ALBERTA GAMBLING RESEARCH INSTITUTE ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14

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For additional information on research projects or other Institute initiatives or events, see http://www.abgamblinginstitute.ualberta.ca

The Alberta Gambling Research Institute provides grant funding to support peer-endorsed academic investigations into many aspects of gambling research. The contents, recommendations, and findings of the associated research reports represent the views of the researcher(s).

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Complexity that works is built up out of modules that work perfectly, layered one over the other.

> Kevin Kelly, editor of Wired magazine



Message from the Board Chair



of Directors I am pleased to present the 14th Annual Report of the Alberta Gambling Research Institute for the period ending March 31, 2014. Through stakeholder consultation, the Board con-

tinued to work on enhancing the Institute's contributions to creating a deeper understanding of the positive and negative impacts of gambling, and on means to mitigate the latter. This report includes details of that work. In preparation for a formal review, the Board also commissioned a report on measuring the impact of Institute-sponsored research.

On behalf of the Board AGRI's initiative to assist the Partner Universities to increase the number of active researchers in the field is bearing fruit: two new faculty appointments have been completed and a third is in prospect, while the graduate programs, intended to attract future stars to the field, are well subscribed. The Research Director, Dr. Nady el-Guebaly, reports below on these and other efforts to maximize Institute contributions. A key challenge for the next year is improving our method of consulting stakeholders to share the results of the research and to ensure that stakeholders' research priorities continue to be emphasized in future work.

> I would like to thank my colleagues on the Board for their generous contributions of time and effort and, in particular, Dr. Linda Trimble, who completed over three years of service on the Board and welcome Dr. Don Schopflocher who replaced her as a U of Alberta member on July 1, 2013.

Sincerely,

Same Forker

Dr. Seamus O'Shea

Message from the Executive Director



15th anniversary of the Institute, in November 2014, you will undoubtedly note the tone of reflection, together with a bit of nostalgia, that characterizes this issue of the annual report. In

2013/14, a number of noteworthy research projects and events were conducted under the auspices of the Institute. You will have the opportunity to read about these throughout this report. I would like to draw your attention to a couple of highlights that I consider to be particularly noteworthy and point out the broadening range of research capacity-building that has characterized the Institute over the years. During the year, we had the privilege of providing eleven of the most promising gambling research scholars with graduate and doctoral level scholarships. This new cadre of researchers is poised to assume important roles in the gambling research field in the years to come and maintain the reputation for research excellence that has become associated with the Institute. You will find their names and areas of research as you read further into the report. Secondly, we've been pleased and proud to welcome Dr. Darren Christensen to the first of the Partner Universities newly created positions of 'Chair in Gambling Research' which are supported by the Institute as of December 2013. I invite you to acquaint yourself with his contribution to this publication and gain an understanding of the direction he envisions the field of problem gambling research will take over the next few years.

As we approach the As always, I take pleasure in publicly acknowledging the excellence of the Institute-affiliated researchers who have contributed over the years and remain dedicated. In particular, Dr. Nady el-Guebaly, the Institute's Research Director; Drs. Garry Smith (U of Alberta), David Hodgins (U of Calgary), and Rob Williams (U of Lethbridge), the Research Coordinators at the Partner universities. All who have had contact with the Institute will join me in recognizing the professionalism and 'above and beyond' assistance of Rhys Stevens, our Institute Librarian and Information Specialist. All of these 'long suffering' individuals have been contributing to the success of the Institute since its inception and continue to do so. Each has contributed a synopsis of their impression of the role and focus of the Institute over time.

> Led by Dr. Seamus O'Shea, the Institute Board ensures the governance of the Institute is forwardlooking and accountable. Their support and sound advice makes my job much easier and, indeed, a pleasure. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the important role of the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission in providing funding, through the Alberta Lottery Fund, to the Partner Universities over the years. This has ensured that peer endorsed and academically sound gambling research is undertaken that addresses the identified priorities of stakeholders.

In closing, my sincere gratitude to you, our highly regarded stakeholders for your confidence and endorsement of the research contribution of the Alberta Gambling Research Institute. I assure that it hasn't, and won't, be taken for granted.



About the Alberta Gambling Research Institute (AGRI)

Vision

To maximize the benefits while minimizing the negative impacts of gambling.

Mission

To facilitate evidence-based broad research that informs gambling public policy and educates Albertans and the wider audience about the effects of gambling.

Values

- Independent and excellent multi-disciplinary research
- Scientific knowledge and information
- Collaboration
- Accountability and informing public policy

Core Purposes

The Institute will:

- 1 expand the breadth and depth of scientific knowledge into gambling;
- **2** promote or direct research in those priorities and areas identified as part of the stakeholder priority action plan;
- 3 develop research capacity in the Partner Universities;
- **4** sponsor research that is peer reviewed and of the highest academic quality;
- 5 facilitate the transfer of knowledge and information to stakeholders, which includes, among other activities, maintaining a library collection;
- **6** forge strong collaborative links with stakeholders that includes, but is not limited to, national and international scholars, organizations involved in gambling research and studies, policy-makers, government, gaming providers, and problem gambling treatment providers;
- 7 provide education about current knowledge through research publications, reporting of research results and knowledge translation strategies; and
- 8 identify and pursue other potential funding sources.

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



Front Row (L-R):

Back Row (L-R): Dr. Erin Gibbs van Brunschot, Dr. Robert Wood, Alexander (Sandy) Dougall, Dr. Seamus O'Shea.

INSTITUTE BOARD

The Institute is governed and managed by an eight member Board consisting of two directors appointed by and from each Partner University, an external member appointed by the Minister of Treasury Board and Finance, and an external Board Chair appointed by the Vice Presidents, Research, of the Partner Universities. The Research and Executive Directors serve in advisory roles on the Board.

Dr. Nady el-Guebaly, Dr. Doug West, Dr. Lesley Brown, Vickii Williams, Dr. Keith Dobson, Dr. Donald Schopflocher, Rhys Stevens (Librarian & Information Specialist).

Gambling Research at the Partner Universities

ANCHORING GAMBLING RESEARCH IN ALBERTA

– Dr. Nady el-Guebaly, MD, Research Director

Further to the 1998 Gambling Summit in Medicine Hat, the Government of Alberta and the three Universities of Alberta, Calgary and Lethbridge created the Alberta Gaming Research Institute or AGRI in 1999 (later renamed Alberta Gambling Research Institute).



Original features that came to be later recognized as ingredients of the Institute's success, included:

- **1** Study of the spectrum of gambling behaviors rather than a sole focus on problem gambling.
- 2 An effort to develop four initial domains of research, i.e., the biopsychological, sociocultural, public policy and economics domains.
- **3** A determination to promote a multidisciplinary approach to research projects.
- **4** A collaborative consortium of three Partner Universities in Alberta as reflected in the governance structure and the initial funding of one research coordinator at each of the universities.

The above objectives were successfully implemented thanks to the recruitment of three outstanding research coordinators who went on to gain international recognition backed by the dedication to accountability of Vickii Williams, Executive Director and the support of Rhys Stevens, Institute Librarian & Information Specialist in accessing research resources.

The growth process in each university over the years is ably detailed by the respective research coordinators, Drs. David Hodgins (U of Calgary), Garry Smith (U of Alberta) and Rob Williams (U of Lethbridge). To date, AGRI has funded well over 100 research grants of varying size and scope as well as 38 scholarships. Several key projects have come to define the impact of AGRI including: the funding support of a Research Chair in the Economics of Gambling position to strengthen that under-represented research area; two complementary socio-economic studies; the systematic assessment of therapeutic interventions; a 5-year longitudinal study of risk factors, and; the development of empirically based policies to reduce the harm from electronic gambling machines and the support of a policy framework for responsible gambling in the province. This research has been widely disseminated through numerous peer reviewed publications, a website with 3000 hits per month, a newsletter and an annual thematic 3-day conference in Banff attracting a national and international audience.

