

ANNUAL

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The partner Alberta universities Calgary, and University of Lethbridge) are committed to contributing to the gambling studies and meeting the Institute's mission - to significantly how gambling affects society. During its initial year, the Alberta Gaming Research Institute has focused on building awareness of the

organization both locally and internationally and promoting capacity-building at the partner universities while stimulating wider interest in gambling research. We are very appreciative of the support and expertise that has been contributed by international scholars through our peer review process and emphasize its importance in maintaining the academic rigor which is

I wish to acknowledge the importance of the contribution of the Alberta Gaming Research Council, the overseeing body through which the provincial Ministry of Gaming provides research funding to the Institute. Through it, Alberta Gaming has demonstrated its endorsement of the high calibre of research conducted by the partner universities.

2000-01 ACTIVITY TIMELINE

July

- Commencement (.5) of Executive Director (July 1st)
- Appointment of Node Coordinator, U of A, (Gambling Research Specialist, Faculty of Extension, July 1st)
- Set up of Institute administrative hub at University Extension Centre, U of A
- Awarding of literature reviews to university researchers
- 2000/01 ResearchGrants Call forProposals distributed
- Library Clearinghouse and Collections revised workplan

August

- Logo/graphic design process initiated
- Communications plan process initiated
- Beta website developed

September

- Research grant application deadline (September 5th)
- First node coordinators meeting, U of C (September 7th)
- Distribution of grant applications to peer reviewers
- Institute logo completed
- 2000/01 budget approval by Council (September 11th)
- Website activated

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The past year was a very active one for the Alberta Gamina Research Institute; one spent focusing on building the organization and its research base, and fostering interest in its programs and services. We have received enthusiastic endorsement from our affiliates, and established collaborative arrangements with

similar organizations and many highly acclaimed researchers. I am confident that the Institute will soon achieve its goal of international recognition.

The year ahead looks to be every bit as rewarding and fulfilling as the past one. We will continue to promote research activity into all aspects of gambling

by facilitating capacity-building activities at each of the partner universities, supporting research projects and programs, and continuing to build our affiliations and knowledge base.

Such early signs of success are due, of course, to the efforts of many.

Research consortia such as the Institute can succeed only if they have strong support from their participants. I can say with confidence and appreciation



that the degree of commitment and representation from the senior administration of each participating university - Alberta, Calgary and Lethbridge has been unqualified and ongoing. Each has provided critical and immeasurable infrastructural support in addition to the contributions and quality of work of the researchers themselves. The university

librarians have made significant contributions to the development of specialized library resources and facilitating access to research information.

Special acknowledgement is due to Alberta Gaming, the provincial ministry responsible for overseeing gaming

activity. Through the Alberta Gaming Research Council, it has provided funding for the Institute's research activities.

I welcome your comments and feedback on this first Annual Report, directly to me (vickii.williams@ualberta.ca or 780-492-2817) or through our Institute website at www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca.

Vickii Williams

October

- Literature reviews due (2 domains)
- Council Meeting,
 Edmonton
 (October 17th intro of Executive Director)
- Liaison meeting with Ontario Problem
 Gambling (October
 24th in Edmonton)
- Node Coordinator meeting, U of C (October 26th)
- Research grant application peer reviews deadline to Institute (Oct. 31st)
- Council Meeting, Edmonton (Oct. 31st)

November

- Literature reviews due (2 domains)
- Research GrantApproval Committeemeeting(November 6th)
- Research grant announcements/advice letters (November 15th)
- Council meeting, Edmonton (November 16th)
- Board meeting, Calgary (November 28th)

December

- Symposia Literature review presentations, Edmonton (December 8th)
- Symposia Literature review presentations, Calgary (December 11th)
- Joint Board/Council meeting, Calgary (December 11th)

ABOUT THE ALBERTA GAMING RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The Alberta Gaming Research Institute was established on November 26, 1999, in response to recommendations from the Alberta Lotteries and Gaming Summit '98 that more government resources be dedicated to gaming research. The Institute, a consortium of the Universities of Alberta, Calgary and Lethbridge, sponsors research into gaming-related topics such as the social costs and benefits of gaming, aboriginal gaming issues and gaming trends. The Institute works in partnership with the Alberta Gaming Research Council, which was established in August 1999 to help direct the research activities of the Institute.

