fostering research excellence, building research capacity at the partner Universities, facilitating knowledge transfer, promoting strategic and collaborative initiatives, and maximizing the tri-university partnership.

Collaboration among these research universities provides the Institute with considerable versatility and the opportunity to match research expertise with specific projects. The Institute also fosters interdisciplinary and inter-University research both provincially and internationally. The Institute links researchers, policy-makers, community organizations, the gambling industry, other major stakeholders, and the general public to improve understanding of the impacts of gambling.

The operational/administrative hub for the Institute is located on the University of Alberta campus. It is staffed by an Executive Director, Administrative Assistant and temporary project staff. The Institute Librarian is located at the University of Lethbridge.

ALBERTA GAMING RESEARCH INSTITUTE BOARD

The Institute is governed and managed by a Board consisting of two Directors appointed by and from each partner University and the Chair of the Alberta Gaming Research Council. The Executive Director serves in an advisory role to the Board (for more information see inside back cover).

ALBERTA GAMING RESEARCH COUNCIL

The Alberta Gaming Research Council is a broad-based advisory group to the Minister of Gaming. The Council is made up of nine members, including constituency representatives (industry, seniors, First Nations, community), one from each of the following organizations: Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, Alberta Health and Wellness, Alberta Gaming, and the Alberta Gaming Research Institute Board Chair. The Council was established to identify research priorities and help direct the research activities of the Institute.

INSTITUTE (PARTNER) UNIVERSITIES

The partner universities that comprise the Alberta Gaming Research Institute are the University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and University of Lethbridge. Capacity-building activities related to promoting and developing gambling research are the focus of the partner universities. In addition to promoting specific research initiatives, each University employs a 'node coordinator' whose primary responsibility is to identify and stimulate interest in gambling research and to promote interdisciplinary as well as cross-university and external collaborative arrangements. Institute support for capacity-building includes funding faculty positions and research assistantships, sponsoring visiting scholars, and contributing to researcher establishment costs.

FOCUS AND PURPOSES

The focus of the Institute is to facilitate and support academic research that can be used to frame and implement effective public policies and responsible gaming and gambling practices while contributing to the scientific knowledge base. Its core purposes are expressed in the following points:

1 • research excellence:

the Institute has developed an environment that fosters research excellence, using peer-review panels for all research funding proposals, adhering to strict internal accountability procedures, and encouraging dissemination of research results in scholarly, peer-reviewed publications;

2 • research capacity:

the Institute has expanded research capacity by providing funding to attract researchers and support their research programs, as well as for increasing the number of researchers across the Institute's four gambling domains (bio-psychological and health care, socio-cultural, economic, government and industry policy and practice), and bolstering the established research strengths of each member institution;

3 • knowledge transfer:

the Institute promotes knowledge transfer by sponsoring and supporting colloquia and conference events across Alberta, by disseminating information via the Institute's library and resource service program and other publication mechanisms, both print and electronic (www.abgaminginstitute.ca);

4 • strategic and collaborative initiatives:

since this granting program commenced in 2003-04, six major inter-organizational and multi-jurisdictional collaborative research initiatives have been approved, involving researchers from each of the Institute's member universities as well as researchers and collaborators from other academic institutions, the public and private sectors in Alberta, across Canada and internationally;

5 • tri-university partnerships:

The Institute's unique tri-university partnership structure (with the Universities of Alberta, Calgary and Lethbridge) has been a key factor in the Institute's success during its first five years of operation.. It has allowed the Institute to undertake a number of inter-university projects with both provincial and national significance, utilizing expertise that exists at each partner institution.



AREA 5 OF FOCUS

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

Perhaps the most critical factor in achieving international recognition for the Institute's work is attaining external acknowledgment of the quality of the research produced by its funded investigators. Although a standard definition of quality itself can prove elusive due to its subjective nature, "research excellence" in academia relates primarily to the publication of research findings in scholarly peer-reviewed sources such as journal articles, edited books, and published conference proceedings. In addition, a related measure of research quality is the impact or importance of these publications and their contributions to the development of gambling's scientific knowledge base.

Dr. Dennis Fitzpatrick, Vice-President (Research), University of Lethbridge and Vice-Chair, Alberta Gaming Research Institute Board

To promote the development of a climate that fosters research excellence, the Institute has developed a number of processes that ensure a high level of internal accountability. The Institute's competitive research program application procedure requires that all prospective major grant proposals be subject to peer-review by international experts. All funds subsequently awarded to successful grant applicants are then administered by the research offices of their home universities. Investigators are also required to provide status reports detailing the progress of their research. Summaries of these reports are ultimately made available to stakeholders in the Institute's print and online publications.

The governance and administration of the Institute's research program as well as the resultant high-quality funded research results communicated by researchers have been indispensable in establishing the Institute's reputation for research excellence. This status was also independently confirmed by a team of international gambling research experts who in January 2005 conducted an external review of the Institute's performance. It is anticipated that the Institute's ongoing research agenda in the area of gambling studies will continue to be recognized and valued by other academics, government agencies, and the public at large.

PEER REVIEW

The Institute uses a peer review process prior to the awarding of research grant funding. Proposals from applicants seeking research grants must first be endorsed by external gambling researchers who are selected from a distinguished international roster of academics. These individuals provide their critical comments on the merits of individual proposals and make recommendations on their scientific merit as well as on how each might be strengthened. The Institute Board makes a final determination as to which projects will receive research funding based on these recommendations and considering the research priorities identified in the proposal submission guidelines.

A second type of peer review takes place when results from Institute-funded research investigations are submitted to scholarly publications such as the *Journal of Gambling Studies* or the *Journal of Leisure Research*. Research findings are most commonly submitted to scholarly publishers as written manuscripts. The editors of these publications distribute the submissions for the review of several others who are deemed experts in the field. Their evaluation and recommendations are used to determine the acceptability for publication. In this way, peer review ensures that scholarly publications meet rigorous academic standards.

ACCOUNTABILITY

The Institute's research governance, research administration, and reporting procedures have been designed to be both accountable and transparent. Board-approved research funding is administered by research grant offices at the home universities of the principal researcher investigator/applicant. This process ensures that projects are managed in such a way as to be both fiscally and ethically accountable. To ensure transparency, the Institute requires that the principal investigator/applicant provide two progress reports each year on the status of their funded research projects. Details of individual research projects are kept current on the Institute's web site and also communicated through other Institute publications like the *'Research Reveals...'* newsletter.

REPUTATION

The Institute has garnered its reputation for research excellence based upon the quality of the research investigations undertaken by Institute-funded researchers. Evidence of this growing reputation is exemplified by the following:

- a robust record of scholarly publications by funded research investigators;
- invitations extended to individual researchers and the Institute as a whole to participate in national and international initiatives;
- favourable evaluations of Institute conferences and symposia by invited presenters and participants;
- positive review by a team of international experts; and;
- effective collaboration with the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, and the University of Lethbridge.

QUANTITY & QUALITY

The total quantity of scholarly publications related to Institute-funded research investigations is a useful measure of the Institute's research program. Perhaps even more critical, however, is the actual quality of research published and its contribution to the advancement of the scientific knowledge-base. In both respects, the Institute's published research has earned an enviable reputation.

Over the course of 2004-05, Institute-funded researchers published their finding in a variety of scholarly sources.

Examples include:

Refereed Journal Articles

Campbell, C., & Smith, G. J. (2003). Gambling in Canada - from vice to disease to responsibility: A negotiated history. *Canadian Bulletin of Medical History*, 20(1), 121-149.