Research is by definition never static. AGRI is continuously considering how to optimize its activities, through:

- **1** Broadening the range and scope of research projects funded. Large, Small, Collaborative and Scholarship grants has now been complemented with new Leverage, Impact and Team **Development grants.**
- **2** Expanding the scope of gambling research from a focus on gambling behaviors to addressing the reality that the gambling spectrum is a useful research prototype for an expanding number of behavioral addictions. It also provides a window on the brain without the confounds of the effect of drugs. It is associated with a range of mental and physical comorbidities and is a model for the study of other risk behaviors that are costly to society, such as road accidents, family dysfunction, antisocial behavior and violence.
- 3 As the field matures, its complexities also become more evident. Apart from its value as a training exercise, the role of the single investigator project is diminishing and is being replaced by team investigations and linkages with other researchers locally, nationally and internationally. An effort is ongoing to complement single projects with research programs by teams of investigators with clear objectives. An example of such a team is the newly formed neuroscience

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

– Dr. Garry Smith, Research Coordinator

group. Other potential groups include a First Nations research group, gender studies and a socioeconomic group of investigators.

- 4 Steps toward a closer collaboration with stakeholder activities are under consider ation. The components of a responsible gambling strategy are good testing ground for the incorporation of empirical evidence into multi-sectoral policies.
- 5 The challenges of the transfer of knowledge generated by research into public practice are an acknowledged phenomenon in science. So far this information has best been disseminated to other scientists and professional groups. Optimal strategies to develop conduits for public awareness and accelerate adoption of the findings remain a challenge. Several fields including this one are in the process of enlisting the help of the arts to better reach the public through appealing multimedia projects.
- 6 The above activities necessitate an increase in human resources. A major step is in doubling the number of research leaders in anticipation of the formation of additional investigator teams. Steps are also being taken to make Institute-funded research data more accessible to external investigators.

In summary, during its first 15 years AGRI has fostered the maturation of gambling research from the area of interest of a handful of pioneers to a broader based field of inquiry which is being hailed as a prototype for parallel investigations in related fields. The refining of valid performance indicators will also help us monitor our progress.

Dr. Garry Smith, Ph.D. is a University of Alberta Professor Emeritus who has been researching gamblingrelated topics for thirty years. Dr. Smith has produced numerous government reports and articles for academic journals, as well as addressing national and international audiences on gambling-related matters. Currently Garry serves as the University of Alberta Research Coordinator for the Alberta Gambling Research Institute. His research interests include gambling public policy, social and economic impacts of gambling and sports gambling.



Gambling Research at the U of Alberta since 2000

Gambling research at the University of Alberta centered on three main academic areas during this time frame; namely, economics, psychology/psychiatry, and public policy. Brad Humphreys, Chair in the Economics of Gaming facilitated a number of scholarly activities including supervising two PhD students working on gambling-themed dissertations; hosting four visiting professors who spoke on gambling issues, and organizing a two-day economics of gambling conference

at the University of Alberta. In addition, Dr. Humphreys presented papers at four learned conferences and two host universities and he and his colleagues produced three articles in peer-reviewed journals.

The psychology/psychiatry realm featured Dr. Marcia Spetch, who along with Dr. Brian Buck (Dept. of Neurology), Dr. Oxana Suchowersky (Faculty of Medicine), and PhD student Chris Madan comprised a research team working on an AGRI grant investigating a potential new psychological mechanism for gambling. In addition, PhD student in Psychiatry Victoria Suen conducted gambling-related research for her dissertation under the supervision of Dr. Peter Silverstone. The faculty of Nursing's Dr. Don Schopflocher collaborated on several gambling research articles and was the lead statistician on the Leisure, Lifestyle, Life Cycle (a five year longitudinal study on Albertans' gambling patterns and behaviors) research team.

In the public policy domain AGRI's University of Alberta research coordinator Dr. Garry Smith was active in presenting at two academic conferences, publishing several journal articles and working on two AGRI grants. Recreation and Leisure Studies professor Dr. Gordon Walker had an AGRI grant to study Albertans' motivations for either attending or not attending Alberta casinos.

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

– Dr. David Hodgins, Research Coordinator

David C. Hodgins, Ph.D., is a professor in the **Program in Clinical Psychology in the Department** of Psychology, University of Calgary. He is also the Head, Department of Psychology and University of Calgary's Research Coordinator with the Alberta Gambling Research Institute. He is registered as a Clinical Psychologist in Alberta.

The University of Calgary **AGRI Experience**

Calgary students.

AGRI has catalyzed a great deal of research and discovery at the University of Calgary in a number of diverse areas. A large number of investigators have devoted attention to this under researched field. Since its formation in 2000, researchers from six faculties (Haskayne School of Business, Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Social Work, Cummings School of Medicine, Werklund School of Education, Schulich School of Engineering) and nine departments have completed funded grants. This represents 34 projects and 24 investigators. Many of these projects involved Undergraduate, Masters and Doctoral trainees, as well as collaborators from other universities in Canada and internationally. The graduate scholarship program has been very successful at encouraging students to devote some of their research attention to issues in the gambling area. To date 22 awards have been granted to University of

Although the research conducted at the University of Calgary is diverse, one area of strength stands out. AGRI identified the Bio-Psychological and Clinical aspects of gambling as a priority area since its formation in 2000 and the University of Calgary has stepped up to this challenge. Researchers in the Departments of Psychology and Psychiatry in collaboration and independently have studied disordered gambling from a variety of perspectives. These perspectives include neuroimaging studies examining the neurobiological effects of gambling, personality studies examining impulsivity and other personality traits, family studies examining support and distress and clinical studies of coexisting mental disorders. A number of clinical treatment trials have been conducted. A brief motivational intervention developed at the University of Calgary has been identified as one of a very few evidence-based treatments of gambling disorder by the US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Recent research is evaluating online treatments, an area of great interest to the field.



Some clinical research is conducted in the Addictive Behaviours Lab in the Department of Psychology, which houses slot machines modified for research purposes. This lab has also taken a leadership role in one of the Institute's flagship research projects, the Leisure, Lifestyle, Lifecycle Project.





-Dr. Rob Williams, Research Coordinator

Dr. Rob Williams, Ph.D. is a professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Lethbridge, in Lethbridge, Alberta and the Research Coordinator for the Alberta Gambling Research Institute. Dr. Williams teaches courses on gambling; provides frequent consultation to government, industry, the media, and public interest groups; regularly gives expert witness testimony on the impacts of gambling; and is a co-editor of International Gambling Studies.

AGRI Research from the University of Lethbridge Since 2000

Gambling research at the University of Lethbridge The relationship between gambling and crime has has involved many different people from the discibeen studied in several projects, including a replines of economics, education, mathematics, sociview of the prevalence of crime among gamblers ology, nursing, addiction counselling, psychology, and problem gamblers and the nature and causes Native American studies, neuroscience, history, of this crime; the prevalence and nature of crime public health, and health sciences. This diversity among forensic populations; the inter-relationof discipline is reflected in an enormous variety of ships and common determinants of delinguency research interests and projects. Indeed what charand gambling; and the development of a gambling acterizes U of L research the best is its diversity. awareness/prevention program for forensic popu-That being said, some of these projects can be orlations. ganized into different themes.

Again, to reiterate, what truly characterizes the re-One of these themes is **special populations**. Several search at the U of L is its diversity, so there have research projects have looked at indigenous gambeen many other projects looking at the history of bling and more specifically, the prevalence and gambling; the skills the underlie poker playing; the nature of gambling and problem gambling among optimal organizational context for the provision of indigenous people in Canada as well as urban problem gambling treatment; the socioeconomic aboriginals and the economic pros and cons of impacts of gambling; the etiology of gambling; the native-owned casinos. Another population that comorbidity between ADHD and problem gamhas been a focus of attention is female gambling, bling; the assessment of problem gambling; the with investigations examining the nature of female relationship between gambling and risk-taking; the problem gambling and the utility of separate treatpopulation prevalence of gambling and problem ment approaches for this group as well as a qualigambling; and many, many more. tative study of trauma and female problem gambling. Finally, the experience of gambling in elderly populations and the phenomenology of problem gambling in seniors has been explored.