An amount of \$4.5 million over three years has been allocated to the Institute from the Alberta Lottery Fund. The Alberta government has also dedicated additional funding to the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (AADAC) to support problem gambling prevention, education and treatment programs.

The Institute's Vision:

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

The Institute's Mission:

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

Core Institute Purposes

The purposes of the Institute are to:

1. Expand the breadth and depth of scientific knowledge into gambling;

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

Core Institute Businesses

- Develop and promote research programs
- Develop and sustain research infrastructure
- Establish and encourage national and international research linkages
- Establish and efficiently conduct research governance and administration

The Institute is developing an active research program in four broad research domains:

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

The Institute has research nodes at the Universities of Alberta, Calgary and Lethbridge and an administrative hub at the University of Alberta. The Institute has substantial collaborative research across the partner universities, with support for faculty researchers, graduate students, visiting scholars and post-doctoral fellows. It has an executive director and support staff.

Council meeting, Edmonton (December 12th)

January 2001

- Partial fund transfers - Year 1 (January 15th)
- Appointment of Institute-funded faculty member, University of Lethbridge (January 15th)
- Grant proposal resubmissions of conditional approvals due (January 15th)
- Teleconference meeting of Research Grant Approval Committee (January 22nd)
- Meeting with AADAC regarding research initiatives
- Agenda distribution for Retreat

February

- Meeting of the literature reviewers/researchers, Calgary (February 7th)
- Board meeting, Calgary (February 16th)

March

- Meeting with AADAC regarding coordination of newsletter publication (March 16th)
- Board/Council retreat, Lethbridge (March 22nd & 23rd)
- Participation in Research Revelations event, U of A (March 24th)

INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES 2000-01

Significant Institute activities over the past year included building research capacity and sponsors' research projects, establishing the nodes at each of the Universities of Alberta, Calgary and Lethbridge, creating liaisons and

partnerships both nationally and internationally, and putting various communications mechanisms in place. The Institute also established library and related resources; its library holdings are coordinated through the University of Lethbridge.

LITERATURE REVIEW GRANTS, JULY 2000

The first major research initiative of the Institute was to issue a call for proposals for literature reviews in each of the four research domains (see above).Research results were presented at symposia at the University of Alberta, Edmonton (8 December 2000) and at the University of Calgary (11 December 2000). The complete documents for each Review are available at www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/do cuments/reviews/

- El-Guebaly, N. and D. C. Hodgins (U of Calgary), Pathological gambling: the biopsychological variables and their management (November 2000)
- Gibbs, van Brunschot, E. (U of Calgary), Gambling in context: the socio-cultural domain literature

- overview and annotated bibliography (December 2000)
- McGowan, V. and J. Droessler, G. Nixon, M. Grimshaw (U of Lethbridge), Recent research in the socio-cultural domain of gaming and gambling: an annotated bibliography and critical overview (December 2000)
- Smith, G. and H. Wynne (U of Alberta), A review of the gambling literature in the economic and policy domains (July October 2000)
- P. Bowal (U of Calgary), A review of the gambling literature in the public policy domain: government and legal policy documents (October 2000)

RESEARCH PROJECTS

The following research projects were funded by the Institute in 2000-01 and are currently underway. For further information, please see the Institute's website.

