



ANNUAL REPORT 2009 - 10

gambling research in alberta: year 10

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



*"This is my 10-year anniversary producing...
you're not what you were 10 years ago.
It's just a natural evolution and having wisdom."*

Puff Daddy

message from the vice-presidents (research)



September 2010

For the past decade, the Alberta Gaming Research Institute has served as a model of success for pan-Alberta research collaboration among our three institutions, in full spirit of the Campus Alberta concept. The creation of AGRI combined the research talent of our universities in focusing on a topic of significance to Alberta and beyond, linking various stakeholders interested in the effects of gaming and gambling through the activities of the Institute.

With its funding partner, the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission, AGRI has expanded research capacity in gaming and gambling in the province. It has conducted valuable discovery and targeted research on economic, public policy, socio-cultural, bio-psychological issues related to gaming. Our AGRI researchers are the leaders in the field. Their work in these sectors continues to inform decisions related to programming and public policy about gambling within, and beyond, our provincial borders.

AGRI shows the power of combining multiple disciplines to understand complex social, behavioural, and economic issues. We extend our congratulations to the Institute on its growth and accomplishments over the past decade.

Lorne A Babiuk, PhD
Vice-President (Research)
University of Alberta

Rose Goldstein, MD
Vice-President (Research)
University of Calgary

Daniel J Weeks, PhD
Vice-President (Research)
The University of Lethbridge



I am very pleased, as Board Chair of the Alberta Gaming Research Institute, to present you with the 10th Annual Report of the Alberta Gaming Research

Institute for the period ending March 31, 2010. It is with a great sense of accomplishment and pride that I recognize the partner universities and the gambling research expertise that has been built over the past ten years. Equally, I would like to acknowledge the foresight of the Alberta government in providing funding that enabled the substantial and world-renowned contributions to this emerging field. The combination of this support, together with the expanding research talent and participation of various research and funder affiliates, have enabled remarkable multi- and inter-disciplinary growth in a relatively short period of time.

In anticipation of the significant anniversary of the Institute, I have reflected on my observations and learnings during my tenure with the Institute (eight of them as Board Chair). I presented my Top 10 Pet List about Gambling at our April 2010 conference and would like to share it with you:

- 1 Gambling is here to stay! Think electronics!
- 2 Gambling is a spectrum behavior from social to problematic to pathological

- 3 The causes and consequences of gambling shape its personal and social impact
- 4 Bridging across disciplinary 'knowledge silos' promotes creativity (for example: four broad research domains of bio-psychological, socio-cultural, economics, and industry and public policy)
- 5 The domains' scope benefits from an inter-university network as well as strong national and international links
- 6 Gambling is at the cutting edge of the study of a host of "rewarding but risky" behaviours of concern to society
- 7 Competition for "the best and brightest" of the research workforce is fierce - hard to build, and easy to destroy
- 8 Respectful creative tension between researchers and policymakers is expected
- 9 Constructive input from our stakeholders is welcomed and inspiring
- 10 We need our friends!
Thank you for your support!!!

I hope you will enjoy this issue of our annual report and that you will be as impressed as I am to read about the growth and evolution of gambling research at the Institute partner universities. Please join us in preparing with excitement for the next ten years of development of this maturing field of research.

Nady el-Guebaly, MD

Just over ten years ago, as gambling activity was increasing in Alberta as elsewhere, the Universities of Alberta, Calgary and Lethbridge jointly developed the 'notion' of a consortium arrangement that would maximize and focus the available academic expertise on this emerging field of research. At the Medicine Hat Summit in April 1998, the Alberta government heard from the provincial citizenry that independent, high quality research was important prior to further expansion of gambling activity in the province and the adoption of new formats. The convergence of identified public desire with opportunity for research diversification and potential leadership in a new field, through a collaborative arrangement by Alberta's universities, led to the creation of the Alberta Gaming Research Institute.

Through dedication and diligent effort, leadership was provided by able scholars at each of the partner universities and assisted by their committed colleagues and students. The foresight

of the provincial government's investment in such an endeavor demonstrated its confidence in the high calibre of research for which the partner universities are known.

I have been very privileged to have made the acquaintance of researchers, Board members and a wide range of stakeholders as we work together to ensure that the Institute continues to contribute the highest quality of gambling research provincially, nationally, and internationally as we enter our second decade.

Vickii Williams



message from the board chair

message from the executive director

gambling research then (2000) and now (2010)

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

contributed by Dr. Garry Smith

Gambling research activities at the University of Alberta are coordinated by Dr. Garry Smith, Gambling Research Specialist in the Faculty of Extension. Dr. Smith has an active gambling research program related to policy studies.



Prior to the inception of AGRI in 2000 only one University of Alberta faculty member was actively engaged in gambling studies research. Over the past decade faculty members from such diverse academic disciplines as Psychiatry, Psychology, Economics, Nursing, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Physical Education, Recreation, Health Promotion Studies, Human Ecology and Sociology have participated in AGRI funded research. Three post-doctoral fellowships were granted (two in Physical Education and one in Economics) to study gambling issues; at least ten graduate students have completed or are currently working on gambling-related thesis or dissertation topics; and both graduate and undergraduate students have gained valuable experience as research assistants in gambling studies projects. The University of Alberta has also hosted several internationally renowned visiting scholars in this area and organized three major conferences on gambling issues.