Another theme is prevention of problem gambling, with comprehensive reviews of the literature having been undertaken so as to identify 'best practices' in prevention, as well as the development of the only empirically supported high school curriculum for the prevention of problem gambling. One of the empirical investigations within this area of prevention involved faculty from the Department of Mathematics determining the impact of improved statistical knowledge on subsequent gambling behaviour. Another review of the literature has elucidated what is known about the psychological and behavioural impacts of casino design.

Policy issues has been another area of focus. More specifically, investigators from the Department of Sociology and Faculty of Health Sciences have empirically investigated the proportion of gambling revenue that comes from addicted gamblers. These same investigators have also comprehensively examined the policy issues associated with Internet gambling (with this effort culminating in a book in 2012).

The neurobiology of gambling addiction has been investigated by faculty members from the Department of Neuroscience. More specifically, there has been research conducted to understand the role of the dopaminergic system in the development and maintenance of gambling addiction as well as attempts at development of an animal model of gambling addiction.

University of Lethbridge – Dr. Darren Christensen, Chair in Gambling Research

Dr. Darren Christensen, Ph.D. is a behavioural scientist who will be working on several projects that incorporate economic decision making, treatment, neuroscience and unique drug interventions that he hopes will contribute to research that can be used to help stop problem gamblers before their gambling becomes a problem to themselves – and to their families, friends and society.



Research into Problem Gambling: Looking Forward

In this section, Dr. Christensen outlines the direction that he envisions the field of problem gambling research will take over the next few years.

Although significant progress has been made in the understanding and treatment of problem gambling there are still gaps in what we know and the type of research conducted.

Despite some promising early results for drugs that work on the opioid system little progress has been made in finding effective pharmacological treatments for problematic gambling. Research examining the neuro-biological mechanisms associated with gambling is currently gaining momentum but further insights are needed before clients can have confidence that drugs will provide a reliable treatment. This will require several approaches including; neuroimaging of disordered gamblers, animal studies of the reward and inhibition systems, ge-

netic studies, and clinical trials of drug candidates.

Another area of future research is to address client engagement and treatment retention issues. Although approximately 5% of the population experience some form of gambling harm a much smaller percentage seek help from treatment providers. Further, research has indicated up to 50% of problem gambling treatment seekers will drop out of treatment. Examining this issue and developing strategies to engage with problem gamblers and reinforce their attendance is likely to be an important focus for clinically orientated researchers.

A related area of concern is the increase in the provision of gambling on the internet. Although partic-

ipation rates of gambling on the internet are lower than overall participation rates, this activity is gaining momentum and will continue to be a focus for gambling researchers who examine player behaviour and for researcherclinicians developing on-line treatment options. The provision of treatment services on the internet may also address the previous issue of client engagement and retention.

Clinically, the move to place the newly named Gambling Disorder within the Substance Use Disorders category in the recent revision of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders was a consequence of a significant body of evidence that suggested gambling shares similar symptoms, development, and treatment approaches with substance use. Moreover, gambling and substance use often co-occurs, seeming to suggest a possible common neurological mechanism at work. However, our understanding of the experience of gambling appears disjointed and often contradictory. Developing a more nuanced understanding of gambling disorder symptoms and their interaction is likely to help us better understand the disorder and focus our neurological and clinical research.

Although significant resources have been placed into the estimation of problem gambling prevalence, delivery of treatment, and management of gambling policy, few independent studies have been conducted on the effectiveness of public policy. Research examining which policies appear to be working and possible new avenues are necessary. This type of research is likely to have an immediate impact on reducing population level gambling harm.

Finally, one of the benefits from the attention placed on prevalence studies has been the identification of specific populations that require additional support. Historically, youth and dis-advantaged communities typically report higher problem gambling rates. Future research should focus on these groups. Similarly, findings from recent prevalence studies appear to suggest changes in gambling activity rates and those gambling. Examples include the increase of gamblers engaging in particular activities (e.g., sports bettors), and populations experiencing greater gambling harm than before (e.g., female gamblers). Examining these and other groups of interest will also provide more knowledge about the rise and course of problem gambling.

10

EXPANDED GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

In October, 2013, the Board approved the adoption of three *new* grant options for researchers and/ or research teams in recognition of the increasing collaborative and joint research undertakings. To date, there has been a multi-faceted approach to expanding research conducted under the auspices of the Institute which included: an annual call for investigator-initiated 'Major Grant' proposals each May; open application opportunities for 'Small Grants' which aim to promote developmental and formative research initiatives; annual graduate and doctoral level Scholarship Awards for demonstrably promising new gambling researchers as well as Board initiated specific 'Strategic and Collaborative Initiatives' to address specific stakeholder identified research needs. The new opportunities include the following complementary types of grants:

- 1 Leveraging Grants provided to enable researchers to augment externally-funded projects with a gambling-related component in stakeholder identified high priority areas;
- 2 Team Development Grants joint proposals which aim to support the development of multi/ interdisciplinary academic teams among Partner Universities, nationally, internationally, and with other stakeholders
- 3 Impact Grants 'special purpose' grants to support initiatives that contribute to addressing Institute priorities other than primary research (e.g., research data repository, knowledge transfer/translation initiatives, outcome measurement, etc.)

More information on all grant types is available through links on the Institute's 'Grant Opportunities' web page - http://www.abgamblinginstitute.ualberta.ca/GrantOpportunities.aspx .

MAJOR AND SMALL GRANT PROJECTS

The Institute contributes to the development of the knowledge base in gambling related research in a number of ways. An annual call for proposals is issued in May (with an end of June submission deadline) soliciting applications from researchers to address stakeholder identified high priority research topics as well as those identified by researchers as requiring further research investigation. The submissions are subjected to a rigorous peer review process which involves the critical review of

proposals by external experts with related areas of investigators to engage more fully in future gamexpertise. This type of review process provides the bling-related research programs. most reliable means of ensuring that only the high est quality research submissions receive Institute In 2013-14, three new small grants funding.

In 2013-14, three new major propoals were approved:

- The impact of VLT location on problem gamblers: Evidence from individual bankruptcy filings (Dr. Barry Scholnick, #65) [Priority: Public Policy]
- Needs, gambling, and well-being (Dr. Gordon J. Walker, #66) [Priority: *Longitudinal Research*]
- (Dr. Marcia L. Spetch, #67)

During the same period, the following three major projects were completed:

- · Gambling, health care utilization in Alberta (Dr. Jane Ruseski, #55) [Priority: Public Policy]
- · Cross-cultural validation of problem gambling and its epidemiology (Dr. Robert Williams, #57) [Priority: Indigenous/First Nations]
- A potential new psychological mechanism for gambling (Dr. Marcia L. Spetch, #58)

Other major projects that were ongoing in 2013-14 included:

- A mixed methods study to assess urban aboriginal gambling in Canada's prairie provinces (Dr. Yale D. Belanger and Dr. Robert J. Williams, #59) [Priority: Indigenous/First Nations]
- · Assessing transitions in problem gambling in a longitudinal study (Dr. David C. Hodgins, #60) [Priority: Longitudinal Research]
- · Effectiveness of a voluntary casino self-exclusion online self-management program (Dr. David C. Hodgins and Mr. Igor Yakovenko #61) [Priority: Public Policy]
- Prescription drug misuse among problem game blers in Canada (Dr. Cheryl Curie, #62) [Priority: Public Policy/First Nations]
- · How do urban casinos affect nearby neighborhoods? Evidence from Canada and the US (Dr. As described, the two phases are: Haifang Huang and Dr. Brad Humphreys, #63) [Priority: Public Policy]
- Effects of information feedback programs on gambling decisions (Dr. Robert Oxoby, #64)

As a means of encouraging young investigators to undertake gambling-related research, the Institute • Validate and fine-tune the scale developed. awards 'Small Grants' to a maximum of \$10,000 to be completed within one year. These awards support foundational efforts (e.g., pilot projects, literature reviews, and small surveys) to prepare

were approved:

- Using reach behavior to measure the role of information, ambiguity and experience in a gambling choice (Dr. Craig Chapman #S34)
- The Evaluation of an Internet-based self-directed motivational enhancement intervention for problem and pathological gamblers, (Dr. David Hodgins and Dr. Jennifer Swan #S35) [Priority: Public Policy]
- The role of memory distortions in gambling Chasing the loss: factors that predict within- and between-session chasing in gamblers (Dr. David Hodgins and Igor Yakovenko, #S36) [Priority: Public Policy]

During the same period, one small grant was completed:

• A case study of bingo regulation in Alberta (Dr. Garry Smith and Dr. Kate Bedford, #S28) [Priority: Public Policy]

STRATEGIC AND COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES

Another type of funding program is related to highpriority research investigations. These large-scale strategic initiatives are identified by the Board in consultation with Institute stakeholders and affiliated organizations.