■ A consumer model for the regulation of gaming: to determine if and to what extent, how the standard model of consumer protection legal regulation applies in the general public interest to the gaming transaction to render the latter legitimate. Dr Peter Bowal, Faculty of Management, University of Calgary (01/01-12/02)

April

- Institute Librarian commencement,
 University of Lethbridge (April 9th)
- Membership in Chamber of Commerce, Edmonton
- Bi-annual reports to Institute re: capacity building, library and research grants
- Letters of request to peer reviewers for 2001/02 research grant cycle
- Meetings with SSHRC and NSERC national research granting agencies regarding policy and process review
- Launch of redesigned Institute website

May

- Commencement of news monitoring service (print and broadcast)
- 2001/02 Research grant applications and guidelines distributed (May 4th)
- Library collections development and library service requests
- Teleconference meeting of researchers regarding cohort study (May 29th)

June

- Board meeting,
 Edmonton Approval
 of 2001/04 Business
 Plan and budget
 (June 1st)
- Commencement of research news summaries on website

- Gambling craving and its relation to addiction and personality: To investigate whether gambling craving among pathological gamblers is similar or different from alcohol craving among alcoholdependent individuals, and investigate the relation of craving to personality structure. Dr. Nady el-Guebaly, Faculty of Medicine, University of Calgary (01/01-06/02)
- How near wins and near losses affect gamblers' self-perceptions, risk estimations, and future gambling behaviour: To examine the effects of near wins and near losses on gaming decisions. Theory suggests these experiences may significantly affect a gambler's self-perceptions, risk estimations and future gambling behaviour. Dr. Michael Enzle, Department of Psychology, University of Alberta (01/01-12/01)
- Preventing relapse in former gamblers: A low cost, easily accessed relapse prevention approach for problem gamblers who have recently quit gambling. Minimal intervention involving repeated mailings of relapse prevention materials to participants. Dr. David Hodgins, Faculty of Medicine, University of Calgary (01/01-12/02)
- prevention of pathological gambling: Development, implementation and evaluation of an evidence-based five session gambling prevention program to high school students at two sites in Alberta. Dr. Robert Williams, School of Health Sciences, University of Lethbridge (01/01-11/02)
- Association between pathological gambling and suicide attempt/ideation: Diagnostic interview schedule data on 25,017 community residents and five US urban centres will be analyzed to

- determine whether a lifetime history of DSM-III pathological gambling is associated with suicide attempt/ideation. *Dr. Stephen C. Newman, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Alberta* (12/00-06/01)
- Measuring problem gambling in Alberta with the Canadian Problem Gambling Index: Validate the newly developed Canadian Problem Gambling Index in Alberta. CPGI items will be imbedded in a telephone survey of a random sample of adult Albertans. Results will provide a baseline status of problem gambling in Alberta communities. Dr. Garry J. Smith, Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta (11/00-30/11/01)
- High quality aging or gambling with health? The lifestyles of elders who play bingo: To study the three main questions 1) who plays bingo after age 65? 2) what do elders believe they "get" out of playing bingo 3) what are the day to day patterns of a "bingo lifestyle" and the implications for health and wellbeing? Sandy O'Brien Cousins, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, University of Alberta (01/01-12/02)
- A social history of gambling in Alberta to 1970: The history of gambling in Alberta. Identify the province's gambling traditions, attempts by agencies and government to either suppress or regulate, and the persistence of gambling as part of our culture. Christopher Hosgood, Faculty of Arts and Science, University of Lethbridge (01/01-02/03)

- Council meeting,
 Edmonton Institute
 business plan and
 budget agenda item
 (June 5th)
- Node coordinators teleconference (June 13th)
- Institute display at Chamber of Commerce event (June 13th)
- Reviewer acceptances due (June 14th)
- Research grant applications due to Research Grants Offices (June 22nd)
- Council meeting, Edmonton (June 26th)
- Research grant applications due to Institute office (June 29th)
- Planning of first issue of newsletter for fall publication and 2000/01 annual report

2001-02

July

- Appointment of Node Coordinator, U of C (Psychology) (July 1st)
- Appointment of Node Coordinator, U of L (School of Health Sciences)
- Peer review process

August

- Appointment of research assistant, U of L (capacity-building activity) (August 1st)
- Reviews due to Institute (August 31st)

September

- Proposal Approval Committee meeting (September 19th)
- Approval announcements (September 24th -28th)

PARTNER UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES

Appointment of Node Coordinators: Each participating university has appointed 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.