In 2007, Brad Humphreys was hired as Chair in the Economics of Gambling and has since attracted a coterie of graduate students and quickly established a prolific research program. Other current areas of research expertise in gambling studies at the University of Alberta include Gordon Walker's work on ethnicity (Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation); Don Schopflocher who specializes in research design and statistical analysis (Health Promotion Studies); Cheryl Currie who deals with First Nations' gambling issues (Health Promotion Studies); and Garry Smith who studies gambling public policy.

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

contributed by Dr. David Hodgins

Dr. David Hodgins from the Department of Psychology coordinates Institute-related activities. His research specialty relates to the treatment of gambling problems and involves a significant cadre of graduate students.



As with our partner universities, only a couple of University of Calgary professors were involved in gambling research in 2000. In the intervening decade, about 25 individuals have been investigators on AGRI projects. These investigators represent a large variety of university departments including the School of Business, Faculty of Social Work, Faculty of Education, Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Medicine Departments of Clinical Neuroscience, Radiology, Psychiatry, and Community Health Sciences, and the Faculty of Arts, Departments of Economics, Sociology, and Psychology. In 2000, the University of Calgary's focus was exclusively on the development of a brief treatment model for gambling problems. Currently projects focus not only on the clinical aspects of gambling disorders but also on economics, legal perspectives, cultural issues, decision-making, and social gambling. Undergraduate, Masters and Doctoral students are involved in these projects, some funded by AGRI's scholarship program. The quality

of the work of these students has been recognized in the form of a number of awards from the US National Council on Problem Gambling, US National Institute on Drug Abuse, the Canadian Psychological Association, International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors, and the International Conference on the Treatment of Addictive Behaviors. It has been a busy and rewarding decade and we are eagerly anticipating a productive next ten years.

UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE

contributed by Dr. Rob(ert) Williams

The coordinator of gambling research at the University of Lethbridge is Dr. Rob Williams from the Faculty of Health Sciences. Dr. Williams is involved in numerous gambling research investigations and is a co-principal investigator for the Social and Economic Impacts of Gambling in Alberta (SEIGA) Project.

There has been fairly dramatic growth in gambling research at the University of Lethbridge. In 2000 the only researchers doing any gambling-related research were Gary Nixon and Virginia McGowan in the Addiction Counselling Program, School of Health Sciences. Gary Nixon also served as the University's AGRI Node Coordinator. No students were working in this area.



Contrast this to 2010 where there are now 11 faculty members actively engaged in gambling research in the departments of Addiction Counselling (Robert Williams, Gary Nixon, Bonnie Lee), Nursing (Ruth Grant Kalischuk), Psychology (Martin Lalumiere), Native Studies (Yale Belanger, Linda Manyguns), Education (Noëlla Piquette-Tomei), Sociology (Rob Wood), Neuroscience (Matt Tata), and Mathematics (Dennis Connelly). Each of these faculty members has also had or currently has students working in this area.

Collectively, this group has received several millions of dollars in grant money, published over 100 articles and reports, and is seen as leading authorities in areas such as prevention of problem gambling, Internet gambling, First Nations gambling, and women and gambling.

about the alberta gaming research institute

The Alberta Gaming Research Institute partners with research-focused organizations and individuals for the purpose of improving knowledge about gambling and gaming practice. Its goals are achieved by improving research capacity at partner universities, facilitating knowledge transfer, and promoting strategic and collaborative initiatives. Multidisciplinary collaboration occurs within and between the Institute and Alberta's partner universities (i.e., University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and University of Lethbridge) as well as with national and international partners. Varied arrangements allow for research expertise on specific projects and initiatives to be maximized. Research capacity is improved through conference sponsorship, support of focused research initiatives, and the dissemination of information through print and electronic media.

The Institute 'hub' is located at the University of Alberta, where the Institute's Executive Director, with administrative assistance, coordinates the operations of the Institute. The Institute Librarian is located at the University of Lethbridge.

VISION

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

MISSION

To significantly improve Albertans' knowledge of how gambling affects society

MAJOR GRANTS

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 proposals from active researchers to address 'investigator identified' areas in need of research. The submissions are subjected to a rigorous peer review process which involves the critical review of proposals by external experts in related areas of research. This type of review process provides the most reliable means of ensuring that only the highest quality research submissions receive Institute funding.

IN 2009-10, TWO 'NEW' MAJOR PROPOSALS WERE APPROVED:

- Trauma and female problem gambling: A qualitative grounded theory study (Research Grant #50)
- Evaluating the psychometric performance of the Four Es Scale: A cross-cultural comparison of factors related to gambling behavior and mental health in Canadian and American college students (#51)

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, THE FOLLOWING MAJOR PROJECTS WERE COMPLETED:

- CRAFT (Community Reinforcement and Family Training) with problem gambling (#42)
- The Alberta Lottery Fund and funding amateur arts, sports, recreation, and professional sports: A study of public awareness and willingness to support (#43)
- Exploring offender gambling from prison through re-entry: A cross-national investigation (#44)
- The Effects of ethnicity, participation in gambling and other leisure activities, and leisure satisfaction, on quality of life (#45)

OTHER MAJOR PROJECTS THAT WERE ONGOING IN 2009-10 INCLUDED:

- Culture and gambling: Research on ethno-cultural minorities' involvement (#46)
- Acculturation and gambling: The case of mainland Chinese immigrants to Calgary, Alberta (#47)
- Risk and protective factors for problem gambling among urban Aboriginals in Edmonton (#48)
- Conversations of change? Examining gamblers' help-seeking and change-sustaining conversations (#49)

SMALL GRANTS

As a means of encouraging young investigators to undertake gambling-related research, the Institute awards 'small grants' to a maximum of \$10,000 to be completed within one year. These awards support foundational efforts (examples include: pilot projects, literature reviews, and small surveys) to prepare investigators to engage more fully in future gambling-related research programs.