Development and Evaluation of a Gambling Participation Instrument -Canadian Consortiumfor Gambling Research (CCGR)

Project Approved 2011-12

As a member of the CCGR, the Institute Board approved participation in a jointly-funded research undertaking to develop a validated instrument that measures gambling participation for use in general population surveys.

Research team: Robert Williams, Williams and Associates; Rachel Volberg, Gemini Research

- Conduct an extensive literature review of how participation is measured across a range of activities. Based on the review, develop a draft gambling participation scale based on best practices that emerge from the literature.

Status: As of March 31, 2014, the project was 'in progress' according to the CCGR.

Leisure, Lifestyle, Lifecycle Project (LLLP) Project Approved 2003-04

Research team/Steering Committee: Dr. Nady el-In an effort to foster young researcher involve-Guebaly, Head, Addiction Centre, Foothills Medical ment in gambling-related research, a multi-tiered Centre & Professor, Dept. of Psychiatry, Faculty (doctoral and graduate level in addition to a 'topof Medicine, U of Calgary; Dr. David Hodgins, up' opportunity for students receiving other major Professor, Dept. of Psychology, Faculty of Social awards) scholarship and research allowance program was adopted to promote gambling-related Sciences, U of Calgary; Dr. Garry Smith, Gambling research to promising new scholars. Research Specialist, Government Studies, Faculty of Extension & Professor Emeritus, U of Eleven scholarships were awarded Alberta; Dr. Rob Williams, Professor, Addictions for Fall 2013/Winter 2014 Counselling Program, Faculty of Health Sciences, U Effects of depression and pathological gambling of Lethbridge; Dr. Rob Wood, Associate Professor, on task engagement and withdrawal, Shadi Dept. of Sociology, Faculty of Arts, U of Lethbridge; Beshai, Doctoral level scholarship, Psychology, Dr. Don Schopflocher, Associate Professor, Faculty University of Calgary of Nursing, U of Alberta

Gambling is a normative activity in the Alberta population, with 82% of the adult population having gambled in the past year. Although the large majority of Albertans gamble responsibly, there is a small percentage that experience significant problems. The design of effective educational and legislative strategies to minimize the harm caused by gambling hinges on understanding the factors that promote responsible gambling and/ or make people susceptible to problem gambling. Longitudinal studies are the optimal methodology for investigating such questions. This methodology has been used extensively and successfully in the fields of health, mental health, sociology and addiction. Unfortunately, there is a dearth of longitudinal studies of gambling. Two unpublished studies followed adults. It is this important gap in the research literature that provided the impetus to assemble a cross-disciplinary and cross-university Alberta research team to develop the present proposal.

During the period spanning from Apr 1, 2013 and Mar 31, 2014 the principal investigators from the LLLP held 8 meetings in order to coordinate data analysis and compilation of a final report for waves 1-4. Five conference presentations or posters were made at various international conferences based on the wave 1-4 LLLP data. Contact was maintained with participants through the use of birthday cards in preparation for an extension of the project. For more information on this project, see http://www.abgamblinginstitute.ualberta.ca/Research/StrategicPartnershipsCollabora/ LeisureLifestyleLifecycleProje.aspx

Status: As of March 31, 2014 the project was 'in progress'.

SCHOLARSHIP AND RESEARCH **ALLOWANCE AWARDS**

- Longitudinal design to investigate individuallevel risk factors that predict changes over time in addictive behaviors among college women, Sarah Farstad, Doctoral level scholarship, Clinical Psychology, University of Calgary [Priority: Longitudinal Research]
- Individual characteristics indicative of better poker players, Carrie Leonard, graduate level scholarship, Psychology, University of Lethbridge [Priority: *Public Policy*]
- Connecting human memory research to gambling, Christopher Madan, Doctoral level scholarship, Psychology, University of Alberta
- Examining the social practices mportant in sustaining and impeding excessive behaviours, Tanya Mudry, Doctoral level scholarship, Educational Studies in Psychology, University of Calgary
- Examination of the longitudinal relatioships among gambling problems and depression, Leanne Quigley, Doctoral level scholarship, Clinical Psychology, University of Calgary [Priority: Longitudinal Research]
- Examining brain area activation in healthy controls vs. gamblers during a decision-making investment task, Victoria Suen, Doctoral level scholarship, Psychiatry, University of Alberta
- Evaluate the efficacy of an online intervention for problem and pathological gamblers, Jennifer Swan, Graduate level scholarship, Psychology, University of Calgary [Priority: *Treatment*]
- Investigate the link between gambling and video game play, Ulric Wong, Doctoral level scholarship, Clinical Psychology, University of Calgary [Priority: Longitudinal Research]
 - · Examination of the predictors of chasing behavior in pathological gamblers, Igor Yakovenko, Doctoral level scholarship, Clinical Psychology, University of Calgary [Priority: Public Policy]
 - · Gambling as a vehicle for social interaction amongst early Native American societies: Evidence from archaeological sites in the U.S. Southwest, Gabriel Yanicki, Doctoral level scholarship, Anthropology, University of Alberta

THE INSTITUTE'S LIBRARY & WEB SITE SERVICES SINCE 2000

Rhys Stevens, MLIS is a Librarian II at the U. of Lethbridge Library in Lethbridge, Alberta. His primary responsibility is Librarian & Information Specialist for the Alberta Gambling Research Institute (AGRI). He is also Digitization Team coordinator and a subject liaison librarian for Kinesiology, Government Documents, and Spatial/Numeric Data at the Library.



Over the course of the past fifteen years, annual funding contributions from the Institute have substantially enhanced and complemented the development of gambling research collections at each of the three partner university libraries. These collections are comprised of academic publications (e.g., journal title subscriptions, books, e-books, audiovisual resources, etc.) which are selected by librarians1 to support the research needs of student and faculty researchers. The University of Lethbridge Library has been responsible for Library coordination activities since year 2000. Lethbridge was selected in part because it had accepted the collection of the now-defunct AADAC (Alberta Alcohol & Drug Abuse Commission) Library. Shortly thereafter Rhys Stevens was hired in April, 2001 as the Institute's full-time Librarian & Information Specialist. Since that time, Mr. Stevens has worked closely with gambling researchers to build collections, answer reference questions, create innovative online resources and guides, and maintain and disseminate Institute resources via the Institute web site.

