

Alberta Gaming Research Institute

2010/13 Business Plan

Introduction

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. It is achieved through sponsoring research into specific investigator-initiated and stakeholder-identified priorities, building research capacity at the partner universities, 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 research expertise with specific projects. The Institute also fosters interdisciplinary and inter-university research both provincially and internationally. The Institute is an entity linking policy-makers, community organizations, the gambling industry, other major stakeholders, and the general public in improved understanding of the impacts of gambling.

The operational/administrative hub for the Institute is located on the University of Alberta campus (8909S HUB Mall) and is staffed by a full-time Executive Director and Administrative Assistant. A full-time 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 an external member appointed by the Alberta Solicitor General. The Executive Director serves in an advisory role to the Board.

Partner Universities

The partner universities that comprise the Alberta Gaming Research Institute are the University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and University of Lethbridge. In addition to promoting specific research initiatives, each university engages 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, providing graduate and doctoral level student scholarships and research allowances, sponsoring visiting scholars, and contributing to research development costs.

Institute's Vision

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

Institute's Mission

To significantly improve Albertans' knowledge of how gambling affects society.

Core Businesses

The Alberta Gaming Research Institute has four core businesses:

1. Develop and promote gambling-related research and disseminate results;
2. Develop and sustain gambling-related research infrastructure;
3. Establish and encourage national and international gambling-related research linkages; and,
4. Establish and efficiently conduct gambling-related research governance and administration.

Core Businesses, Goals, and Key Strategies

Core Business #1: Develop and promote gambling-related research programs and disseminate results

The Institute is actively developing a research program in **four broad academic domains**:

- Bio-psychological and health care
- Socio-cultural
- Economic
- Government and industry policy and practice

Goal	Key Strategies
<p>1.1 Leading-edge research is conducted into each of the four identified academic domains</p> <p>1.2 The visibility of gambling-related academic research in Alberta is enhanced</p> <p>1.3 Identify and adopt appropriate <i>knowledge transfer/translation</i> processes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate and oversee the conduct of academic research into stakeholder identified key priority areas Provide opportunities and support for new academics to conduct research in this field Promote and support interdisciplinary/inter-organizational research across all domains - achieving balance through Board directed /commissioned research eg. Leisure, Lifestyle, Lifecycle Project (LLL), social and economics impacts of gambling in Alberta (SEIGA), and supporting a Chair in the Economics of Gaming position at the University of Alberta Continue to conduct a peer review process that ensures the quality of research Present scholarly findings and research outcomes to a wide audience (lay and expert) through various <i>knowledge transfer</i> processes Sponsor, organize, and support conferences, symposia, and colloquia as forums for communicating research outcomes to various stakeholder groups Encourage researchers to publish and promote their research accessible to varied stakeholder audiences Publish Institute-sponsored research in scholarly journals

Performance Measures			
	Target 2010-11	Target 2011-12	Target 2012-13
Impact of Institute-sponsored peer reviewed research	Baseline		
Number of academic papers published in reviewed publications	24	26	28
Number of academic papers/presentations/ posters by Institute-funded researchers	35	40	45
Number of citations of Institute-sponsored research			
Number of Institute-(co)sponsored research communications	25	28	30
Number of consultations and meetings participated in by Institute-based researchers/experts with associated provincial organizations	60	62	65
Number of attendees at Institute-(co)sponsored research events	125	130	135
Number of visits to website per year	9,000	9,250	9,500
Number of media queries/interviews/articles	125	140	150

Core Business #2: Develop and sustain a gambling-related research infrastructure

The Institute has research nodes at each partner university. Their purpose is to identify research opportunities, stimulate faculty interest, and support interdisciplinary and collaborative initiatives. Each node coordinator liaises with other researchers and the Institute's administrative hub. Through a range of initiatives and research affiliations, the Institute Universities continuously develop gambling research capacity in Alberta.

The Institute Library 'Collections and Clearinghouse' program, overseen by the Institute Librarian (with complementary librarian assistance at each of the other Institute Universities), coordinates inter-university and external library reference and information services, collection development, library liaison activities and website currency.