THE FOLLOWING NEW SMALL GRANTS WERE AWARDED IN 2009-10:

- Literature review: Progression of women's gambling behaviors into the realm of problem gambling (Dr. Noëlla Piquette-Tomei)
- Development of web-based self-directed treatment for pathological gambling (Dr. David Hodgins)
- Motivational interviewing and solution-focused counselling for problem gamblers: Prevalence and considerations for a mesh of clinical and administrative discourses in Alberta (Dr. Tom Strong)
- Calling their bluff: Investigating the accuracy of skill assessment among poker players (Ms. Terri-Lynn MacKay)



STRATEGIC AND COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES

Another type of funding program is related to high-priority research investigations. These large-scale strategic initiatives are identified by the Board in consultation with Institute stakeholders. Since the commencement of this program in 2003-04, the Institute has funded two major initiatives that are exclusively Alberta-based.

The *Leisure, Lifestyle, Lifecycle Project (LLLPP)*, the largest ever sponsored by the Institute, was initiated in Spring 2006. Its primary aim is to discover the determinants of gambling and disordered gambling, what factors lead people to gamble in any form, and why some of them become problem gamblers. It is a five-year study that involves 1,808 Albertans. The first of a planned four data collection survey waves was completed in 2006, with the second completed in 2007-08, and the third completed in 2009-10. The final wave will begin in early 2011. A genetic sub-study has also been incorporated as part of the LLLP. At Wave 2 and 3, genetic samples were collected on almost 700 participants. This genetic data will allow researchers to examine genetic markers that might be associated with problem and pathological gambling.



The project's large, multidisciplinary research team has indicated that the development of a comprehensive bio-psychosocial model of gambling behaviour will assist in addressing questions related to the impact of gambling availability, legislative initiatives, prevention programs and the development of problem and responsible gambling programs.

The *Social & Economic Impacts of Gambling in Alberta (SEIGA)*, a much anticipated and high priority study was commenced on April 1, 2008. The primary purpose of the research investigation is to assess the costs and benefits of legalized gambling. Scientific evidence is expected to have utility in assisting provincial policy makers in their efforts to mitigate the negative impacts of gambling while maximizing its benefits.

As of March 31, 2010, the project was nearing completion with almost all data having been collected. This massive array of data is to be integrated into a cohesive document. The end date for research activity has been extended from July 31, 2010 to September 30, 2010. It is anticipated that a final project report will be released in January 2011 after it has received independent peer review.

COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE COMPLETED IN 2009-2010:

- Canadian Problem Gambling Index (CPGI) Phase II

In February 2001, the new *Canadian Problem Gambling Index (CPGI)* was launched to measure the prevalence of gambling and problem gambling in the general population. A consortium of provinces/organizations jointly funded the project. It provided greater distinction among gambling subtypes which, it was assumed, should improve our understanding of the progressions from low-risk to problem gambling.

By 2005, CPGI has been used in most Canadian provinces and in several countries, including Queensland and Victoria in Australia, Denmark and Iceland. A number of researchers have, therefore, gained significant experience and insight in the use of the CPGI. It was considered that, if pooled, this base of experience could be used to assess the instrument's performance in meeting its objectives and pave the way to possible refinement. Phase II was undertaken to identify possible refinements to the instrument that would enhance it.

*See 'Research' link (<http://www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/research.cfm>) for description of all research projects, their status, related publications, and a complete list of researchers and their backgrounds.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND RESEARCH ALLOWANCE AWARDS

In an effort to foster young researcher involvement in gambling-related research, a two-tiered (doctoral and graduate level) scholarship and research allowance program was adopted in 2008/09.

THE FOLLOWING TWO SCHOLARSHIPS WERE AWARDED IN 2009-10:

- Older women and gambling: An exploration of behaviors associated with gambling among women aged 45 and older, Lena Rinkist, graduate level scholarship, Sociology, University of Calgary (fall/winter)
- Examination of the relationship between self-deception and addictive behaviors, Jonathan Stea, graduate level scholarship, Psychology, University of Calgary (fall/winter)

LIBRARY SERVICES

contributed by Mr. Rhys Stevens

Institute Library and web site development activities are coordinated by Rhys Stevens at the University of Lethbridge Library.



The Institute Library builds research capacity by providing support to Institute researchers and the general public through the development

of gambling-related research collections and the provision of innovative library and web site services.

Selection, ordering and acquisition of research materials are efficiently administered by libraries at the University of Lethbridge, University of Calgary, and the University of Alberta in partnership with the Institute Librarian & Information Specialist (Rhys Stevens). Since its establishment in 2000, annual Institute collection-building funds received by each library have significantly contributed to the development of first-class research collections of books, e-books, and journal titles related to gambling.

In addition to developing collections, the Institute Librarian enhances research capacity by offering a variety of innovative library services to Institute-funded researchers, the general public and other stakeholders. Examples include assistance with reference requests, creation of detailed literature reviews, digitization of historically-significant publications, web site creation, newsletter development, and knowledge transfer activities.

WEB SITE

contributed by Mr. Rhys Stevens

The Institute web site builds research capacity by delivering information regarding Institute-funded activities, initiatives and research documentation to researchers, stakeholders and the general public.