University of Alberta



University of Alberta Node Coordinator, Dr. Garry Smith:

Node Coordinator, Garry Smith (BPE, Alberta; MA, Western Ontario; PhD, Alberta) taught at the Universities of New Brunswick and Western Ontario, and for 25 years was a professor in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation at the University of Alberta. Dr. Smith has researched gambling-related topics for more than twenty years, has produced numerous articles for academic journals, and made presentations at national and international conferences. Dr. Smith also appears frequently in both print and electronic media, locally and nationally, commenting on gambling issues.

Dr. Smith was a key investigator on several Alberta government gambling studies, including the 1994 and 1998 adult prevalence studies and the 1996 adolescent prevalence study. He was the principal researcher on a study of crime and gambling in Western Canada for the

Canada West Foundation. Dr. Smith was one of forty North American invitees to the Harvard University "Think Tank" on youth gambling issues in 1995, and was awarded the University of Alberta's prestigious McCalla professorship in 1991 to study the social and economic impacts of gambling.

Node Activities

- Five studies by U of A researchers from the first round of Institute grants are at various stages of completion--four studies will be finalized by the end of 2001.
- U of A researchers submitted five proposals for funding in the second round of Institute grant applications.
- Plans are underway to host a symposium on "Gambling, Law Enforcement and Justice System Issues: A Canadian Perspective" in March 2002.
- Dr. Garry Smith participated in two AADAC "advanced problem gambling issues" workshops (Calgary and Edmonton); a Mount Royal College sponsored workshop on "addictions," and in September 2001 conducted sessions at a problem gambling conference sponsored by the High Level Native Friendship Centre Society, in collaboration with the Action North Recovery Centre and High Level AADAC. Dr. Smith is also presenting at the National Association for Gambling Studies conference in Sydney, Australia, and has an article and three book reviews in the inaugural issue of the Australian Institute for Gambling Research sponsored International Gambling Studies journal

October

- First issue of Institute newsletter 'Research reveals...' published (October 1st)
- Board meeting, Calgary (October 12th)
- Canadian Association of University Research Administrators annual meeting and symposium, Vancouver (October 12th - 17th)
- Bi-annual/completion reports due re: capacity building, library, and research grant allocations (October 15th)

November

 Selection Committee recommendations/ Board approvals (November 1st - 15th)

March

- Board/Council retreat/joint meeting
- Gambling, law enforcement and justice system issues: Canadian perspectives conference sponsored by U of A Node and Institute Timms Centre, U of A (March 8th & 9th, 2002)

May

Board meeting, Lethbridge

University of Calgary

Node Coordinator, David Hodgins is Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Calgary, and holds an adjunct appointment with the University's Faculty of Medicine. Dr. Hodgins is also Research and Program Development Coordinator with the Addiction Centre, Foothills Medical Centre. He is a practicing clinical psychologist.

Dr. Hodgins has been involved with addiction research and clinical practice since he was in the process of completing his Master's degree in clinical psychology at Queen's University in



University of Calgary Node Coordinator, Dr David Hodgins

Kingston, Ontario in 1981. He completed his doctorate, also at Queen's University, in 1986. After a two-year adventure working as a clinical psychologist in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Dr. Hodgins joined the team developing the Addiction Centre in Calgary. There he has worked as a clinician and researcher focusing on co-occurring addictions and psychiatric problems. Since 1996 he has been interested in the process of recovery from gambling problems, and has received research grants from the Institute, the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research, AADAC, and the National Centre for Responsible Gaming. A treatment approach involving self-help and telephone support that his team had developed has been positively evaluated and is receiving widespread attention.

Dr, Hodgins joined the Department of Psychology at the University of Calgary in July 2001, in a faculty position sponsored by Institute capacity building funds.