Selected Library and Web Site Highlights:

- · Digitization of gambling research resources -Working collaboratively with the Digitization Unit and copyright officer at the University of Calgary, the Institute Librarian initiated the digitization of several hundred gambling-related publications of historical significance in 2003. Other materials that were subsequently digitized included a wide selection of Albertan government reports, numerous prevalence studies from North American jurisdictions, and all issues of Ivan Sack's Canadian Gaming News industry publication.
- Preserving access to gambling research resources - Digitized as well as born-digital materials have been e-archived in the freely accessible AGRI Research Repository hosted by U. of Calgary Libraries since 2004. When it was initially established, the repository held 115 digitized items and since then has grown to 500+. Included in the collection are copies of presentations from all past Institute conferences.
- Identifying existing gambling research resources - The Institute Librarian has long maintained an extensive listing describing gambling prevalence studies worldwide. In 2012, this listing was enhanced significantly and used extensively as part of a meta-analysis undertaken by Williams, Volberg & Stevens (2012). Other resources developed for identifying research have included the Gambling Literature Database of 1,500+ grey literature items (2002-2009) and the popular the Gaming Research Weblog (2004-2010).
- Contributing to the creation of new knowledge - In 2006, the Librarian first put together detailed information about both Canadian and Albertan casinos and maintained it regularly since that time. Various subject research guides (e.g., Gambling LibGuide [2013]), bibliographies, and web listings of resources (e.g., Canadian Gambling & Gaming Companies [2014]) are created annually.
- Collaborating with gambling researchers & other organizations -- The Institute Librarian has been involved with other organizations (e.g., Canada West Foundation, Responsible Gambling Council, UNLV Center for Gaming Research Center) to collaboratively work toward the development of reports and online resources. E.g., Gambling in Canada 2005: Statistics and Context. Another type of collaboration has involved working as a co-investigator on funded research

Problem Gambling).

- Disseminating institute research & knowledge transfer -- The Librarian has played a leading role in assisting researchers who choose to make available their publications and reports via Institutional Repositories. Another avenue of research dissemination by the Librarian has been authoring newsletter articles for inclusion in the Institute's Gambling Research Reveals newsletter (2003-2014). Content has included descriptions of research findings, researcher profiles/interviews, new Library resources and conference presentation summaries.
- .• Web site maintenance & development Since its debut, the Institute web site has undergone several major re-developments to improve both its design and content. It has evolved from being a collection of descriptive, static webpages to one that includes dynamically-generated content, consistent visual identity standards, and intuitive hierarchical navigation. It currently provides details about the Institute's annual activities (e.g., annual reports & business plans, grant opportunities, conferences), operational structure (e.g., Executive Director, Board members & Research Coordinator biographies), research initiatives (e.g., status reports, newsletters), and Library resources (e.g., AGRI Research Repository).

LIBRARY & WEB SITE 2013-14

Over the course of fiscal 2013-14 the Institute's three affiliated university libraries (U. of Lethbridge, U. of Calgary, and U. of Alberta) selected and purchased approximately \$39,000 of materials in support of gambling-related research at their institutions. These primarily included electronic journal title subscriptions, E-books, print books, and audiovisual resources2. In addition to collection building, the Institute Librarian & Information Specialist provided assistance with 52 specific reference requests, updated research guides on gamblingrelated topics, digitized and e-archived a variety of significant publications, maintained the Institute web site, authored newsletter articles, and assisted with knowledge transfer/translation services.

The Institute web site functions as the primary point of access for information about the Institute and its ongoing research activities. During fiscal 2013-14, the site received 67,819 page views from 23,296 users. Past-year changes to the site included the addition of a separate "Grant Opportunities" section

projects (e.g., AGRI Small Grant #S20 - Women's and revisions to the "Scholarship Recipients" section to improve ease of use.

CONFERENCE 2013

The Alberta Gambling Research Institute and the University of Calgary co-sponsored the twelfth in a series of special interest conferences in the area of gambling studies. The 2013 conference theme was "Research to Practice in Gambling Disorders". Conference organizer Dr. David Hodgins arranged the roster of distinguished speakers from Canada, United States, Australia and Great Britain. The conference was held Friday, April 5 and Saturday, April

6, 2013 at the Banff Centre, Banff, Alberta and attracted approximately 100 people from jurisdictions across Canada and around the world. Presentations included the latest research on prevention and psychosocial and pharmacological treatment models, innovations in treatment delivery, and harm minimization approaches.

Attendance credit was recognized by the Canadian Problem Gambling Certification Board.





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2013 - 14 REPORT ANNUAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE GAMBLING ALBERTA

Best Student Research Poster

Damien Dowd, Lorna S. Jakobson, Todd Mondor, & Michael Ellery, University of Manitoba. Title "An Evaluation of the Pathological Gambling Pathways Model Using the National Epidemiological Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions (NESARC)."

Best Faculty Research Poster

Dr. Heather Chalmers & Rachel Jackson, Department of Child and Youth Studies, Brock University. Title *"Prospective Teacher's Attitudes toward Gambling."* Mr. Damien Dowd



Dr. Heather Chalmers & Dr. David Hodgins













RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

An important aspect of research is the communication of peer-reviewed research findings through publication in authoritative, well-recognized sources. Following is a list of the April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014, Institute-funded researcher publications:

- Abbott, M., Binde, P., Hodgins, D., Korn, D., Pereira, A., Volberg, R., & Williams, R. (2013). Conceptual framework of harmful gambling: An international collaboration. Guelph, ON: Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre (OPGRC). Retrieved from http://www.gamblingresearch. org/conceptualframework/wpcontent/uploads/2013/04/conceptual_framework_04022013. pdf
- Arthur, J. N., Williams, R. J., & Belanger, Y. D. (2014). The relationship between legal gambling and crime in Alberta. Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice, 56(1), 49-83.

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2013

REPORT

ANNUAL

INSTITUTE

RESEARCH

GAMBLING

ALBERTA

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- Back, K.-J., Williams, R., & Lee, C.-K. (2014). Reliability and validity of three instruments (DSM-IV, CPGI, and PPGM) in the assessment of problem gambling in South Korea. Journal of Gambling Studies, 1-12. http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/
- s10899-014-9442-9 Christensen, D., Jackson, A., Dowling, N., Volberg, R., & Thomas, S. (2014). An examination of a proposed DSM-IV pathological gambling hierarchy in a treatment seeking population: Similarities with substance dependence and evidence for three classification systems. Journal of Gambling Studies, 1-20. http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/ s10899-014-9449-2
- Currie, C. L., Wild, T. C., Schopflocher, D. P., Laing, L., & Veugelers, P. (2013). Illicit and prescription drug prob-

lems among urban Aboriginal adults in Canada: The role of traditional culture in protection and resilience. Social Science & Medicine, 88(0), 1-9. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j. socscimed.2013.03.032

Hagen, B., Kalishuk, R. G., Currie, C., Solowoniuk, J., & Nixon, G. (2013). A big hole with the wind blowing through it: Aboriginal women's experiences of trauma and problem gambling. International Gambling Studies, 13(3), 356-370. http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14459 795.2013.819934

Hodgins, D. (2013). Reliability and validity of the Sheehan disability scale modified for pathological gambling. BMC Psychiatry, 13(1), 177. http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/1471-244X-13-177

Hodgins, D. C., & Racicot, S. (2013). The link between drinking and gambling among undergraduate university students. Psychology of Addictive Behaviours, 27(3), 855-892, http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/ a0032866

- Horch, J., & Hodgins, D. (2013). Stereotypes of problem gambling. Journal of Gambling Issues, 1-19. http://dx.doi.org/10.4309/ jgi.2013.28.10
- Huang, H., Humphreys, B., & Zhou, L. (2014). Do urban casinos affect nearby neighborhoods? Evidence from Canada [Working Paper]. Department of Economics. University of Alberta. Retrieved from http://ideas.repec.org/p/ris/albaec/2014_002.html
- Humphreys, B. R., & Soebbing, B. P. (2014). Access to legal gambling and the incidence of crime: Evidence from Alberta. Growth and Change, 45(1), 98-120. http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/ grow.12034
- Konkolÿ Thege, B., & Hodgins, D. C. (2013). The 'light drugs' of gambling? Non-problematic gambling activities of pathological gamblers. International

Gambling Studies, 14(1), 29-38. http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14459 795.2013.839732