Over the first decade of its existence, the web site has undergone a number of redevelopments and reorganizations designed to improve access to content and simplify site navigation. It has evolved from being a collection of descriptive, static webpages to one that is and dynamically-generated by the University of Alberta's Content Management System (CMS).

The web site has become a core component of the Institute's operations. It provides current details about the Institute's annual activities (e.g., annual reports & business plans, grant opportunities), operational structure (e.g., executive director, board members and node coordinator bios and contact information), research initiatives (e.g., status reports, newsletters), and Library resources (e.g., AGRI Research Archive). Additionally, it is often the initial point of contact for inquiries from researchers, the media and other interested parties.

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

The Institute encourages its funded investigators to share the research results from Institute-funded projects via publication in peer-reviewed scholarly journals and by presenting them at scholarly conferences.

FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF RELATED SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS (ARTICLES, CHAPTERS AND REPORTS) PUBLISHED BETWEEN APRIL 1, 2009 AND MARCH 31, 2010:

Campbell, C. S., Hartnagel, T. F., & Smith, G. J. (2010). The legalization of gambling in Canada. In J. Mosher & J. Brockman (Eds.), *Constructing Crime: Contemporary Processes of Criminalization* (pp. 153-188). Vancouver, BC: UBC Press.

Campbell, C., Hartnagel, T. F., & Smith, G. (2010). The legalization of gambling in Canada. In B. Burch & N. Larsen (Eds.). *Law in Society* (3rd ed.). Toronto, ON: Nelson.

Cunningham, J. A., Hodgins, D. C., & Toneatto, T. (2009). Natural history of gambling problems: Results from a general population survey. *Sucht: Journal of Addiction Research and Practice*, 55(2), 98-103. doi: 10.1463/2009.02.05

Cunningham, J. A., Hodgins, D. C., Toneatto, T., Rai, A., & Cordingley, J. (2009). Pilot study of a personalized feedback intervention for problem gamblers. *Behavior Therapy*, 40(3), 219-224. doi:10.1016/j.beth.2008.06.005

Currie, S. R., Miller, N., Hodgins, D. C., & Wang, J. (2009). Defining a threshold of harm from gambling for population health surveillance research. *International Gambling Studies*, 9(1), 19-38. doi: 10.1080/14459790802652209

Diskin, K. M., & Hodgins, D. C. (2009). A randomized controlled trial of a single session motivational intervention for concerned gamblers. *Behaviour Research and Therapy*, 47(5), 382-388. doi:10.1016/j.brat.2009.01.018.

Hodgins, D. C., Currie, S. R., Currie, G., & Fick, G. H. (2009). Randomized trial of brief motivational treatments

for pathological gamblers: More is not necessarily better. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 77(5), 950-960. doi: 10.1037/a0016318

Hodgins, D. C., Williams, R., & Munro, G. (2009). Workplace responsibility, stress, alcohol availability and norms as predictors of alcohol consumption-related problems among employed workers. *Substance Use & Misuse*, 44(14), 2062-2069. doi: 10.3109/10826080902855173

Humphreys, B. R., & Ruseski, J. E. (2010). Problems with data on the sport industry. *Journal of Sports Economics*, 11(1), 60-76. doi: 10.1177/1527002509354893

Humphreys, B. R. (2010). Point spread shading and behavioral biases in NBA betting markets. *Rivista Di Diritto Ed Economia Dello Sport*, 6(1), 13-26.

O'Brien Cousins, S., & Witcher, C. S. G. (2007). Who plays bingo in later life? The sedentary lifestyles of 'little old ladies'. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 23(1), 95-112. doi: 10.1007/s10899-006-9030-8

Shead, N. W., & Hodgins, D. C. (2009). Affect-regulation expectancies among gamblers. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 25(3), 357-375. doi: 10.1007/s10899-009-9131-2

Shead, N. W., & Hodgins, D. C. (2009). Probability discounting of gains and losses: Implications for risk attitudes and impulsivity. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*, 92(1), 1-16. doi: 10.1901/jeab.2009.92-1

Smith, G. (2010). Review of proposed book entitled *Gambling-For-Profit: Historical Contingency and Jagged Growth* for the University of Toronto Press.

Smith, G. J. (2009). Sports betting in Canada. *The International Sports Law Journal*, 1-2, 106-111.

Smith, G. J. (2008). Gambling with the future: The evolution of aboriginal gaming in Canada [Book Review]. *Native Studies Review*, 17(2), 165-167.

Smith, G. & Rubenstein, D. (2009). *Accountability and social responsibility in Ontario's legal gambling regime*. A peer reviewed report prepared for the Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre.

Suurvali, H., Cordingley, J., Hodgins, D. C., & Cunningham, J. (2009). Barriers to seeking help for gambling problems: A review of the empirical literature. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 25(3), 407-424. doi: 10.1007/s10899-009-9129-9

Suurvali, H., Hodgins, D. C., & Cunningham, J. A. (2010). Motivators for resolving or seeking help for gambling problems: A review of the empirical literature. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 26(1), 1-33. doi: 10.1007/s10899-009-9151-y

Walker, G. J., Deng, J., & Spiers, A. (2009). Leisure, acculturative stress, and immigrants' subjective well-being. In B. D. Kivel & H. Gibson (Eds.), *Abstracts from the 2009 Leisure Research Symposium National Recreation and Park Association Congress, Salt Lake City, Utah October 13-16, 2009* (pp. 192-195). Ashburn, VA: National Recreation and Park Association.