Node Activities

- Research to date has focused on the bio-psychological and heath care domains. Two studies are well underway. Dr. Hodgins' team has developed a brief and cost-effective intervention aimed at reducing the possibility of relapse after a person quits gambling. A series of self-help workbooks is being evaluated in a randomized clinical trial. Dr. Tavares is examining the role of craving in gambling and its relationship to personality factors. He is a post-doctoral fellow from Brazil, working with Dr. N. el-Guebaly at the Addiction Centre.
- A consumer model of the regulation of gaming is being developed by Dr. Peter Bowal, of the Faculty of Management. Dr. Bowal is currently a visiting scholar at the US Supreme Court in Washington, D.C.
- A faculty position was established in the Department of Psychology, Faculty of Social Sciences, and filled after an extensive and successful search process.
- Enhanced the visibility of Institute and its funding programs through campus wide announcements.
- Discussion initiated with the Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre about joint research projects

University of Lethbridge

Node Coordinator, Robert Williams is Associate Professor in the School of Health Sciences, University of Lethbridge. He received a PhD in Experimental Psychology from McMaster University in 1986, and became a clinical psychologist after receiving additional training at the University of Manitoba. Dr. Williams was the regional psychologist for Manitoba Health & Family Services (Thompson region) from 1986 to 1996; he then moved to Calgary to work at the Addiction Centre at Foothills Hospital. It was in this role, as both a clinician and researcher of adolescent addictions, that Dr. Williams developed an interest in problem gambling. In January 2001 he accepted a faculty position at the University of Lethbridge, funded by the Alberta Gaming Research Institute. Dr. Williams has published in the areas of seasonal affective disorder, fetal alcohol syndrome, and adolescent addictions. His current research mandate is the study of problem gambling, with a particular focus on adolescents and prevention.



University of Lethbridge Node Coordinator, Dr Robert Williams

Node Activities

- Prevention of pathological gambling: development, implementation and evaluation of an evidence-based five session gambling prevention program to high school students at two sites in Alberta.
- A social history of gambling in Alberta to 1970: the history of gambling in Alberta. Identify the province's gambling traditions, attempts by agencies and government to either suppress or regulate, and the persistence of gambling as part of our culture
- Four applications from U of L researchers were recently submitted in the second call for research proposals.
- In May a meeting was arranged for interested researchers to meet the Node Coordinator and to discuss funding opportunities.

RESEARCH COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Alberta Gaming Research Institute has moved quickly to establish collaborations and partnerships, not only among the three partner universities, but also nationally and internationally, involving individual researchers as well as institutions.

For example, the Institute has established relationships with researchers in Canada and abroad. Affiliations have been initiated with agencies (for example, AADAC in Alberta), nationally (Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre) and with international organizations such as the Australian Gambling Research Institute. Other affiliations include expert researchers across Canada and abroad from range of disciplines, for information and resource sharing (access to three partner university library catalogs), and knowledge building (inter-university literature reviews; tri-university researcher cross-disciplinary, longitudinal study initiative).

ADMINISTRATION OF THE INSTITUTE

The recruitment process for the position of a half-time Executive Director was completed in April 2000. The location for the administrative hub/administering university was determined (University of Alberta), and the appointment of the Executive Director became effective on 1 July 2000. A full-time Administrative Assistant was hired in mid-September. Concurrently, planning was underway for the establishment of a research 'node' at each of the partner universities. With expanding program and process planning requirements, the Board reassessed and increased the position of Executive Director to full-time effective April 1, 2001. Correspondingly, the Administrative Assistant position was reduced to 20 hours per week while consultants with specific expertise are engaged on a project basis.

2001-2004 BUSINESS PLAN

In accordance with its mandate, the Alberta Gaming Research Institute updates its business plan each year, on a three-year rolling basis. The Business Plan sets out the Institute's Vision, Mission, Core Purposes and Core Businesses, and it describes the key strategies, measures, targets and results expected from each strategy. A copy of the current business plan can be found (as a PDF) at the Institute's website:

http://www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/documents/2001-04businessplan.pdf

WEBSITE ACTIVITIES

The Alberta Gaming Research Institute considers the Internet to be a major communications tool, and to this effect has developed a comprehensive website

(http://www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/) with information about the Institute, its activities, conferences, events, resources, and links to sites of related interest. An analysis of visitors to the Institute's site indicates that the site is being accessed with increasing frequency, both within Alberta, across Canada, as well as in the United States and the UK.