- Leonard, C., Staples, J., & Williams, R. (2014). Poker Skills Measure (PSM). Retrived from http://hdl.handle. net/10133/3352
- MacKay, T. L., Bard, N., Bowling, M., & Hodgins, D. C. (2014). Do pokers players know how good they are? Accuracy of poker skill estimation in online and offline players. *Computers* in Human Behavior, 31(0). 419-424. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j. chb.2013.11.006
- Madan, C. R. (2013). Towards a common theory for learning from reward, affect, and motivation: The SIMON framework. Frontiers in Systems Neuroscience, 7. http://dx.doi.org/10.3389/fnsys.2013.00059
- McLaughlin, P., White, N., King, K., Hann, R. G., Williams, R. J., Schopflocher, D., West, B., & Flexhaug, T. (2014). OLS front-line retention manual: Methods for achieving a 94% cohort retention rate in longitudinal research. Report prepared for the Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre. February 2014. Retrieved from http://hdl.handle. net/10133/3379
- Smith, G. (2013). Tangled web: Investigating Canadian lottery scandals. Journal of Gambling Issues, 28, 1-16. http://dx.doi.org/ 10.4309/ jgi.2013.28.7
- Suen, V. Y. M., Brown, M. R. G., Morck, R. K., & Silverstone, P. H. (2014). Regional brain changes occurring during disobedience to "experts" in financial decision-making. PLoS ONE, 9(1), e87321. http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0087321
- Thomas, A., Carson. R., Deblaquiere, J., Armstrong, A., Moore, S., Christensen, D. R., & Rintoul, A. (2014, February). Review of elec-

tronic gambling machine (EGM) pre-commitment fea*tures: Self-exclusion.* Report prepared by the Australian Gambling Research Centre for the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Australia. Restricted Access.

- Thomas, A., Christensen, D.R., Deblaquiere, J., Armstrong, A., Moore, S., Carson. R., & Rintoul, A. (2014, February). Review of electronic gaming machine (EGM) pre-commitment features: Limit-setting. Report prepared by the Australian Gambling Research Centre for the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Australia. Restricted Access.
- Thomas, A., Rintoul, A. Deblaquiere, J., Armstrong, A., Moore, S., Carson. R., & Christensen, D. R. (2014, February) *Review of electronic* gambling machine (EGM) pre-commitment features: Transaction histories. Report prepared by the Australian Gambling Research Centre for the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Australia. Restricted Access.
- Williams, R. J., Lee, C.-K., & Back, K. (2013). The prevalence and nature of gambling and problem gambling in South Korea. Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology, 48(5), 821-834. http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/ s00127-012-0580-z
- Williams, R. J., & Volberg, R. A. (2014). The classification accuracy of four problem gambling assessment instruments in population research. International Gambling Studies, 14(1), 15-28. http:// dx.doi.org/10.1080/14459795.2 013.839731
- Yanicki, G. M. (2014). Old man's playing ground: Gaming and trade on the plains/plateau frontier. Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press.

NEWSLETTER

Following is a list of the contents of the Institute newsletter, 'Gambling Research Reveals - an Update on Gambling Research in Alberta' published between April 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014:

Spring 2013

Institute's 12th Annual Conference on Gambling Research a Success / AGRI Conference 2013: Summaries of Selected Day 1 Presentations / Best Research Poster Award Winners @ Conference 2013 / Institute Sponsors 15th International Conference on Gambling and Risk-Taking / Call for 2013/14 Research Grant Proposals

Summer 2013

Risky Choice Biases: 7 Questions with Dr. Marcia Spetch / Institute-Funded Neuroscientists Establish Collaborative Linkages / AGRI Conference 2013 -Summaries of Selected Day 2 Presentations / Conference 2013 Attendee Feedback / 2013-14 Scholarship Recipients

Fall 2013

A Case Study of Bingo Regulation in Alberta: Summary of Interview Findings / From the Library: Sampling of Bingo-Related Research Publications / Small Research Grants Awarded to Albertan Investigators

Winter 2014

Institute Conference 2014 "Controversial Topics in Gambling" / Institute Research **Director Receives Award** From Spanish Society of Dual Pathology / Lethbridge Graduate Student Developing Measure of Poker-Playing Skills / Calgary Graduate Students Present @ Alberta's Responsible Gambling Stakeholder Symposium





IN ADDITION TO A RANGE OF RESEARCHER-TO-RESEARCHER AFFILIATIONS, THE INSTITUTE CONTRIBUTES TO AND PARTICIPATES IN A NUMBER OF EVENT CO-SPONSORSHIPS, MEETINGS AND CONSULTATIONS PROVINCIALLY, NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

The Institute's Stakeholder Consultation meeting held April 4, 2013 in conjunction with AGRI's 12th annual conference, Banff, AB

In keeping with the Institute Board's commitment to identifying and responding to the identified gambling-related challenges and research priorities of stakeholders (representatives of treatment agencies, youth, First Nations constituents, police, industry, and funding providers among others), a meeting was convened to consult and identify possible responses by AGRI-affiliated researchers. Some specific questions were addressed, including: How should responsible gambling initiatives be measured? and How do we balance revenue generation with effective social responsibility? The highest priority topics were then drawn to the attention of major grant applicants in posted guidelines for the May 2013 annual call for Major Grant research proposals. [The relevant priorities are identified in the 'Research Activity' section of this report.]

IN 2013-14, AGRI WAS A PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION IN THE FOLLOWING:

Active representation on AGLC's Responsible Gambling Advisory Committee (RGAC) by Dr. Nady el-Guebaly and interprovincial Canadian Consortium for Gambling Research (CCGR) by Vickii Williams and Dr. Nady el-Guebaly

Co-sponsorship of CCGR 'Internet Workshop' held April 17, 2013 in conjunction with the 'Discovery Conference', Toronto, ON

Two of AGRI's leading researchers, Drs. Rob Williams and Dr. Rob Wood and world authorities on Internet gambling were included in the timely topic of 'Improving the quality of research by building knowledge and skills in the research community on issues of Internet gambling.' Over 100 researchers, treatment providers and other stakeholders

Consulting and Collaborating: A Coordinated Approach

participated. [In 2012, Drs. Williams and Wood co-authored the definitive text on the topic which was entitled, 'Routledge International Handbook of Internet Gambling'.

'Addiction Day' display, U of Calgary held April 30, 2013

As in previous years, the University of Calgary node of Institute had an information booth set up at the annual Addiction Day conference. Research assistants, Rodney Steadman and Kristy Kowatch provided interested individuals details of current research projects, AGRI grant and scholarship opportunities, as well as general information about the Institute. This event was a wonderful opportunity to increase the awareness of the research being conducted by AGRI.

UNLV 15th International Conference on Gambling and Risk Taking (ICGRT) held May 27-31, 2013

The Institute participated as an Associate Sponsor of this highly acclaimed conference. In addition to AGRI-affiliated researcher participation in the conference program, the Executive and Research Director participated in the 2013 ICGRT Panel of Centers. This well attended session attracted more than thirty gambling research centres and proved to be a useful opportunity to consult on common issues and identify future collaborative research opportunities.

Problem and Responsible Gambling Stakeholder Symposium held October 22, 2013

A number of Institute-funded researchers, Board members, and staff participated in the 9th Annual Problem and Responsible Gambling Stakeholder Symposium sponsored by the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission, Alberta Health Services, and Alberta Health. Presentations about the ongoing research of two current scholarship awardees, Igor Yakovenko (doctoral student, U of Calgary) and Jennifer Swan (graduate student, U of Calgary)

were particularly well-received. Igor provided an update on results from the Voluntary Self Exclusion (VSE) Evaluation program and Jennifer Swan gave an overview of her pending 'Internet gambling' research project.

National Association for Gambling Studies (NAGS) conference held November 20-22, 2013

The theme of this international conference, 'Gambling Impact: Translating Knowledge and Research into Policy and Practice' was timely as follow-up to the 'knowledge translation' focus of the Board. Vickii Williams participated as a conference attendee and representative of AGRI.