Williams, DJ, & Walker, G. J. (2009). Does offender gambling on the inside continue on the outside? Insights from correctional professionals on gambling and re-entry. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, 48, 402-415. doi: 10.1080/10509670902979561

Williams, R. J., & Wood, R. T. (2010). *Stacked deck: A high school curriculum for the prevention of problem gambling*. Center City, MN: Hazelden.

Williams, R. J., & Volberg, R. A. (2009). Impact of survey description, administration format, and exclusionary criteria on population prevalence rates of problem gambling. *International Gambling Studies*, 9(2), 101-117. doi: 10.1080/14459790902911653

Wood, R. T., & Williams, R. J. (2009). *Internet gambling: Prevalence, patterns, problems, and policy options*. Final Report prepared for the Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre; Guelph, Ontario.

CORE PURPOSES

The focus of the Institute is to facilitate and support excellent academic research that guides the development of effective public policy and contributes to developing the depth and breadth of scientific knowledge.

The Institute's core purposes are:

- 1 To expand the depth and breadth of scientific knowledge of gaming and gambling in the following four broad-based and overlapping domains:**
 - a) Bio-psychological and health-care**
 - b) Socio-cultural**
 - c) Economic**
 - d) Government and industry policy and practice**

... Continued on page 10

NEWSLETTER

Following is a list of the articles published in the Institute newsletter, **'Gambling Research Reveals - an update on gambling research in Alberta'** over the course of 2009-10:

Issue 3, Volume 9 – February / March 2010

Knowledge Translation (KT): Questions and answers with Donna Angus, Manager of Knowledge Transfer Initiatives for Alberta Innovates-Health Solutions / Recently Initiated Institute-funded investigations

Issue 2, Volume 9 – December / January 2010

Emergent Clinical Issues in Problem Gambling: Alberta Gaming Research Institute's 9th Annual Conference / Internet gambling and youth in Quebec: A risky behaviour for adolescents?

Issue 1, Volume 9 – October / November 2009

Prisoner gambling: Correctional considerations and implications for re-entry

Issue 6, Volume 8 - August / September 2009

How do risk-related behaviours compare with gambling? An interview with Erin Gibbs Van Brunschot

Issue 5, Volume 8 - June / July 2009

Against the odds: Dr. Bonnie Lee believes repairing marriage bonds can bolster recovery from gambling addiction / Additional presentation summaries from the Institute's Eighth Annual Conference

Issue 4, Volume 8 – April / May 2009

Highlights from the Institute's Eighth Annual Conference / Poker and artificial intelligence – Dr. Michael Bowling / Protective features for Sweden's online gamblers – Jakob Jonsson / The development of British Columbia's online lottery presence – Kevin Gass

The newsletter is available in electronic format only – see <http://www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/newsletter.cfm>

CONFERENCES

Typically, the Institute sponsors one major annual conference in each fiscal year. The primary purpose of these forums is to provide an opportunity for sharing research with national and international affiliates on topical issues. Due to venue availability, the 2009-10 conference on Internet Gambling was held on March 28 and 29, 2009 and included in the 2008-09 Annual Report. The conference program is posted on the Institute web site – see

http://www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/2009_conference.cfm.

Summaries of the highlights of the conference are included in the April/May issue of the Institute newsletter (Issue 4, Volume 8).



... Continued from page 9

- 2 To promote or direct research in those priorities and areas identified as part of the Strategic Research plan
- 3 To sponsor peer-reviewed research of the highest academic quality and related to emergent gaming activities
- 4 To act as a clearinghouse for gaming research and as a gateway to research materials
- 5 To act to facilitate the ready access to, and the development of, the applicable library collections of the Institute universities
- 6 To forge strong collaborative links with national and international scholars and organizations involved in gaming/gambling research and studies
- 7 To provide education about current knowledge through research publications and reporting of research results

alberta's evolving gambling landscape

The comprehensive Gaming Licensing Policy Review produced in 2001 by the Alberta Liquor and Gaming Commission (AGLC) recognized that Alberta's expansive gambling operations needed to be balanced by a greater emphasis on social responsibility and stressed the importance of gambling policy being guided by empirically based research. As a consequence of this change of direction, a Division of Social Responsibility was created within the AGLC in 2005. Examples of recent AGLC social responsibility initiatives include:

- **Mandatory training programs on problem gambling for all registered gaming workers.**
- **The placement of Responsible Gambling Information Centres (RGICs) in casinos. The RGICs are staffed by professional treatment providers and offer problem gambling counseling and referrals. Currently there are RGICs in 16 casinos and plans underway to have them in all Alberta casinos within two years. In the few years since this program's inception there have been over 80,000 on-site interventions.**
- **The number of VLT locations in the province has been reduced by 20%.**
- **The Voluntary Self-Exclusion program has been strengthened.**
- **Responsible Gaming Features (RGFs) (e.g., pop-up warnings about problem gambling, slowing down play, notifying players about the time and money they have spent on the machine and so forth) have been tried on electronic gambling machines in an attempt to mitigate harm to vulnerable players. This remains a work in progress as the efficacy of the various features is still being evaluated.**
- **ATMs have been placed farther away from electronic gaming machines and where possible outside of the gambling venue.**
- **AGLC sponsors an annual "Responsible Gambling Awareness Week" in mid-October that highlights its responsible gambling initiatives through ads, gambling venue presentations and stakeholder meetings.**

The AGLC focus on gambling-related social responsibility issues has resulted in an enhanced spirit of cooperation between AGLC and AGRI. To wit, AGRI researchers helped revamp the VSE program; AGLC has facilitated AGRI researcher access to important data and helped recruit survey participants; AGRI researchers have had input into the AGLC's responsible gaming strategy and Responsible Gambling Awareness week, and likewise, AGLC representatives take part in AGRI stakeholder meetings and AGRI's annual conference; and AGRI research is increasingly an important consideration in gambling policy deliberations.