Hodgins, D. C. (2005). Implications of a brief intervention trial for problem gambling for future outcome research. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 21, 13-19.

Hodgins, D. C., Currie, S. R., el-Guebaly, N., & Peden, N. (2004). Brief motivational treatment for problem gambling: 24 month follow-up. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*, 18(3), 293-296.

Hodgins, D. C., & el-Guebaly, N. (2004). Retrospective and prospective reports of precipitants to relapse in pathological gambling. *Journal of Consulting & Clinical Psychology*, 72(1), 72-79.

Hodgins, D. C., Peden, N. & Makarchuk, K. (2004). Self-efficacy in Pathological Gambling Treatment Outcome: Development of a Gambling Abstinence Self-efficacy Scale (GASS). *International Gambling Studies*, 4(2). **Institute Funded Project #23**

McGowan, V. (2004). How do we know what we know? Epistemic tensions in social and cultural research on gambling 1980-2000. *Journal of Gambling Issues*, 11.

O'Brien Cousins, S., & Witcher, C. (2004). Older women living the bingo stereotype: "Well, so what? I play bingo. I'm not out drinkin'. I'm not out boozin'." *International Gambling Studies*, 4(2), 129-149. **Institute Funded Project #2 & #18**

Stevens, R., & Beristain, M. (2004). Canadian guide to gaming industry resources. *Reference Services Review*, 32(3), 320-328.

Walker, G. J., Hinch, T., & Weighill, A. (2005). Inter- and intra-gender similarities and differences in motivations for casino gambling. *Leisure Sciences*, 27, 111-130. **Institute Funded Project #12**

Walls, W. D., Harvey, P., & Swayze, J. (2004). The revealed revenue effects of gambling taxation: Logit analysis of bettor behavior in a laboratory casino. *International Journal of Management*, 21(4), 407-414. **Institute Funded Project #28**

Walls, W. D., & Busch, K. (2004). The behaviour of Alberta gamblers: Evidence from the tote at Northlands Park. *Gambling Research*, 16(2), 67-75. **Institute Funded Project #28**

Williams, R. J., Connolly, D., Wood, R., Currie, S., & Davis, R. M. (2004). Program findings that inform curriculum development for the prevention of problem gambling. *Gambling Research*, 16(1), 47-69. **Institute Funded Project #10**

Edited Book Chapters

Blume, S. B., & Tavares, H. (2004). Pathological gambling. In J. Lowinson, P. Ruiz, R. B. Millman, & J. G. Langrodet (Eds.), *Substance Abuse: A Comprehensive Textbook*. 4th Edition. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. **Institute Funded Project #3**

Hodgins, D. C. & Petry, N. (2004). Cognitive-behavioral treatment. In Grant, J. & Potenza, M. N. (Eds.), *Pathological Gambling A Clinical Guide to Treatment*. New York: American Psychiatric Association Press. **Institute Funded Project #5**

During 2004-05, the Institute itself and numerous Institute-affiliated researchers received recognition for the quality of their work. Examples include:

- The Institute's ground-breaking longitudinal / cohort study of gamblers highlighted by the National Council on Problem Gambling [U.S.] as a significant undertaking.
- Honourable Gordon Graydon, Minister of Gaming for Alberta, commended the Institute for the value of its research and assured continued financial support.
- Institute-affiliated experts were invited to participate in significant provincial and federal initiatives (e.g., Dr. Garry Smith's contribution to the Law Commission of Canada's *'What is a Crime'* initiative).
- Institute researchers were also extremely successful in obtaining complementary research grants from other respected funding agencies to conduct gambling-related investigations (e.g., Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research, Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre, Canadian Institutes of Health Research).
- University of Calgary doctoral student Nicole Peden was presented the 2004 National Institute of Drug Abuse (*NIDA*) *Young Investigators Award* for her research on self-efficacy in problem gamblers.

INTERNATIONAL EXTERNAL REVIEW

The Institute organized and coordinated a comprehensive external review in January 2005 as a means of evaluating the quality of its research programs. An international team of experienced academics and administrators examined all aspects of the Institute's research activities and interviewed project stakeholders. Their final report on the Institute's research program found that it was of a very high standard both in terms of quality and quantity.

RESEARCH PROGRAMS

The Institute's research grant programs are comprised of three distinct types - *Major Grants, Small Grants, and Collaborative Initiative Grants*.

The intent of the Major Grants program is to elicit researcher-identified areas of gambling research from across four broad domains while building research capacity in the Institute universities. The maximum award under the Major Grants program is \$80,000 per year with a two-year funding limit. A total of three new major grants were approved in the 2004-05 granting cycle. These projects include:

- *Cue-induced and gambling task related brain activity in pathological gamblers*. Dr. David Crockford, Dept. of Psychiatry, U. of Calgary. **Institute Funded Project #39**
- *The structure of impulsivity in pathological gambling*. Dr. David Hodgins, Dept. of Psychology, U. of Calgary. **Institute Funded Project #40**
- *The effect of ethnicity and gender on playing the lottery*. Dr. Gordon J. Walker, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, U. of Alberta. **Institute Funded Project #41**

Major grants from prior granting cycles that were completed in 2004-05 include:

- *A consumer model for the regulation of gaming*. Dr. Peter Bowal, Faculty of Management, U. of Calgary. **Institute Funded Project #1**
- *How near wins and near losses affect gamblers' self-perceptions, risk estimations, and future gambling behaviour*. Dr. Michael Enzle, Dept. of Psychology, U. of Alberta. **Institute Funded Project #4**
- *Understanding how gamblers really think: psychological and cultural aspects that motivate gamblers*. Dr. Virginia McGowan & Dr. Gary Nixon, School of Health Sciences, U. of Lethbridge. **Institute Funded Project #15**

- ***The influence of substance dependence and mood disorders on outcome from pathological gambling.*** Dr. David Hodgins, Dept. of Psychology, U. of Calgary. **Institute Funded Project #23**
- ***Developing a gambling awareness and prevention program: Impacting gambling behavior in prison populations.*** Dr. Gary Nixon, School of Health Sciences, U. of Lethbridge. **Institute Funded Project #25**
- ***Using on-line survey techniques to profile the internet gambler: A pilot study.*** Dr. Robert Wood, Dept. of Sociology, U. of Lethbridge. **Institute Funded Project #30**

The purpose of the Small Grants program is to promote the development of gambling research capacity in the Institute universities with a general focus on the four identified research domains. In most instances, awards are used for the development of pilot projects, annotated literature reviews, or the administration of surveys. The maximum award under this open application program is \$10,000 and projects are normally completed within one year. Four Small Grants were approved and accepted in the 2004-05 granting cycle¹. These include:

- ***Aboriginal gaming in Canada: An overview of the issues affecting an industry in its infancy.*** Dr. Yale Belanger, Dept. of Native American Studies, U. of Lethbridge.
- ***Problem and pathological gambling in Parkinson's Disease.*** Dr. David Crockford, Dept. of Psychiatry, U. of Calgary.
- ***Strategic contingency management to enhance treatment outcomes for problem gamblers.*** Bev West (MSc candidate; Dr. Rob Williams, supervisor), School of Health Sciences, U. of Lethbridge.
- ***Meaning of gambling in prison: A report from offenders.*** Dr. DJ Williams (Post-doctoral Fellow), Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, U. of Alberta.