Audited Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014

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1 2013 ANNUAL REPORT INSTITUTE ALBERTA GAMBLING RESEARCH



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Directors of the Alberta Gambling Research Institute

Report on the Financial Statements

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Alberta Gambling Research Institute, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2014, and the statements of operations and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

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 comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Alberta Gambling Research Institute as at March 31, 2014, and the results of its operations, its remeasurement gains and losses, and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

[Original signed by Merwan N. Saher, FCA]

Auditor General

August 19, 2014

Edmonton, Alberta

Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents (Note 5) Accounts receivable Unexpended funds receivable (Note 6) Prepaid expenses

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable Deferred revenue

NET ASSETS

Net assets at beginning of year Net operating loss

Net assets at end of year

The accompanying notes and schedule are part of these financial statements. Approved by the board:

Original signed by: Seamus O'Shea Board Chair Signature Position Alexander (Sandy) Dougall Position Signature

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Ma	arch 31, 2014	-	Marc	ch 31, 2013
\$	2,728,588		\$	3,036,264
Ψ	4,548		Ψ	475
	,			
	63,469			47,178
	9,267	_		8,966
\$	2,805,872	_	\$	3,092,883
		-		
	3,283			1,699
\$	3,500		\$	5,500
	6,783	-		7,199
	3,085,684			3,374,124
	(286,595)	_		(288,440)
	2,799,089	-		3,085,684
\$	2,805,872	_	\$	3,092,883

Audit Committee Chair

Statement of Operations

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

Statement of Cash Flows

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

	2014 BUDGET (Note 11)	2014 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014	2013
REVENUES				OPERATING TRANSACTIONS	
Contributions from the Ministry				Contributions from the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance \$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000
of Treasury Board and Finance (Note 4)	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	Other contributions 52,677	_
Other/Unexpended funds recovered		68,969	47,653	Research Expenditures (1,399,922)	(1,154,402)
(Note 6)		00,909	47,000	Infrastructure and Library Expenditures (150,000)	(150,000)
Total Revenues	1,500,000	1,568,969	1,547,653	Research Linkages Expenditures (52,999)	(74.901)
				Research Administration Expenditures (257,433)	(256,963)
EXPENSES (Schedule 1)					
Research	1,930,000	1,396,633	1,349,939	CASH USED FOR OPERATING TRANSACTIONS (307,676)	(136,266)
Infrastructure and Library	150,000	150,000	150,000		
Research Linkages	100,000	52,096	79,383	CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, \$ 3,036,264	\$ 3,172,530
Research Administration	280,000	256,835	256,771	BEGINNING OF YEAR	
				CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, \$ 2,728,588 END OF YEAR	\$ 3,036,264
Total Expenses	2,460,000	1,855,564	1,836,093		
NET OPERATING LOSS	\$ (960,000)	\$ (286,595)	\$ (288,440) 	The accompanying notes and schedule are part of these financial statements.	

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

Note 1 Authority and Reporting Entity

The Alberta Gambling 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 Partner Universities). Relations between the Institute and the Government of Alberta are defined in an Agreement between the Institute Universities and the Alberta Government dated April 1, 2011 (signed September 27, 2011). The Institute is directed by a Board comprised of eight members including two appointees (senior administrators and researchers) from each of the three Institute Universities in addition to a representative who is appointed by the Minister of treasury Board and Finance and an external Board Chair who is appointed by the Vice-Presidents (Research) of the Partner Universities.

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 Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance. The Partner 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;
- promote or direct research in those priorities and areas identified as stakeholder priorities ;
- develop research capacity in the Partner Universities;
- sponsor research that is peer reviewed and of the highest academic quality;
- facilitate the transfer of knowledge and information to stakeholders;
- provide education about current knowledge through research publications, reporting of research results and knowledge translation strategies; and,
- · identify and pursue other potential funding sources.

Note 3 Conversion to Public Sector Accounting Standards

Commencing with the 2012-2013 fiscal year, the Institute has adopted Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards ("PSAS") as issued by the Public Sector Accounting Board. Prior to 2012-2013, the Institute followed the recommendations of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants Accounting Handbook Part V.

Note 4 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Reporting Practices

General - PSAS and Use of Estimates

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian PSAS. The measurement of certain assets and liabilities is contingent upon future events; therefore, the preparation of these financial statements requires the use of estimates, which may vary from actual results. The Institute has no assets or liabilities that require Institute administration to use judgment to determine value.

Revenue Recognition

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

Contributions from the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance

The Partner Universities entered into a funding agreement with the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance effective April 1, 2011 to provide the Institute with \$1,500,000 annually until March 31, 2016. The agreement calls for detailed reporting to the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission at various dates throughout the year. Reporting is complete for fiscal year ended March 31, 2014.

Expenses

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

Assets

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 Partner 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 Partner Universities are entitled to freely use and copy, other than for commercial purposes, any intellectual property so created.

Financial Instruments

Financial assets are comprised of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, unexpended funds receivable and accounts payable. They are initially recognized at cost and subsequently carried at amortized cost. Write-downs on financial assets are recognized when the amount of a loss is known with sufficient precision, and there is no reasonable expectation of recovery. The Institute does not own any derivatives, portfolio investments or financial instruments designated in the fair value category and as such has not included a Statement of Remeasurement Gains and Losses.

It is management's opinion that the Institute is not exposed to significant market, interest, currency, or credit risks arising from its financial instruments.

Net Assets

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

Canadian PSAS require a "net debt" presentation for the statement of financial position in the summary financial statement of governments. Net debt presentation reports the difference between financial assets and liabilities as "net debt" or net (financial) assets as an indicator of future revenues required to pay for past transactions and events. The Institute operates within the government reporting entity, and does not finance any of its expenditures by independently raising revenues. Accordingly, these financial statements do not report a net debt indicator.

Note 5 Cash and Cash Equivalents

Under the Funding Agreement, funds are to be administered by the HUB University (University of Alberta) on behalf of the Institute. The University of Alberta are to invest these funds in keeping with their policies for the investment of similar funds. Interest on the funds is paid to the Institute at the rate of RBC Prime less 3%. (RBC prime rate: 3%). For the fiscal year ending March 31, 2014, the average effective yield was 0% (2013:0%). Due to the short-term nature of the investments, the carrying value approximates fair value.

Note 6 Unexpended Funds Receivable/Recovered

Certain grants are provided to the Partner Universities for capacity building, research development, library collections, and research node administration for gambling-related operations. These particular Grants have a provision that any unspent funds are to be returned to the Institute. The following table provides an accounting for the Grants allocated and the amounts spent by the Partner Universities during this fiscal year.

	2014			2013
	University of Alberta	University of Calgary	University of Lethbridge Total	Total
Unexpended funds, opening balance	\$ 7,550	\$ 16,206	\$ 23,422 \$ 47,178	\$ 209,536
Capacity building	150,000	150,000	150,000 450,000	450,000
Library and collections	-	-	150,000 150,000	150,000
New funds provided	150,000	150,000	300,000 600,000	600,000
Current year expenditures	(137,555)	(139,633)	(291,375) (568,563)	(552,822)
Recovered	(7,550)	(16,206)	(23,422) (47,178)	(209,536)
Unexpected capacity-building funds	12,445	10,367	8,625 31,437	47,178
Unexpected research grants	-	-	- 32,032	-
	\$ 12,445	\$ 10,367	\$ 8,625 \$ 63,469	\$ 47,178

Note 7 Commitments

The Institute receives its principal funding from the Minister of Treasury Board and Finance. The five year agreement was renewed effective April 1, 2011 and expires on March 31, 2016. The Institutes ability to maintain viable operations is dependent upon the continued support from the Alberta Government.

The Institute has the following commitments:

Fiscal Year	 esearch Grants ^(a)	 Lease (b)	stainability positions ^(c)	 Research rection ^(d)	 Total
2014/15	\$ 92,811	\$ 14,868	\$ 247,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 414,679
2015/16	6,025	14,868	260,000	45,000	325,893
2016+	 -	 -	 520,000	 -	 520,000
Total	\$ 98,836	\$ 29,736	\$ 1,027,000	\$ 105,000	\$ 1,260,572

(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 three years to total of \$160,000) and an 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 the first year approved award. 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 entered into a lease with the University of Alberta for the period April 1, 2012, to March 31, 2016 with a renewal option.