Contributed by: Dr. Garry Smith, Gambling Research Specialist, Faculty of Extension in consultation with Kent Verlik, Executive Director, Social Responsibility and Anne Clayton, Manager, Strategic Policy, Strategic Services, Corporate Services, Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission

financial statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2010

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auditor's report



TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ALBERTA GAMING RESEARCH INSTITUTE

I have audited the statements of financial position of the Alberta Gaming Research Institute as at March 31, 2010 and 2009 and the statements of operations and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Institute's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audits.

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

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Institute as at March 31, 2010 and 2009 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Edmonton, Alberta
August 20, 2010

Originally signed by
Merwan N. Saher, CA
Auditor General

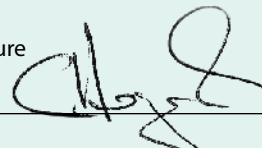
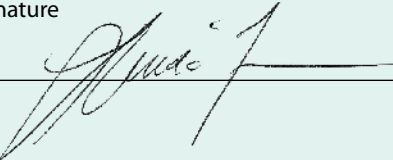
Note: The official version of this Report of the Auditor General, and the information the Report covers, is in printed form.

ALBERTA GAMING RESEARCH INSTITUTE
statements of financial position

AS AT MARCH 31

	2010	2009
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 4)	\$ 2,495,051	\$ 2,600,876
Accounts receivable (Note 5)	-	815
Prepaid expenses	6,160	-
Capital Assets (Note 6)	-	732
	<u>\$ 2,501,211</u>	<u>\$ 2,602,423</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and deferred contributions	\$ 6,506	\$ 16,875
Net Assets		
Net assets at beginning of year	2,585,548	2,721,114
Net operating results	(90,843)	(135,566)
Net assets at end of year	<u>2,494,705</u>	<u>2,585,548</u>
	<u>\$ 2,501,211</u>	<u>\$ 2,602,423</u>

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

Signature		Position	Audit Committee Chair	Date	20/8/10
			AGRI		
Signature		Position	Audit Committee Member	Date	20/08/10
			AGRI		

ALBERTA GAMING RESEARCH INSTITUTE
statements of operations

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

	2010 Budget (Note 11)	2010 Actual	2009 Actual
Revenues			
Contributions from the Department of Solicitor General	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000
Interest and Other Revenue	15,000	-	27,562
Total Revenues	<u>1,515,000</u>	<u>1,500,000</u>	<u>1,527,562</u>
Expenses (Schedule 1)			
Research	1,430,000	1,120,438	1,162,955
Infrastructure and Library	220,000	197,253	226,236
Research Linkages	50,000	23,881	23,652
Research Administration	270,000	249,271	250,285
Total Expenses	<u>1,970,000</u>	<u>1,590,843</u>	<u>1,663,128</u>
Net Operating Results	<u>\$ (455,000)</u>	<u>\$ (90,843)</u>	<u>\$ (135,566)</u>

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

ALBERTA GAMING RESEARCH INSTITUTE

statements of cash flows

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

	2010	2009
Operating Transactions		
Contributions from the Solicitor General	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000
Interest and Other Revenue	-	27,562
Research Expenditures	(1,120,438)	(1,162,880)
Infrastructure and Library Expenditures	(212,164)	(216,425)
Research Linkages Expenditures	(22,765)	(23,652)
Research Administration Expenditures	(250,458)	(247,799)
Cash used for Operating Transactions	(105,825)	(123,194)
Capital Transactions		
Leasehold improvements and purchase of capital assets	-	-
Cash Flows from Capital Transactions	-	-
Net Cash Used	(105,825)	(123,194)
Cash and cash equivalents, Beginning of Year	\$ 2,600,876	\$ 2,724,070
Cash and cash equivalents, End of Year	<u>\$ 2,495,051</u>	<u>\$ 2,600,876</u>

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

ALBERTA GAMING RESEARCH INSTITUTE

notes to the financial statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

Note 1 Authority and Reporting Entity

The Alberta Gaming Research Institute (the Institute) is an unincorporated organization. It is a research consortium comprised of the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, and the University of Lethbridge (the Institute Universities). Relations between the Institute and the Government of Alberta are defined in an Agreement between the Institute Universities and the Alberta Government dated April 1, 2006. The Institute is directed by a Board comprised of seven members including two appointees (senior administrators and researchers) from each of the three Institute Universities in addition to a representative who is appointed by the Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security.

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

Note 2 Purpose

The purpose of the Institute is to:

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

Note 3 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Reporting Practices

REVENUE

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

EXPENSES

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

ASSETS

Capital assets are recorded at historical cost less accumulated amortization. Capital assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives at the following annual rates:

Furniture and equipment	20%
Computer equipment	33 1/3%
Leasehold improvements	Over lease term

LIABILITIES

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

NET ASSETS

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

FAIR VALUE

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

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

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

Note 4 Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are held in trust by the University of Alberta and consist of short-term investments comprised primarily of certificates of deposit, guaranteed investment certificates, government treasury bills and commercial paper with a maturity between 90 days and one year. Interest earned on the Institute's cash balance is credited to the Institute and is reflected in these statements. For the 2010 fiscal year ending March 31, 2010, the average effective yield was 0% (2009: 1.19%). Due to the short-term nature of the investments, the carrying value approximates fair value.