The Institute's Collaborative Initiative Grants were developed to specifically target aspects of gambling in high priority areas as well as to develop strategic research alliances and collaborative arrangements with other affiliated organizations. Two new Collaborative Initiative Grants were approved in the 2004-05 granting cycle (see Section 4: Strategic and Collaborative Research Initiatives of this report for more information on these projects):

1. ***Gambling in Canada 2005.*** Dr. Roger Gibbins, President and CEO, Canada West Foundation (CWF) & Faculty of Political Science, U. of Calgary.

2. ***Canadian Problem Gambling Index (CPGI) Update*** [Researcher(s) to be determined]

Organizational affiliates: Interprovincial Steering Committee (advisory); OPGRC - fund administration; CCSA- operating agency; provincial bodies that fund gambling research in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, and British Columbia in addition to the AGRI.

Complete information on all Institute-funded research initiatives, including a list of the participant researchers, the status of the projects, and the associated research publications, is available from the Institute website under the Research section.



¹ The Small Grant Gambling and problem gambling within forensic populations in Southern Alberta by Dr. Robert Williams, School of Health Sciences, U. of Lethbridge was approved but not accepted due to circumstances beyond the control of the research investigator.

2 • RESEARCH CAPACITY

As a community we will only be able to assess and understand the impact of gambling if we invest in a program to train researchers who will then have the appropriate investigative skills. Since its inception the Alberta Gaming Research Institute has focused its attention on developing Albertan expertise in gaming research. As a province we can not rely on others to study our specific situation. We must be proactive and take the time both to nurture young scholars and to encourage current scholars to consider developing an interest in gaming research.

*Dr. Chris Hosgood, Associate Professor, Department of History; Associate Dean, Arts & Science; University of Lethbridge
Director, Alberta Gaming Research Institute Board*

The Institute recognizes that excellence in gaming research requires a research infrastructure that enables university scholars to pursue their investigations. Developing such an environment calls for an investment in building research capacity at each of the Institute's three partner universities. The majority of funding for the development of research capacity is allocated annually toward costs associated with attracting and supporting researchers whose research programs are dedicated to gambling-related research as well as providing other research support (e.g., library resources, research assistants, research symposia, small grants program).

Fund allocation is focused on areas of disciplinary expertise currently existing at each of the participating universities. Financial support is directed toward bolstering the established research strengths of each institution, and is also targeted at increasing the number of researchers across the four gambling domains. Employing such strategies has allowed the Institute to maximize the effectiveness of available funding in order to build overall research capacity in the Province of Alberta.

INCREASE IN NUMBER OF RESEARCHERS

Since the inception of the Institute in 1999, an ever-growing number of researchers have been involved with funded investigations. Specific examples from 2004-05 include the hiring of Dr. DJ Williams as a post-doctoral fellow in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation at the University of Alberta. In addition, MSc candidate Bev West was hired as a Research Associate to support scholarly activities at the School of Health Sciences, University of Lethbridge. Both commenced their positions in January 2005.

AREAS OF DISCIPLINARY EXPERTISE

The three collaborating universities are recognized by the Institute as having strengths in the following fields:

Research at the **University of Alberta** was most active in investigating aspects of gambling that relate to both government and industry policy and practice and economics. Over the course of 2004-05, research capacity-building activities included organization of the Institute's Fourth Annual Conference and involvement in the supervisory committee for PhD student Ian Reade.

The **University of Calgary** was particularly active in researching gambling from a bio-psychological and health care perspective. In 2004-05, five PhD students were partially funded through the Institute's capacity-building initiative. The funding also supported a graduate-level course with a gambling component, a monthly gambling discussion group, research laboratories, and the Institute's 3rd Annual Conference.

Investigators at the **University of Lethbridge** were active in researching gambling from both the socio-cultural and psychological and health care perspectives. During 2004-05, research capacity funding was instrumental in the teaching and development of the undergraduate course "Gambling: Economic, Social and Health Issues" and setting up a video lottery terminal (VLT) research laboratory. A number of student Research Assistants were also employed to support gambling research programs.

CONTRIBUTIONS BY PARTNER UNIVERSITIES - RESEARCH STRENGTHS

In 2004-05, gambling research capacity was improved at each of the participating universities. In addition to their contribution of individual researcher facilities and associated infrastructural supports, the partner universities provided significant resources. For example:

- The University of Alberta supplied its conference centre as a venue for the Fourth Annual Conference on Gambling Research, provided a physical location for the Institute's administrative "hub", hosted the Institute web site, facilitated use of the Population Research Lab (PRL), and supported the collection of business-related library materials by the U of Alberta's Liaison Librarian.
- The University of Calgary provided organizational support for the 3rd Annual Conference on Gambling Research, assisted with the development of and hosted the Institute's digital repository of gambling publications, supported the collection of sociological and health-related library materials by the U of Calgary's Liaison Librarian, and provided a base of operations for the Institute's Cohort Study Research Coordinator.
- The University of Lethbridge provided library and web site coordination for the Institute as a whole through the efforts of Institute Librarian Rhys Stevens, hosted the Gambling Literature Database, provided specialized services to the Addictions Counselling Program at the School of Health Sciences, and supported the collection of addictions-related library materials and "grey" literature.



KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Knowledge Transfer refers to the dynamic exchange of ideas and expertise between researchers and research users, in such a way as to inform policy making in a more timely and effective manner. Effective transfer of knowledge requires that researchers are not only provided with enhanced opportunities of disseminating their research to policy-makers and other stakeholders, but the research agenda itself can be made more responsive by encouraging sustained dialogue between research users and researchers.

Dr. Doug Peers, Associate Dean of Research and Development, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Calgary and Director, Alberta Gaming Research Institute Board

INTRODUCTION

Investigations undertaken by Institute-funded researchers over the past five years have served the Institute well in moving towards its vision of becoming an organization internationally recognized for its contribution to gambling's scientific knowledge base. The scholarly publication of research findings is of tremendous value in achieving such a vision, but that alone is insufficient. In order for the Institute's research findings to effectively reach government policy-makers, treatment professionals, and the general public, additional dissemination strategies are also necessary. Through the Institute's use of a variety of "knowledge transfer" initiatives, the awareness and value of research findings continues to be heightened. In this way, the research being undertaken by the Institute has had a far greater impact.

Over the course of the 2004-05 fiscal year, the Institute was particularly active in developing new avenues for the transfer of knowledge. Gambling research findings were presented in a variety of formats and locations designed to appeal to a diverse range of stakeholders. The Institute organized and hosted two highly successful annual conferences and three innovative poster exhibitions of gambling research. Other initiatives included publishing the bi-monthly newsletter '*Research Reveals...*', hosting a highly-regarded and information-rich web site, facilitating individual researcher meetings and presentations, and responding to information queries through the Institute Library. Feedback received from event participants, newsletter subscribers, web site users, and visitors to the new Institute 'storefront' at HUB Mall has been uniformly positive. It is anticipated that these knowledge transfer activities will continue to evolve along with the Institute itself.

WEB SITE

The Institute's web site is its primary locus for information dissemination and is updated regularly. The site contains details of and links to the research projects and activities undertaken by the Institute. The site also contains a useful and comprehensive variety of other resources of interest to gaming researchers and the general public. For instance, summaries of all gambling research-related newspaper articles from Albertan and national sources are posted on a daily basis. The web site also provides a comprehensive Library Resources section which includes a vast amount of valuable information on the topic of gambling.

In November 2004, the Institute's web site underwent major redevelopment which improved both its design and content organization. The site was also moved to a new server which allowed the number of visits to the site to be tracked more accurately. Between November 2004 and March 2005, approximately 850 pages / day were viewed by approximately 400 visitors / day. This indicates that a significant number of individuals have been making regular use of the resources provided on the Institute's web site <<http://www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca>>.