(c) Sustainability Positions

The Board approved funding for a 'sustainability position' at each of the Partner Universities. The principal purpose of the positions is to encourage the expansion and development of gambling research. Funding in the amount of \$100,000 per year for 5 years, up to \$12,000 in relocation costs, and up to \$30,000 per year to support graduate student assistantships to support the position was offered to each partner Universities. The first appointment was made at the U of Lethbridge on December 1, 2013.

(d) Research Direction

The Board approved proceeding with the engagement of a faculty member at one of the Partner Universities or the contracting for services related to advising the Board on strategic research planning. On February 1, 2013, N. el-Guebaly Professional Corporation was contracted to perform this function. Subject to the provision that annual reporting compliance with the Service Agreement conditions, the appointment can be extended for two additional fiscal years (with possibility of renewal).

Note 8 Economic Dependence

The Institute receives its principal funding from the Minister of Treasury Board and Finance.

Note 9 Related Party Transactions

During the year, there were no related party transactions except for transactions with the partner universities as disclosed in other notes and schedules to these financial statements.

Note 10 Budget

The revised 2013-14 budget was approved by the Institute's Board of Directors on December 14, 2012.

Schedule of Expenses

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

Research

Grant competition/strategic research (1) Capacity building (2) Governance, research direction (3)

Infrastructure and Library Library and collections (4)

Research Linkages

Events, colloquia (5) Communications, exchanges (6)

Research Administration

Personnel costs (7) Contract services (8) Administrative hub (9)

Total Expenses

of strategic, interjurisdictional, and interorganizational collaborative research.

- Note 2 Grants to Partner Universities to recruit and sustain active researchers in the field of gambling research.
- members meeting travel.
- Note 5 Supports program of formative and summative learning events and forums. Includes cost interested persons.
- to Alberta to assist with Institute research.
- Note 7 Salary and benefits compensation (Executive Director and salaried administrative support).
- Note 8 Special project consulting (eg. document drafting, graphic design work).
- Note 9 Includes business and hub operational requirements.

Schedule 1

2014 Budge	2014 Actual	2013 Actual
\$ 975,000	\$ 805,289	\$ 964,886
795,000	450,000	322,243
160,000	141,344	62,810
1,930,000	1,396,633	1,349,939
150,000	150,000	150,000
150,000	150,000	150,000
50,000	12,525	25,255
50,000	39,571	54,128
100,000	52,096	79,383
235,000	222,515	233,855
10,000	9,047	-
35,000	25,273	22,916
280,000	256,835	256,771
\$ 2,460,00	\$ 1,855,564	\$ 1,836,093

Note 1 Includes annual research grant competition, small grants, scholarships, and Board identified areas

Note 3 Allocation to support appointment (honoraria and expenses) of external Board Chair and recruitment of Scientific/Research Director (contracted as at February 1, 2013). Includes business and board

Note 4 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 research matters, development and maintenance of the Institute website, and funding for a junior grade professional librarian.

of an annual conference bringing together Institute associates, topical experts, and other

Note 6 Includes print materials and promotional broadcasts, annual report development, writing, and production costs, and conference attendance by Institute representatives to facilitate information dissemination and support for Alberta scholars and experts to travel to other locales to investigate gambling-related research matters as well as the travel of national and foreign scholars and experts

Board of Directors

Brown, Dr. Lesley

(Research) and a Professor in the Department of in the Department of Sociology and Vice Dean in Kinesiology at the University of Lethbridge. She the Faculty of Arts at the University of Calgary. Her conducts research in the area of fall prevention in research interests include crime and deviance, with older adults as well as among people living with a particular interest in the study of security and risk Parkinson's disease. Dr. Brown has been a Board at both the individual and institutional levels. Erin member since June, 2010.

Dobson, Dr. Keith

Keith Dobson is a Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Calgary. His research interests are primarily in the area of cognition and various psychopathological states; notably depression. Recent areas of interest include the promotion of evidence-based practice, cross-cultural research, and studying stigma processes and stigma reduction in mental health. He has served on the Institute's Board since September 1, 2011.

Dougall, Alexander (Sandy)

Sandy Dougall started his banking career in Scotland and after moving to Canada he worked for a major bank, holding a variety of senior management positions in retail and business banking. Following a long career in banking Sandy has been involved in many activities in the community. He sat on the Calgary Health Region Board until 2008 and on the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission for 9 years up until September, 2011. He has been on the Institute Board as an external member since November 1, 2011 and currently is Vice Chair as well as Chair of the Audit Committee.

el-Guebaly, Dr. Nady

Nady el-Guebaly is Professor and Head, Addictions Division, Department of Psychiatry at the University of Calgary. He is past founding Medical Director the Addictions Program, Calgary Health Region. 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 its establishment in 1999 and as Board Chair from July, 2002 to June 30, 2011. As Research Director since February 1, 2013, he serves on the Board in an advisory capacity.

Gibbs van Brunschot, Dr. Erin

Lesley Brown is the Associate Vice President Erin Gibbs van Brunschot is an Associate Professor served on the Institute Board from August 2007 to August 31, 2011 and was reappointed effective September 1, 2012.

O'Shea, Dr. Seamus

Seamus O'Shea retired from his position of Vice President (Academic) and Provost, Associate Vice President (Academic) and Professor of Chemistry with the University of Lethbridge. As an advocate for increasing university participation increasing student success, he has been an active promoter of university transfer programs, post-diploma degrees, and student-focused programming. He has been active in planning and implementing advanced infrastructure for research and development, particularly high performance networks and computing systems. Dr. O'Shea's research interests include intermolecular forces; thermodynamic, structural and phase behavior of systems based on model potentials; computer simulation using Monte Carlo and Molecular Dynamics methods. He is past Chair, Board of Directors, iCORE (informatics Circle of Research Excellence) (2005-2009), and is currently the Chair, Board of Directors, Cybera (Cyber-infrastructure) (2007-present). Dr. O'Shea was appointed as Board Chair of the Institute on February 1, 2012.

Schopflocher, Dr. Donald

Donald Schopflocher is a statistician-methodologist specializing in population health and public health surveillance. Trained as a research psychologist focusing on personality and psychological measurement, he obtained a PhD from the University of Alberta in 1993. Starting in 1995, he worked as a biostatistician for Alberta Ministry of Health and Wellness. In 2006, he became Director of Research at the Institute of Health Economics. More recently he was an Associate Professor, University of Alberta, jointly appointed to the School of Public Health and to the Faculty of Nursing. His research interests include public health surveillance with administrative data, large scale surveys including longitudinal gambling studies, and the effect of the built environment on health. He served on the Institute Board from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

Trimble, Dr. Linda

Linda Trimble is a Professor in, and former Chair of, the Department of Political Science at the University of Alberta, where she has been teaching Canadian politics and gender politics since 1989. Her research explores media reportage of Canadian elections and of women politicians, especially political leaders. Dr. Trimble's most recent book, coedited with Shannon Sampert, is titled Mediating Canadian Politics and she is currently writing a book about press coverage of female prime ministers in Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Her newest SSHRC-funded project analyzes television and newspaper coverage of Canadian national party leadership contests. Dr. Trimble joined the Institute Board in May, 2010. She served until June 30, 2013. West. Dr. Doug

Douglas West is Professor of Economics and Chair of the Department of Economics at the University of Alberta, where he has been teaching economics since 1981. His fields of research and teaching include industrial organization, competition policy, spatial competition analysis, and urban economics, and he has published widely in these areas. His current research interests include brand proliferation in beer markets, and competition in liquor store and shopping centre markets. He joined the Institute Board in July, 2009, and currently also serves on the Board of the Institute of Health Economics and the Van Horne Institute.

Williams, Vickii

Vickii Williams has served as the Executive Director of the Alberta Gambling Research Institute since its inception (2000) 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.

Wood, Dr. Robert

Robert Wood is Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Lethbridge. He teaches courses in the sociology of crime and deviance, and his research focuses on Canadian social problems and the sociology of youth. More recently, his research interests have included Internet gambling, with particular interest in the ways that Internet gamblers systematically differ from their land-based counterparts. He joined the Institute Board on March 1, 2012.



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