Note 5 Accounts Receivable

	2010	2009
Airfare overcharge	\$ -	\$ 28
Conference sponsorship	-	750
Stationery credit	-	37
	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 815</u>

Note 6 Capital Assets

	2010			2009
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	Net Book Value
Computer equipment	\$ 2,396	\$ 2,396	\$ -	\$ 732

Note 7 Grants to Institute Universities

Grants are provided to the Institute Universities for capacity building, nodal research development, library and collections, and research node administration for gaming related operations. The following table provides an accounting for the grant funds received, and amounts spent by the Institute Universities, to the year-end. Any unspent funds held by an Institute University at the conclusion of these programs or activities will be returned to the Institute.

	2010				2009
	University of Alberta	University of Calgary	University of Lethbridge	Total	Total
Opening balance	\$ 398,543	\$ 193,882	\$ 103,123	\$ 695,548	\$ 585,990
Funding					
Capacity building	100,000	100,000	100,000	300,000	300,000
Economics position	85,000	-	-	85,000	85,000
Nodal research development	30,000	30,000	30,000	90,000	90,000
Library and collections	-	-	150,000	150,000	150,000
Research node administration	15,000	15,000	15,000	45,000	45,000
	230,000	145,000	295,000	670,000	670,000
Total Funding Available	628,543	338,882	398,123	1,365,548	1,255,990
Actual Expenditures	(201,176)	(113,097)	(324,880)	(639,153)	(560,442)
Unexpended Funds	\$ 427,367	\$ 225,785	\$ 73,243	\$ 726,395	\$ 695,548

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

Note 8 Commitments

The Institute has the following commitments:

Year	Research Grants ^(a)	Lease ^(b)	Economics position ^(c)	Scholarships ^(d)	Total
2011	\$ 138,461	\$ 13,843	\$ 85,000	\$ 61,000	\$ 298,304
2012	1,823	-	85,000	5,000	91,823
2013 and after	-	-	191,250	-	191,250
Total	\$ 140,284	\$ 13,843	\$ 361,250	\$ 66,000	\$ 581,377

(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 open application period for small (developmental) grants (maximum of \$10,000 for up to one year), the Board approves researcher identified initiatives.

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

(b) LEASE

The Institute entered into a lease with the University of Alberta for the period July 1, 2003 to March 31, 2006. To increase accessibility and accommodate the increased business activity of the Institute, effective April 1, 2004, the lease was transferred (with no penalty) to a new campus location. The Letter of Understanding regarding this move was signed on January 22, 2004 and necessary space improvements and computer technical changes were contracted. The Institute renewed the lease for the period April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011 (with a renewal option).

(c) ECONOMICS CHAIR

Subject to specific conditions being met, on March 24, 2004, the Board approved a total of \$595,000 payable at the rate of \$85,000/annum for seven years to support the establishment of a research position in the Department of Economics at the University of Alberta. An appointment was made on July 1, 2007.

(d) SCHOLARSHIP AND RESEARCH ALLOWANCE AWARDS

In the interest of enhancing new research capacity, the Board implemented a two-level scholarship and research allowance award program effective September 2008 for the Fall 2008/Winter 2009 terms. Graduate level scholarship awards are in the amount of \$13,000 with an additional or separate research allowance award of \$3,000. Doctoral students receive an annual maximum scholarship of \$20,000 with a research award allowance of \$5,000.

Note 9 Economic Dependence

The Institute receives its principal funding from the Department of Solicitor General and Public Security. The five year agreement between the Alberta Government and the Institute which expires March 31, 2011 provides funding of \$1,500,000 per annum. The Institute's ability to maintain viable operations is dependent upon continued support from the Alberta Government. Permission has been obtained from the Department of Solicitor General and Public Security to continue the trust account until March 31, 2011. The Institute and the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission are negotiating towards a new funding agreement.

Note 10 Related Party Transactions

During the year, there were no related party transactions.

Note 11 Budget

The 2009/10 budget was approved by the Institute's Board of Directors on March 26, 2009.

ALBERTA GAMING RESEARCH INSTITUTE

schedule of expenses

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

Schedule 1

	2010 Budget	2010 Actual	2009 Actual
Research			
Grant competition/strategic research (1)	\$ 955,000	\$ 645,438	\$ 647,008
Position and developmental funding (2)	385,000	385,000	425,947
Nodal research development (3)	90,000	90,000	90,000
	1,430,000	1,120,438	1,162,955
Infrastructure and Library			
Library and collections (4)	150,000	150,000	150,000
Events, colloquia (5)	25,000	2,253	31,236
Research nodes (6)	45,000	45,000	45,000
	220,000	197,253	226,236
Research Linkages			
Communications (7)	30,000	20,302	20,073
Exchanges (8)	20,000	3,579	3,579
	50,000	23,881	23,652
Research Administration			
Personnel costs (9)	215,000	213,750	204,020
Contract services (10)	10,000	-	-
Administrative hub (11)	45,000	35,521	46,265
	270,000	249,271	250,285
Total Expenses	\$ 1,970,000	\$ 1,590,843	\$ 1,663,128