SCHOLARLY RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

During the year, Institute researchers were active in submitting and publishing scholarly, peer-reviewed journal articles in leading gambling and discipline-specific publications (e.g., *International Gambling Studies*, *Analyses of Social Issues & Public Policy*, *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*). Contributions from Institute-sponsored researchers also appeared in several scholarly books published by leading academic presses (e.g., *Understanding and Treating Pathological Gambling*).



In addition, a number of conference papers presented by Institute-funded researchers were included in the published proceedings (e.g., *Proceedings of the 13th annual National Association for Gambling Studies Conference, Canberra, Australia*).

Scholarly publications associated with individual research projects are identified on the Research section of the Institute's web site.

ANNUAL CONFERENCES

Two international conferences on gambling were organized and sponsored by the Institute during the 2004-05 fiscal year. ***"Treatment of Problem Gambling"*** was the focus of the 3rd Annual Alberta Conference on Gambling Research, co-sponsored with the University of Calgary, which took place May 20-22, 2004 at the Banff Centre. It featured a roster of invited presenters recognized as leaders in the problem gambling research and treatment fields. Other highlights included a luncheon address by the Honourable Ron Stevens, Alberta Minister of Gaming, a series of problem gambling treatment workshops, and an international display of research posters. Approximately one hundred conference delegates from as far away as South Africa, Australia, Spain, and the United States attended.

The 4th Annual Alberta Conference on Gambling Research took place in Edmonton on March 31 and April 1, 2005, and was co-sponsored with the University of Alberta. Its theme was ***"Public Policy Implications of Gambling Research"***. Government policy-makers, gambling researchers, and legal experts provided their unique perspectives on how gambling research can and has been integrated into the gambling policy development debate. Keynote speaker Hana Gartner of the CBC's "Fifth Estate" television program was noted by participants as having delivered a passionate and appropriate "kick-off" to the conference. The luncheon address, Overview of Gambling in Alberta, was delivered by the Honourable

Gordon Graydon, Alberta Minister of Gaming. In total, seventy-five international delegates ranging from government regulators, industry operators, academics, and the general public attended the conference.

Promotional public service announcement videos, presentation summaries, and presentations from each of the conferences are available from the Events section of the Institute's web site.

POSTER EXHIBITIONS

The Alberta Gaming Research Institute hosted three public poster exhibitions of gambling-related research during October 2004 at the University of Alberta, the University of Lethbridge, and the University of Calgary. The exhibitions provided a rare and valuable opportunity for the general public to actively engage in conversation with researcher investigators. Over the course of these events, individuals and investigators alike gained an increased understanding of the relevance of Institute-funded research activities being undertaken in Alberta.

The poster exhibition brochure as well as a complete listing of exhibits and exhibitors are available from the Events section of the Institute's web site.

NEWSLETTERS

The Institute's newsletter *'Research Reveals... an update on gambling research in Alberta'* has proven to be an effective vehicle for the dissemination of information relating to the Institute's activities. It is published bi-monthly and is distributed both online and in print. Articles in the newsletter generally profile the work of Institute-funded researchers and serve to communicate basic findings from their investigations.



During 2004-05, the newsletter provided information on the following items:

February / March 2005 - Profile of the Institute-funded researcher Dr. David Walls of the University of Calgary and his work on betting behaviours in both simulated and real-world settings.

December 2004 / January 2005 - Description of and invitation to the 4th Annual Alberta Conference on Gambling Research. Also included was a feature on casino gambling in Alberta.

October / November 2004 - Feature article on the research of Dr. Shawn Currie and his development of "low-risk" gambling guidelines.

August / September 2004 - Readers were alerted to the redevelopment of the Institute's website and a review of the material available on it.

June / July 2004 - Conference presentations from the 3rd Annual Alberta Conference on Gambling Research were summarized.

April / May 2004 - The Institute's ground-breaking cohort / longitudinal research study was described.

All newsletters are available online on the Newsletters section of the Institute's web site.

RESEARCHER PRESENTATIONS AND MEETINGS

One of the more common strategies for the dissemination of Institute-funded research findings entailed presentations at academic conferences. Institute researchers participated in many major gambling and gambling-related conferences during the course of 2004-05. Examples of external gambling and professional conferences where Institute-supported research was presented include the International Conference on Gambling Theory, Insight Nova Scotia, National Nursing Research Conference, American Psychological

Association, International Society of Addiction Medicine (Argentina), the Canadian Psychiatric Society, North American Society for Sport Management, Travel and Tourism Research Association, and the South East Recreation Research Conference. In addition, Institute-supported researchers were invited by the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (AADAC) and the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC) to share their expertise in specific areas of gambling research.

LIBRARY INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

A significant component of the Institute's knowledge transfer strategy involved the Institute Library. Over the course of 2004-05, the Institute Librarian responded to 176 detailed information requests from researchers and the general public. In addition to this activity, the Librarian facilitated the knowledge transfer process by maintaining the web site, authoring topical publications (e.g., Casinos in Alberta 2004), and purchasing materials for print and online library collections. Individuals interested in keeping track of the latest gambling research publications could subscribe to the library's monthly newsletter or visit the Gambling Research Weblog from the Library Resources section of the web site for daily updates.

STOREFRONT ACCESSIBILITY FOR PUBLIC

On April 1st, 2004, the Institute relocated its administrative headquarters at the University of Alberta from the Faculty of Extension Building to HUB Mall. The move to a standalone storefront facility in a high-traffic pedestrian location vastly improved the Institute's visibility and accessibility. It has also generated an increased number of inquiries and walk-in visits from interested individuals. Special thanks to staff of the Faculty of Extension for making the Institute's time there productive and successful.

STRATEGIC AND COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH INITIATIVES

As the Alberta Gaming Research Institute continues to grow, its research focus has broadened. Most recently, in 2003-04, the Institute introduced a new funding program devoted to Strategic Partnership and Collaborative Initiative Grants. The program aims to strengthen the Institute's ties with other academic institutions and researchers in both the public and private sectors, across Canada and internationally. In undertaking such research, the Institute intends, among other things, to contribute to as well as benefit from the academic and institutional resources available in other jurisdictions while addressing common and shared interests in the broad field of gambling research.

Dr. Nady el-Guebaly, Medical Director, Addiction Centre, Foothills Medical Centre; Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Calgary; Chair, Alberta Gaming Research Institute Board

The four major inter-organizational and multi-jurisdictional collaborative research initiatives that were approved in the first year (2003-04) of the Strategic Partnership and Collaborative Initiative Grants gained significant momentum in 2004-05. Two new ones were also approved. Formative planning discussions for addressing other high priority research needs were regularly conducted via teleconference by the Interprovincial Steering Committee. Multi-jurisdictional interest was confirmed in participation in international affiliations and research partnerships.

Full descriptions of the previously awarded collaborative projects are available in the 2003-04 Annual Report and on the Institute's website (see Strategic Partnerships and Collaborative Initiatives). In brief:

'What is a Crime?' Challenges and Alternatives

[C. Campbell, Dept. of Criminology, Douglas College, New Westminster, BC; G. Smith, Gambling Research Specialist, Government Studies, Faculty of Extension, U of A; T. Hartnagel, Dept. of Sociology, U of A]

Organizational affiliates: Law Commission of Canada (LCC - lead agency); Alberta Gaming Research Institute (AGRI); Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre (OPGRC)

The overall project goal is to develop an analytical framework for understanding the processes that both underlie and inform responses to unwanted behaviour, including the impacts of choosing various response and control mechanisms (e.g., the formal legal process, regulatory codes, health and education programs). It aims to determine why certain behaviours are criminalized while others are not. The results of the case study research, as well as that of the Commission's engagement process, will be instrumental in helping the LCC prepare its final report to Parliament on this important issue.