Goal	Key Strategies		
2.1 The capacity to undertake gambling-related research at each of the Institute universities is increased 2.2 Provide comprehensive library resource support 2.3 Develop the research capacity to address each of the domains (with particular reference to stakeholder identified concerns)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain researcher-to-researcher link within, among, and outside the Institute Universities• Identify collaborative gambling-related research opportunities• Ensure Institute presence and representation at each of the Institute Universities• Maintain tri-university library liaison• Establish collaborative arrangements with similar Institute collections• Maintain website currency		
Performance Measures			
	Target 2010-11	Target 2011-12	Target 2012-13
Impact of Institute capacity-building funding	Baseline		
Number of experts/researchers engaged in gambling-related research	64	66	68
Number of students engaged in gambling-related research	50	52	55
Number of university credit courses with gambling educative component	10	10	10
Number of developmental (small grant) awards to promote gambling research	5	5	5
Enrollment numbers in university courses with gambling-related component	300	350	400
Number of gambling-related external grants attracted by Institute-funded researchers	Baseline		
Number of gambling-related library queries	120	125	125
Number of scholarships and research allowance awards granted to graduate and doctoral students	5	6	7

Core Business #3: Establish and encourage national and international gambling-related research linkages

The Alberta Gaming Research Institute is committed to achieving national and international recognition for its role in building the knowledge base in gambling-related research.

Goal	Key Strategies
3.1 Strong collaborative links are forged with national and international scholars and organizations involved in gambling research and studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage the services of outstanding academic peer reviewers • Identify, initiate, and develop mutually beneficial national and international collaborative research initiatives • Host regular conferences on stakeholder identified issues in Alberta • Present workshops on gambling-related research • Participate in national and international conferences to ensure Alberta-based research is presented and the Institute profile is promoted • Pursue awards for gambling research and/or Institute • Communicate role of Institute and contribution of sponsored research

Performance Measures			
	Target 2010-11	Target 2011-12	Target 2012-13
Impact of the Institute funded gambling-related research outside Alberta	Baseline		
Number of reviewers from outside Alberta that conducted a peer review for the Institute	120	125	130
Number of out-of-province academic researchers /experts involved in Institute activities (workshops, conferences, etc.)	35	40	45
Number of collaborative projects involving researchers and agencies from outside Alberta	8	9	10
Number of out-of-province recipients of Institute publications (print and electronic)	Baseline	375	400
Number of out-of-province Institute affiliated organizations	25	28	30

Core Business #4: Establish and efficiently conduct gambling-related research governance and administration

Annual audits are conducted of the Institute's financial statements as well as internal process audits by the University of Alberta (as the administrative partner university). Bi-annual narrative and financial progress reports are required for each of the funded research initiatives and for capacity-building funds provided to each of the partner universities prior to the disbursement of next funding.

Goal	Key Strategies
4.1 The operations of the Institute are administered in a way that is effective, efficient and transparent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only peer-reviewed and endorsed research projects are approved for funding. The conduct of all Institute business complies with the terms of the organizing and funding agreements and with the respective policies and procedures of each of the partner universities.

Performance Measures			
	Target 2010-11	Target 2011-12	Target 2012-13
Impact of efficient and effective governance and administration	Baseline		
Compliant with terms and conditions of the organizing and funding agreements (Board structure, documentation of decision-making, etc.)	Baseline		
Timeliness and completeness of financial reporting requirements	Baseline		
Coordination of grant reporting and payments with research offices of partner universities	Baseline		
Annual budget approvals by Board that recognize broad mandate of Institute (researcher initiated projects, stakeholder identified strategic initiatives, capacity-building, information dissemination, etc.)	Baseline		
Adaptation of program structure to meet research needs (e.g. small grants, scholarships, out-of-province expertise, etc.)	Baseline		
Maintain annual administration costs consistent with research operations of comparable organizations	Baseline		

Note: *Impact measures* based on modification of types recommended in Canadian Academy of Health Sciences Menu of Preferred Indicators and Metrics of Impact (2009)