THE ROLE OF THE LIBRARY IN SUPPORTING THE WORK OF THE INSTITUTE

The goal of the Alberta Gaming Research Institute library is to support the work of researchers and the general public who are interested in gaming and gambling issues. To effectively study these issues as they affect Albertan citizens, it is important for people to have access to relevant and up-to-date sources of information. Librarians select materials for inclusion in the gaming collections of institute libraries, provide answers to questions that range from the general to the highly specific, and seek to broaden access to important information through the use of innovative services.

Items available in the libraries of institute-sponsored libraries include books, journals, government reports & studies, and video recordings. All items are searchable using individual university library catalogues or together using The Alberta Library Online (www.talonline.ca/). The 'Library Resources' section of the Alberta Gaming Research Institute's website is a useful starting point for people seeking information about gaming and gambling in Alberta and around the world.



ALBERTA GAMING RESEARCH INSTITUTE, FINANCIAL INFORMATION 2000-01

2000/01 APPROVED BUDGET	\$1, 240,000
Research Funding	
Grants/ Capacity-Building Program	\$807,000
Research grantsPosition fundingNodal research development	
Infrastructure and Library	\$198,000
 Website design, development and maintenance Library collections and clearinghouse Symposia, colloquia, conferences 	
Linkages - National and International	\$40,000
CommunicationsExchanges	
Sub-Total	\$1,045,000
Administration	
 Salaries (1.5) Administrative hub operational costs Research node operational costs (each of 3 universities) 	
Sub-Total	\$195,000
RESEARCH GRANTS BY DOMAIN	\$195,000

In addition to at least one literature review for each of the identified domains, the Alberta Gaming Research Institute provided research grants for peer reviewed proposals. Ten projects were approved; in some instances, the interdisciplinary nature of the research encompassed more than one of the identified domains.

Domain	No. of projects
Bio-psychological and health care	5
Socio-cultural	4
Economic	2
Government and industry policy and practice	4
Other	1

CAPACITY-BUILDING AT PARTNER UNIVERSITIES:

University of Alberta (\$145,000)

Major activity

Appointment of Gambling Research Specialist, Faculty of Extension (Government Studies); appointment of node coordinator to promote gambling research; node administration

Research disciplines

Psychiatry, Sociology, *Government Studies, Physical Education and Recreation, Economics, Psychology

University of Calgary (\$145,000)

Major activity

Appointment of post-doctoral fellow (Psychiatry); recruitment of faculty member (Psychology) and node coordinator; node administration

Research disciplines

Management, Law, Psychiatry, *Psychology, Addictions, Sociology, Social Work, Economics, Community Health Services

University of Lethbridge (\$295,000)

Major activity

Recruitment of faculty member (Health Sciences), node coordinator, and research associate, School of Health Sciences; node administration

Appointment of Institute librarian (collection development and information dissemination)

Research disciplines

Addictions, *Sociology, Health Sciences, Anthropology, History

* Positions and research setup funding through Alberta Gaming Research Institute capacity-building grants

ALBERTA GAMING RESEARCH INSTITUTE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2000-01

Dr. Keith Archer

Chair, Alberta Gaming Research Institute and Interim Vice-President, Research University of Calgary

Dr. Chris Armstrong-Esther

Board Vice-Chair and Professor, School of Health Sciences
University of Lethbridge

Dr. Dennis Fitzpatrick

Associate Vice-President (Research)
University of Lethbridge

Dr. Nady el-Guebaly

Professor, Department of Psychiatry Division Chief, Addiction Division, Faculty of Medicine, University of Calgary

Dr. Edd LeSage

Associate Dean (Academic), Division of Government Studies, Faculty of Extension University of Alberta

Dr. Bill McBlain

Associate Vice-President (Research)
University of Alberta (to 31 May 2001)

Dr. Rick Szostak

Professor, Department of Economics University of Alberta (from 1 June 2001)

Ms. Sheila Murphy

Chair, Alberta Gaming Research Council Edmonton, Alberta

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Lethbridge.

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