Measuring Problem Gambling in Adolescent Populations

[J. Wiebe, Research Director, Responsible Gambling Council (Ontario) & Research Associate, Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse; H. Wynne, Gambling Research Specialist, Wynne Resources; R. Stinchfield, Clinical Psychologist & Asst. Prof., Dept. of Psychiatry, U of Minnesota Medical School; H. Skinner, Prof. and Chair, Dept. of Public Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, U of Toronto; J. Tremblay, Clinical Researcher, Ubaldo-Villeneuve Rehabilitation Centre and ALTO, Quebec; Expert panel - comprised of approx. 15 researchers including 2 Alberta university researchers: G. Smith, Gambling Research Specialist, Government Studies, Faculty of Extension, U of A; R. Williams, School of Health Sciences, U of Lethbridge]

Organizational affiliates: Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse (CCSA - lead agency); AGRI; Addictions Foundation of Manitoba; Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, Quebec; Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, BC; Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation; OPGRC

The purpose of this research project is three-fold:

- (1) to reconceptualize the construct of 'problem gambling' in the adolescent population;
- (2) to operationally define gambling and problem gambling in the adolescent population; and,
- (3) to develop a measure in the form of a survey instrument that will identify adolescent problem gamblers in the general population.

The research is predicated on the perspective that problem gambling is a public health issue that has a deleterious effect on the health and well being of individuals (including adolescents), families, and the community.

One of the greatest challenges for both researchers and policymakers is to establish the social and economic costs and benefits of gaming. We want to know what these are in Alberta, and how they compare with other jurisdictions.

Dr. Rick Szostak, Professor, Department of Economics, Faculty of Arts, University of Alberta; Director and Audit Committee Chair, Alberta Gaming Research Institute Board

Social and Economic Impact of Gambling

[Inter-provincial team of researchers with international expert (advisory panel - research team being confirmed)]

Organizational affiliates: CCSA (lead agency); Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, BC (Steering Committee Chair); AGRI; OPGRC

In September 2000, an international symposium was held in Whistler, BC to discuss issues involved in estimating the social and economic impact of gambling. The meeting was organized by the CCSA in partnership with a number of provinces, including Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Quebec and Ontario.

In response to the identified continuing need for this type of research, the Inter-provincial Steering Committee recommended that a realistic short term goal (i.e., two-year time frame) would be to evolve a methodology for estimating the social and economic impact of gambling, to the point where it can be presented as a set of draft international guidelines for impact estimation, along with a research agenda that identifies the data requirements for implementation. Medium term goals are to undertake the identified research in order to establish the required Canadian and international data sets; to develop and test the guidelines in different settings; and, to refine the model accordingly. In the longer term, the goal is to apply the newly developed impact estimation methodology to comprehensive cost-benefit analyses of gambling in various jurisdictions. This project focuses on the identified short term goals.

Factors Influencing the Development of Responsible Gambling: A Prospective Study

[Research team/Steering Committee: Dr. Nady el-Guebaly, Head, Addiction Centre, Foothills Medical Centre & Professor, Dept. of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, U of Calgary; D. Hodgins, Professor, Dept. of Psychology, Faculty of Social Sciences, U of Calgary; G. Smith, Gambling Research Specialist, Government Studies, Faculty of Extension & Professor Emeritus, U of Alberta; R. Williams, Professor, Addictions Counselling Program, School of Health Sciences, U of Lethbridge; R. Wood, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Sociology, Faculty of Arts, U of Lethbridge; D. Schopflocher, Biostatistician, Health Surveillance, Alberta Health and Wellness & Adjunct Professor, Epidemiology, Dept. of Public Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine & Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Nursing, U of Alberta; V. Williams, Executive Director, AGRI]

Organizational affiliates: AGRI (lead agency); other provincial/researcher participation under negotiation

The present project intends to study prospectively 2000 Albertans over a five-year period from 2005 to 2010. There will be five age cohorts with 400 in each cohort: 13-15 year olds; 18-20 year olds; 23-25 year olds; 43-45 year olds; and 63-65 year olds. Fifty percent of each cohort will be derived from the general population and fifty percent from a 'high risk' sample of individuals who are at elevated risk for developing gambling problems because of their greater expenditure on and frequency of gambling. The entire sample will be selected by means of random digit dialing stratified by region (Edmonton, Calgary, and rural Alberta). The initial interview will be conducted face-to-face and comprehensively assess all individual and societal variables potentially relevant to gambling behavior. Individuals will be contacted a minimum of four more times, on an annual basis. A modified pilot study will be conducted prior to the major one. Based on the Alberta design, similar cohorts are being proposed in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia.

NEWLY APPROVED IN 2004-05:

Gambling in Canada 2005

[Dr. Roger Gibbins, Faculty Professor of Political Science, U of Calgary & President and CEO, Canada West Foundation (CWF); Jason Azmier, Senior Policy Analyst, CWF]

Organizational affiliates: Canada West Foundation (lead agency); Alberta Gaming Research Institute

Most individuals and groups in the public interested in understanding gambling policy and the scope of gaming in Canada do not have the time or resources to access government policy documents and available statistics. For various reasons, comparative data is difficult to obtain and, hence, gambling policy discussions are based on incomplete data or inaccurate data comparisons.

In 1998, the CWF began a three-year study, the Gambling in Canada Project, to examine issues related to the expansion of gambling in Canada. Among that project's 16 reports were two that specifically examined the scope of gambling in Canada. The State of Gambling in Canada: an Inter-provincial Roadmap of Gambling and Its Impact (1998) and Gambling in Canada 2001: an Overview (2001).

The Gambling in Canada 2005 research initiative builds on and updates previous CWF research on gambling policy. It has two objectives:

- to provide an independent, comparative national overview of gambling policy and statistics in Canada; and
- to inform policymakers, community groups, researchers, the media and the general public about current gambling policy and statistics.

Data and information will be requested from all provinces and territories involved in gambling as well as available Statistics Canada and other data. A unique dataset will be created to ensure comparability. When possible, time series data will be used to show the change in gambling over time. The data and accompanying analysis will be presented in a single overview report and disseminated broadly.

Canadian Problem Gambling Index (CPGI) Update

[Researcher(s) to be determined]

Organizational affiliates: Inter-provincial Steering Committee (advisory); OPGRC - fund administration; CCSA- operating agency; provincial bodies that fund gambling research in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, and British Columbia in addition to the AGRI

In February 2001, a new instrument was launched to measure the prevalence of gambling and problem gambling in the general population. The Canadian Problem Gambling Index (CPGI), introduced under the aegis of the CCSA on behalf of a consortium of provinces, was developed to provide a more accurate measure than other existing instruments. CPGI provides a more holistic view of gambling, including more indicators of social context, and allows for degrees of problem severity. Other instruments were constructed using clinical samples of problem gamblers who are known to be different from problem gamblers in the general population. As a result, CPGI provides greater distinction among gambling sub-types and should improve our understanding of the progressions from low-risk to problem gambling.

Since its launch four years ago, CPGI has been used in most Canadian provinces and in several countries, including Queensland and Victoria in Australia, Denmark and Iceland. A number of researchers have, therefore, gained significant experience and insight in the use of the CPGI. If pooled, this base of experience could be used to assess the instrument's performance in meeting its objectives and pave the way to possible refinement.