- Note 1
- Includes annual research grant competition and Board identified areas of strategic, interjurisdictional, and interorganizational collaborative research.
- Note 2
- Grants to Institute Universities (\$100,000/university/year) to attract research scholars, small grant developmental funding, scholarship and research allowance awards and support (\$85,000 held centrally) for targeted position (economics).
- Note 3
- Grants to Institute Universities (\$30,000/university/year) to develop internal research expertise.
- 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 and gaming matters, development and maintenance of the Institute website, and funding for a junior grade professional librarian.
- Note 5
- Supports program of formative and summative learning events and forums. Includes cost of an annual conference bringing together Institute associates, topical experts, and other interested persons.
- Note 6
- Costs associated with administering node operations including local/rotating board meetings, internal and administrative support.
- Note 7
- Includes print materials and promotional broadcasts, annual report development, writing, and production costs, and conference attendance by Institute representatives to facilitate information dissemination.
- Note 8
- Includes support for Alberta scholars and experts to travel to other locales to investigate gambling-related matters as well as the travel of national and foreign scholars and experts to Alberta to assist with Institute research.
- Note 9
- Salary and benefits compensation (Executive Director and administrative support).
- Note 10
- Special project consulting (eg. document drafting, graphic design work).
- Note 11
- Includes business and board members meeting travel, hub operational requirements.

The Institute is governed and managed by a seven member board consisting of two directors appointed by and from each partner university and an external member appointed by the Alberta Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security. The Executive Director serves in an advisory role on the Board.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MURPHY, MRS. SHEILA

Mrs. Sheila Murphy is appointed to the Institute Board by the Alberta provincial government as an external member. She has previously served on the University of Calgary Senate (1990-1996) as well as the Air Cadet League of Canada and Cubs and Scouts of Canada Society. She owned and operated the Henderson Colleges of Business from 1972 to 1997. She has served on the Institute Board since 1999.



EL-GUEBALY, DR. NADY

Nady el-Guebaly is Professor and Head, Addictions Division, Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine at the University of Calgary. He is past founding Medical Director of 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's Board since it was established in 1999 and as its Board Chair since July 2002.



ELIO, DR. RENEE

Renee Elio is Associate Vice-President (Research) and Professor of Computing Science at the University of Alberta. She joined the faculty at the University of Alberta in 1985. She currently serves on the Board of the University of Alberta Health Law Institute, the IBM-UofA Centre for Advanced Studies, and the Pacific Institute for Mathematical Sciences. She previously served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Alberta Research Council and for the Government of Alberta's Information and Communication Technologies Institute. Her research concerns computational models of higher-level human cognitive behavior, such as learning, reasoning, and planning.

FISKE, DR. JO-ANNE

Jo-Anne Fiske serves as Dean of Graduate Studies at the University of Lethbridge. An anthropologist, she researches broad issues of social policy and political economy with a particular focus on impacts of structural inequities and women. Her research has been funded by Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, BC Centre of Excellence on Women's Health, Status of Women Canada and the National Network of Aboriginal Mental Health Researchers. Her current research addresses links between social stigma in childhood and family gambling patterns. She has served on the Institute Board since April 2007.



GIBBS VAN BRUNSCHOT, DR. ERIN

Erin Gibbs van Brunschot is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and is Associate Dean, Academic Programs, in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Calgary. Her research interests include crime and deviance, with a particular interest in the study of security and risk at both the individual and institutional levels. She has served on the Institute Board since August 2007.



HOSGOOD, DR. CHRISTOPHER (CHRIS)

Chris Hosgood is Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Lethbridge and a member of the Department of History. His research has focused on consumerism and popular culture in Victorian Britain and, more recently in Canada, the social history of gambling in Alberta. He has served on the Institute Board since December 2001.



PLOURDE, DR. ANDRE

Andre Plourde is a Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Alberta. He joined the University of Alberta in 1998. He has served on numerous adjudication committees for granting agencies and in advisory capacities to government departments. In 2007, he was President of the International Association for Energy Economics. He served on the Institute Board from December 2007 to June 2009.



...Continued on page 24

WEST, DR. DOUGLAS

Douglas S. 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, MS. VICKII

Vickii Williams has served as the Executive Director of the Alberta Gaming Research Institute since its inception 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.



contact information

NODE COORDINATORS

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Dr. Garry Smith

Gambling Research Specialist
Faculty of Extension

Phone: (780) 492-2770
Fax: (780) 492-8265
Email: garry.j.smith@ualberta.ca

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Dr. David Hodgins

Professor of Clinical Psychology
Department of Psychology

Phone: (403) 220-3371
Fax: (403) 282-8249
Email: dhodgins@ucalgary.ca

UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE

Dr. Robert Williams

Professor
Faculty of Health Sciences

Phone: (403) 382-7128
Fax: (403) 329-2668
Email: robert.williams@uleth.ca

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

HUB Mall
University of Alberta
8909S-112 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2C5

Phone: (780) 492-2856
Fax: (780) 492-6125
Email: abgaming@ualberta.ca

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Vickii Williams

Phone: (780) 492-2817
Fax: (780) 492-6125
vickii.williams@ualberta.ca

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Administrative Assistant

Phone: (780) 492-2856
Fax: (780) 492-6125

INSTITUTE LIBRARIAN

Rhys Stevens

Phone: (403) 329-5176
Fax: (403) 329-2234
rhys.stevens@uleth.ca

MEDIA CONTACT

Phone: (780) 492-2856
Email: abgaming@ualberta.ca

credits

Writers: Vickii Williams and others
(as indicated throughout document)

Editors: Rhys Stevens, Janet Dammann, and Vickii Williams

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Alberta Gaming Research Institute
HUB Mall
8909S - 112 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada T6G 2C5