The CPGI review is expected to commence in 2005-06.

TRI-UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

The Institute's unique tri-university partnership structure, involving the Universities of Alberta, Calgary and Lethbridge, has been a key factor in the success enjoyed by the Institute during its first five years of operation. This partnership is a testament to the foresight and thoroughness of the university and government representatives who laid the foundation for the Institute. They were able to anticipate both the emergence of gambling as an important area of scholarly study as well as the shift in academic culture toward collaborative-style research initiatives.

Dr. Andrew Greenshaw, Associate Vice-President (Research), University of Alberta; Director, Alberta Gaming Research Institute Board

The tri-university approach has allowed the Institute to undertake a number of inter-university projects that have provincial and national significance. Funds used in such projects are responsibly managed using the research infrastructure already in place at each partner university. The Institute's overall direction is maintained and directed jointly by the coordination and communication activities of the administrative "hub" as well as through the governance of its university-based Board of Directors (see inside back cover as well as throughout this document for names and affiliations of Board Directors).

INTER-UNIVERSITY PROJECTS

The tri-university partnership approach has allowed the Institute to develop and build upon the existing research strengths of each of the three participating universities. Perhaps the most representative example of this has been the development of the longitudinal study of gambling (see Factors Influencing the Development of Responsible Gambling: A Prospective Study in Section 4) which will examine various age cohorts across the entire Province of Alberta. As a large-scale and complex undertaking, the project has benefited immensely from the unique disciplinary expertise of investigators at each of the three universities.

Over the past few years, the level of collaboration and cooperation amongst researchers who are active in studying gambling has increased noticeably among Canadian and international jurisdictions. With the developed expertise of its funded researchers and familiarity with partnership structures, the Institute is particularly well-positioned to play an important role in these joint research ventures. Such activities also provide opportunities to support and develop gambling-related research programs from a range of disciplinary perspectives.

COORDINATION & COMMUNICATION

Though the Institute's administrative "hub" is physically located on the University of Alberta campus, the Institute's coordination and communication activities function seamlessly. This is attributable to the extensive use of established university communications vehicles (e.g., media contacts, communications protocols) as well as the utilization of Internet technologies (e.g., Institute and partner web sites, email notification systems). A gambling research "node" coordinator at each of the partner universities also provides assistance with the coordination of local Institute activities. The coordinators ensure that relevant opportunities and notifications are communicated to their research communities in a timely manner. Additionally, they endeavor to generate interest and awareness of the Institute's research agenda within each university and assist new researchers as they commence their gambling-related research programs.

INTEGRATION WITH EXISTING RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES

A major benefit of the partnership affiliation of Alberta's research universities has been the integration with established research protocols, processes and facilities. For instance, the research services offices at each university administer the ethics approval processes and research grants awarded by the Institute to faculty researchers. Other examples of this benefit include the provision of offices, research labs, computing facilities, office space, student assistants, human resource and financial services, and solicitation of research study participants.



A more esoteric advantage of the tri-university partnership is the close association and focus of research expertise of the three universities renowned for their long-standing reputations for research excellence and independence in this relatively new field of study. Though benefits may initially appear less tangible than the physical research infrastructure, such an association enhances the Institute's external reputation for scientific rigor and academic freedom.

UNIVERSITY-BASED BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Institute's Board of Directors provides governance and direction for the Institute. Membership on the Board comprises two representatives from each of the three participating universities as well as the Chair of the Alberta Gaming Research Council. This arrangement ensures that the interests of each of the universities are equally and fairly represented.

**ALBERTA GAMING RESEARCH INSTITUTE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****MARCH 31, 2005**

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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, 2005 and the statements of operations and cash flows 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, 2005 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Edmonton, Alberta
June 24, 2005

Original Signed by
Fred J. Dunn, FCA
Auditor General

Note: The official version of this Report of the Auditor General, and the information the Report covers, is in printed form.

ALBERTA GAMING RESEARCH INSTITUTE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT MARCH 31, 2005

	2005	2004
Assets		
Cash (Note 4)	\$ 2,106,349	\$ 3,426,158
Accounts receivable (Note 5)	1,519,884	14,797
Prepaid expenses	1,068	8,193
Capital Assets (Note 6)	6,800	3,762
	<u>\$ 3,634,101</u>	<u>\$ 3,452,910</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 20,839	\$ 34,401
Deferred revenue	-	2,550
	<u>20,839</u>	<u>36,951</u>
Net Assets		
Net assets at beginning of year	3,415,959	3,193,810
Net operating results	197,303	222,149
Net assets at end of year	<u>3,613,262</u>	<u>3,415,959</u>
	<u>\$ 3,634,101</u>	<u>\$ 3,452,910</u>

The accompanying notes and schedule are part of these financial statements

Approved by the Board:

<u>Original signed by Rick Szostak</u>	<u>Chair, Audit Committee</u>	<u>July 14, 2005</u>
Signature	Position	Date
<u>Original signed by Sheila T. Murphy</u>	<u>Member, Audit Committee</u>	<u>July 18, 2005</u>
Signature	Position	Date

ALBERTA GAMING RESEARCH INSTITUTE STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2005

	2005 Budget (Note 11)	2005 Actual	2004 Actual
Revenues			
Contributions from the Department of Gaming	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000
Interest and Other Revenue	60,000	25,303	60,149
Total Revenues	1,560,000	1,525,303	1,560,149
Expenses (Schedule 1)			
Research	1,670,000	781,850	890,817
Infrastructure and Library	220,000	241,843	204,997
Research Linkages	65,000	67,111	59,684
Research Administration	225,000	237,196	182,502
Total Expenses	2,180,000	1,328,000	1,338,000
Net Operating Results	\$ (620,000)	\$ 197,303	\$ 222,149

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

ALBERTA GAMING RESEARCH INSTITUTE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2005

	2005	2004
Operating Transactions		
Contributions from the Department of Gaming	\$ -	\$ 1,500,000
Interest and Other Revenue	25,303	60,149
Research Expenditures	(814,468)	(869,808)
Infrastructure and Library Expenditures	(228,279)	(199,128)
Research Linkages Expenditures	(66,145)	(61,174)
Research Administration Expenditures	(226,654)	(183,447)
Cash Flows from Operating Transactions	(1,310,243)	246,592
Capital Transactions		
Leasehold improvements and purchase of capital assets	(9,566)	(4,500)
Cash Flows from Capital Transactions	(9,566)	(4,500)
Net Cash (Used) Provided	(1,319,809)	242,092
Cash, Beginning of Year	3,426,158	3,184,066
Cash, End of Year	\$ 2,106,349	\$ 3,426,158

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

ALBERTA GAMING RESEARCH INSTITUTE NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2005

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 20, 2002. The Institute is directed by a Board comprised of seven members including two appointees (senior administrators and researchers) from each of the three Institute Universities in addition to the Chair of the Alberta Gaming Research Council who is appointed by the Minister of Gaming.

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

All revenues are reported on the accrual method of accounting. Cash received for which goods or services have not been provided by year-end is recorded as deferred revenue.

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.

Note 3 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Reporting Practices (continued)

Assets

Capital assets 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 1/3%
Leasehold improvements	Over lease term (2 years)

Liabilities

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

Net Assets

Net assets represent the difference between the book 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. Due to their short-term nature, the fair values of cash, accounts receivable 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 with which the researcher is affiliated. 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 Institute and is reflected in these statements.

Note 5 Accounts Receivable

	2005	2004
Department of Gaming	\$ 1,500,000	\$ -
Due from Institute universities	14,636	13,034
Other	5,248	1,763
	<u>\$ 1,519,884</u>	<u>\$ 14,797</u>

Accounts receivable are unsecured and non-interest bearing.

Note 6 Capital Assets

	2005			2004
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	Net Book Value
Furniture and equipment	\$ 1,222	\$ 1,080	\$ 142	\$ 387
Computer equipment	4,500	2,625	1,875	3,375
Leasehold improvement	9,566	4,783	4,783	-
Total	<u>\$ 15,288</u>	<u>\$ 8,488</u>	<u>\$ 6,800</u>	<u>\$ 3,762</u>

Note 7 Grants to Institute Universities

Grants are provided to the Institute Universities for capacity building, nodal research development, library and collections, and research node administration for gaming related operations. 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.

	2005				2004
	University of Alberta	University of Calgary	University of Lethbridge	Total	Total
Opening balance	\$ 138,890	\$ 96,749	\$ 96,625	\$ 332,264	\$ 236,823
Funding					
Capacity building	100,000	100,000	100,000	300,000	300,000
Nodal research development	30,000	30,000	30,000	90,000	120,000
Library and collections	-	-	160,000	160,000	150,000
Research Node Administration	15,000	15,000	15,000	45,000	45,000
	<u>145,000</u>	<u>145,000</u>	<u>305,000</u>	<u>595,000</u>	<u>615,000</u>
Total Funding Available	283,890	241,749	401,625	927,264	851,823
Actual Expenditures	99,410	127,416	294,346	521,172	519,559
Unexpended Funds	<u>\$ 184,480</u>	<u>\$ 114,333</u>	<u>\$ 107,279</u>	<u>\$ 406,092</u>	<u>\$ 332,264</u>

The balance of unexpended funds represents funding for new and continuing projects.

Note 8 Commitments

The Institute has the following commitments:

Year	Research Grants (a)	Lease (b)	Total
2006	\$ 1,277,318	\$ 11,749	\$ 1,289,067
2007	388,049	-	388,049
2008	458,977	-	458,977
Total	\$ 2,124,344	\$ 11,749	\$ 2,136,093

(a) Research Grants

The Institute has three types of granting programs. In response to an annual call for proposals for major grants (maximum of \$80,000/annum for up to two years) and open application period for small (developmental) grants (maximum of \$10,000 for up to one year), the Board approves researcher identified initiatives.

Upon approval of a major or small research grant, and receipt of confirmation of any necessary ethics or other approvals from the host Institute University's Research Services Office, the Institute authorizes payment of 80% of the first year approved award. The remaining 20% is withheld pending satisfactory interim reporting by the principal investigator/researcher. For these types of awards extending beyond one year, authorization of subsequent period amounts is subject to satisfactory reporting and funding availability. Commitments for these awards include the balance of the approved grant awards, subsequent period amounts, and any other approved grant requests for which the researcher has not yet met all of the eligibility criteria.

(b) Lease

The Institute has a lease with the University of Alberta for the period July 1, 2003 to March 31, 2006. To increase accessibility and accommodate the increased business activity of the Institute, effective April 1, 2004, the lease was transferred (with no penalty) to a new campus location (\$12,818/annum payable at \$1,068/month with first and last month of lease due on April 1, 2004). The Letter of Understanding regarding this move was signed on January 22, 2004 and necessary space improvements and computer technical changes were contracted.

Note 9 Economic Dependence

The Institute receives its principal funding from the Department of Gaming. Interest on the trust account held at the University of Alberta is deposited to this account. The three-year agreement between the Alberta Government and the Institute, which expired March 31, 2005, provides funding of \$1,500,000 annually. The Institute's ability to maintain viable operations is dependent upon continued support from the Alberta Government. Permission has been obtained from the Department of Gaming to continue the trust account until March 31, 2006. The Institute and the Department of Gaming are negotiating towards a new funding agreement.

Note 10 Related Party Transactions

During the year, no research grant allocations were made to Board members. The Institute received refunds of unspent grant money totalling \$14,567 from grants held by two Institute Board members in their capacity as principal investigators.

Note 11 Budget

The 2004/05 budget was approved by the Institute's Board of Directors on January 26, 2004.

ALBERTA GAMING RESEARCH INSTITUTE SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES

SCHEDULE 1

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2005

	2005 Budget	2005 Actual	2004 Actual
Research			
Grant competition/strategic research (1)	\$ 1,160,000	\$ 380,300	\$ 443,817
Research support funding (2)	-	-	30,000
Position and developmental funding (3)	420,000	311,550	327,000
Nodal research development (4)	90,000	90,000	90,000
	1,670,000	781,850	890,817
Infrastructure and Library			
Library and collections (5)	160,000	160,000	150,000
Events, colloquia (6)	15,000	36,843	9,997
Research nodes (7)	45,000	45,000	45,000
	220,000	241,843	204,997
Research Linkages			
Communications (8)	45,000	52,505	45,479
Exchange (9)	20,000	14,489	14,205
	65,000	67,111	59,684
Research Administration			
Personnel costs (10)	165,000	165,173	152,997
Contract services (11)	10,000	6,198	-
Administrative hub (12)	50,000	65,825	29,505
	225,000	237,196	182,502
Total Expenses	\$ 2,180,000	\$ 1,328,000	\$ 1,338,000

Note 1 Includes annual research grant competition and Board identified areas of strategic, interjurisdictional, and interorganizational collaborative research.

Note 2 One-time researcher start-up to University of Lethbridge.

Note 3 Grants to Institute Universities (\$100,000/university/year) to attract research scholars, small grant developmental funding and support (\$85,000 held centrally) for targeted position (economics).

Note 4 Grants to Institute Universities (\$30,000/university/year) to develop internal research expertise.

Note 5 Grant to the University of Lethbridge to build and maintain a special collection of gambling publications at the consortium universities. The grant also provides funding for specialized information services to interested parties on gambling and gaming matters, development and maintenance of the Institute website, and funding for a junior grade professional librarian.

Note 6 Supports program of formative and summative learning events and forums. Includes cost of an annual conference bringing together Institute associates, topical experts, and other interested persons. Two conferences were held in 2004/05 (none in 2003/04). Associated costs for both 2004 and 2005 conferences are in 2004/05.

Note 7 Costs associated with administering node operations including local/rotating board meetings, internal and administrative support.

Note 8 Includes print materials and promotional broadcasts (series of research information spots on ACCESS television), annual report development, writing, and production costs, and conference attendance by Institute representatives to facilitate information dissemination.

Note 9 Includes support for Alberta scholars and experts to travel to other locales to investigate gambling-related matters as well as the travel of national and foreign scholars and experts to Alberta to assist with Institute research.

Note 10 Salary and benefits compensation (Executive Director and administrative support).

Note 11 Special project consulting (eg. document drafting, graphic design work).

Note 12 Includes business and board members meeting travel, hub operational requirements. Includes cost of external Institute review (January 2005).

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2004-05, the Institute's vision of achieving 'an institute that is internationally recognized for its contribution to the scientific knowledge base in gambling research' was recognized and endorsed when its research accomplishments were reviewed by an international team of experts. Further evidence was provided through the invitations of international affiliates for the Institute to participate, and indeed assume a leadership role, in multi-jurisdictional research initiatives.

The leadership position that Alberta is assuming in the field of gambling research is a tribute to the commitment and dedication of its rapidly expanding network of academic researchers. It has also been accomplished with the advice and support of various other significant contributors. The Alberta Gaming Research Council has provided important input by identifying the research priorities of its constituent bodies, funding support has been provided by the provincial government through the Alberta Lottery Fund, and most critical to the effective continuation of the Institute has been the resource support and research expertise provided by the partner universities. This combined effort is invaluable towards meeting the Institute's mission 'to significantly improve Albertans' knowledge of how gambling affects society'.

Once again, I take this opportunity to thank you for your endorsement and support of the work of the Alberta Gaming Research Institute. For my part, I re-affirm my commitment to ensuring that the highest standards of research excellence continue. I welcome your comments on this Annual Report, encourage you to attend our research events, or call our office to discuss any of the Institute's research activities.

Sincerely,



Vickii Williams



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



As the Board Chair of the Alberta Gaming Research Institute, I am pleased that this, the Fifth Annual Report for the year ending March 31, 2005, reflects the growth and development of the Institute. As it continued to build on its well-laid foundation the Institute, not surprisingly, has received increasing international acclaim for the quality and importance of its research contribution. We are gratified with the extent to which we have been able to solidify linkages with national and international research affiliates.

Research continues to be supported in the four domains: bio-psychological, socio-cultural, economic and public policy. Numerous studies were completed and their results made available both within the research communities and to the general public. The under-represented domains of economics and public policy received special attention, including participation in the inter-provincial Alberta-based Social and Economic Impacts of Gambling initiative, and selecting public policy as the theme for the Institute's 2005 conference.

We take pride in the high quality and research integrity of the Institute, as endorsed by an international expert review team earlier this year and consider the recognition the Institute receives for its leadership to be a privilege - one that we will strive to maintain. On behalf of the Board, I confirm our commitment to develop research expertise in all four domains and sponsor high quality, independent research that best informs Albertans of how gambling affects society.

Nady el-Guebaly, MD

ALBERTA GAMING RESEARCH INSTITUTE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2004-05



MURPHY, MRS. SHEILA

Sheila Murphy has been the Chair of the Alberta Gaming Research Council since 1999 and, in this capacity, serves as an ex-officio Director of the Alberta Gaming Research Institute. Previously, she served on the University of Calgary Senate (1990 to 1996) as well as the Air Cadet League of Canada and Cubs and Scouts of Canada Society. She owned and operated the Henderson Colleges of Business from 1972 to 1997. [photo credit: Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission]



EL-GUEBALY, DR. NADY

Nady el-Guebaly is Professor and Head, Division of Substance Abuse, Department of Psychiatry at the University of Calgary and past Chair of the Department. He is the Founding Director of the Calgary Health Region's Addiction Centre and Network. His introduction to mental health and addiction medicine dates back to 1969. Currently, he is Chair, Addiction Psychiatry Section of the World Psychiatric Association; and Executive Medical Director and Past-Founding President of the International Society of Addiction Medicine. He has served on the Institute Board since it was established in 1999 and as its Board Chair (and ex-officio member of the Alberta Gaming Research Council) since July 2002.

[photo credit: Cheryl Croucher, Innovation Alberta]



GREENSHAW, DR. ANDREW (ANDY)

Andrew Greenshaw was appointed Associate Vice-President (Research) at the University of Alberta for a three year term beginning January 2004. He completed his PhD in Psychology (Behavioural Pharmacology) in 1982 at University College Cardiff, University of Wales. In 1983 he was appointed to the faculty of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Alberta. He currently serves as Associate Director of the Neurochemical Research Unit in the Department and has an extensive background in research administration and post-graduate education within the Department of Psychiatry and the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry. He has served as a Director on the Institute Board since May 2004.

[photo credit: Alberta Synchrotron Institute]



SZOSTAK, DR. RICHARD (RICK)

Rick Szostak is Professor of Economics at the University of Alberta, where he has taught since receiving his PhD from Northwestern University in 1985. He is the author of eight books and over twenty scholarly articles, all of an interdisciplinary nature. He recently completed a three-year term as Associate Dean of Arts. He has served on the Institute Board Director, including as Audit Committee Chair, since June 2001. [photo credit: ExpressNews, University of Alberta]



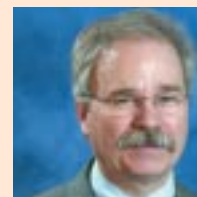
PEERS, DR. DOUGLAS (DOUG)

Doug Peers is currently Associate Dean (Research and Development) in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Calgary where he is also a historian specializing in the history of the British Empire with a particular focus on India. He has spent a number of years working on research policy and the mentoring of new researchers at the University of Calgary as well as through various granting agencies, most recently the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada where he spent nine months as the interim Vice President of the Programs Branch. He has served on the Institute Board since November 2004. [photo credit: David H. Brown, University of Calgary]

FITZPATRICK, DR. DENNIS

Dennis Fitzpatrick is the Vice-President for Research at the University of Lethbridge. He is a biological scientist by training, holding degrees in biological sciences, nutrition and biochemistry. His research program focused on the environment, nutrition and human health. He maintained an active research program for over twenty years conducting research in two major areas, nutritional toxicology and Andean Foods Systems. He has served as a Board Director, including as Vice-Chair, since the inception of the Institute in 1999.

[photo credit: Bernie Wirzba, CRDC, University of Lethbridge]

**HOSGOOD, DR. CHRISTOPHER (CHRIS)**

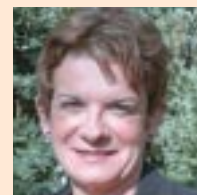
Chris Hosgood is Associate Dean of Arts and Science at the University of Lethbridge and a member of the Department of History. His research has focused on consumerism and popular culture in Victorian Britain and, more recently, Canada. He is currently working on a social history of gambling in Alberta and a study of shops and shopping in late-nineteenth century Britain. He has served on the Institute Board since December 2001.

[photo credit: Bernie Wirzba, CRDC, University of Lethbridge]

**WILLIAMS, MS. VICKII**

Vickii Williams is the Executive Director of the Alberta Gaming Research Institute and serves in an ex officio advisory capacity on the Institute Board. She represents the Institute on a number of inter-organizational and inter-jurisdictional planning bodies for collaborative research initiatives.

[photo credit: Michael Caldwell]



Back Row, left to right: Dr. Andrew Greenshaw, University of Alberta; Dr. Rick Szostak, University of Alberta; Dr. Chris Hosgood, University of Lethbridge
Middle Row, left to right: Dr. Nady el-Guebaly, (Chair), University of Calgary; Catherine Anley, Administrative Assistant; Dr. Pam Sokol, University of Calgary (replaced by Dr. Doug Peers as of November 2004)
Front Row, left to right: Vickii Williams, Executive Director; Dr. Dennis Fitzpatrick, University of Lethbridge; Sheila Murphy, Alberta Gaming Research Council



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ALBERTA GAMING RESEARCH INSTITUTE
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A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of a modern building with a glass and steel facade. A large, white, cantilevered sign is attached to the building, displaying the text "ALBERTA GAMING RESEARCH INSTITUTE" in a bold, sans-serif font. The word "GAMING" is in a darker purple color, while "ALBERTA", "RESEARCH", and "INSTITUTE" are in a lighter blue-grey. To the left of the sign, a portion of a purple logo is visible. The building's structure features a complex network of steel beams and large glass panels. Several colorful, rectangular panels in shades of blue, red, orange, and green are mounted on the building's facade. The sky is a pale, overcast grey.

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