

Alberta

Gaming Research

Institute

Introduction

The primary aim of the Alberta Gaming Research Institute, a consortium of the Universities of Alberta, Calgary, and Lethbridge, is to support academic research related to gambling. It is achieved through sponsoring specific research initiatives, building research capacity at the partner Universities, organizing colloquia and conference events, and disseminating information via the library and resource service program and other publication mechanisms, both print and electronic (www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca).

Collaboration among Alberta's principal research universities (University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and University of Lethbridge) provides the Institute with considerable versatility and the opportunity to match researchers with specific projects. The Institute also fosters interdisciplinary and inter-University research both provincially and internationally. The Institute is an entity linking policy-makers, community organizations, the gambling industry, other major stakeholders, and the general public in improving understanding of the impacts of gambling.

The operational/administrative hub for the Institute is located on the University of Alberta campus (4-05H, University Extension Centre) and is staffed by a full-time Executive Director and Administrative Assistant. A full-time Institute Librarian is located at the University of Lethbridge.

Business Plan 2003-06

Alberta Gaming Research Institute Board

The Institute is governed and managed by a Board consisting of two Directors appointed by and from each partner University and the Chair of the Alberta Gaming Research Council. The Executive Director serves in an advisory role to the Board.

Alberta Gaming Research Council

The Alberta Gaming Research Council is a broad-based advisory group to the Minister of Gaming. The Council is made up of six public representatives and one representative from each of the following organizations: Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, Alberta Health and Wellness and Alberta Gaming. The Council was established to help direct the research activities of the Alberta Gaming Research Institute.

Partner Universities

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

Institute's Vision

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

Institute's Mission

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

Core Businesses

The Alberta Gaming Research Institute has four core businesses:

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

Core Businesses, Goals, and Key Strategies

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

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

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

Goal	Key Strategies
1.1 Leading-edge research is conducted into each of the four identified academic domains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities and support for new academics to conduct research in this field • Ensure that a peer review process enhances the quality of research. • Present scholarly findings and research outcomes to a wide audience (lay and expert) • Sponsor, organize, and support conferences, symposia, and colloquia as forums for communicating research outcomes to various stakeholder groups • Encourage researchers to publish and promote their research • Publish Institute-sponsored research in scholarly journals
1.2 The visibility of gambling-related academic research in Alberta is enhanced	

Performance Measures			
	Target 2003-2004	Target 2004-2005	Target 2005-2006
• Number of disciplines and sub-fields represented in gambling-related research	10	12	14
• Number of research grants pending completion (cumulative)	28	30	32
• Number of projects completed	9	11	12
• Number of academic papers published in reviewed publications	12	16	20

Business Plan 2003-06

• Number of academic papers presented in academic settings	18	23	28
• Number of Institute-(co)sponsored research communication events	8	10	12
• Number of attendees at Institute-(co)sponsored research events	500	550	600
• Number of visits to website per month	500	550	650

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

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

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

Goal	Key Strategies		
2.1 The capacity to undertake gambling-related research at each of the Institute universities is increased	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain researcher-to-researcher link within, among, and outside the Institute Universities• Identify collaborative gambling-related research opportunities• Ensure Institute presence and representation at each of the Institute Universities• Maintain tri-university library liaison• Establish collaborative arrangements with similar Institute collections• Maintain website currency		
2.2 Provide comprehensive library resource support			
2.3 Develop the research capacity to address each of the domains (with particular reference to Alberta Gaming Research Council identified concerns)			
Performance Measures			
	Target 2003-2004	Target 2004-2005	Target 2005-2006
• Number of researchers engaged in gambling-related research	35	38	42
• Number of graduate students engaged in gambling-related research	7	10	12
• Number of university	12	13	14

Business Plan 2003-06

courses with gambling educative component			
• Number of university students exposed to gambling research	200	300	350
• Number of library queries	75	100	110

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

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

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

Performance Measures			
	Target 2003-2004	Target 2004-2005	Target 2005-2006
• Number of reviewers from outside Alberta	60	75	85
• Number of inter-university collaborative projects	7	10	12
• Number of out-of-province academic researchers involved in Institute activities (workshops, conferences, etc.)	40	50	60

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

Business Plan 2003-06

Alberta Gaming Research Institute Operations Budget 2003-06

	Comparable Actual		Budget 2002-03				
	2000-01	2001-02	Original	Revised	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Revenues	1,345,000	500,000	1,500,000	4,000,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	2,000,000
Expenses							
Core Business #1							
Grant competition	286,813	335,771	620,000	575,000	800,000	780,000	1,050,000
Directed research	-	-	-	-	450,000	350,000	350,000
Core business #4 admin costs	69,591	118,465	140,000	130,000	150,000	150,000	160,000
	356,404	454,236	760,000	705,000	1,400,000	1,280,000	1,560,000
Core Business #2							
Position funding	300,000	-	300,000	300,000	420,000	420,000	565,000
Nodal research development	90,000	-	90,000	180,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
Core business #4 admin costs	25,000	20,000	30,000	25,000	30,000	35,000	40,000
	415,000	20,000	420,000	505,000	540,000	545,000	695,000
Library and collections	150,000	430	170,000	170,000	150,000	160,000	175,000
Events, colloquia	11,708	6,106	35,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	25,000
Research nodes administration	45,000	-	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
Core business #4 admin costs	10,000	10,000	15,000	10,000	15,000	20,000	30,000
	216,708	16,536	265,000	240,000	225,000	240,000	275,000
Core Business #3							
Communications	17,027	7,583	20,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	20,000
Exchanges / conferences	2,328	10,479	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	30,000
Core business #4 admin costs	7,500	7,500	15,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	15,000
	26,855	25,562	55,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	65,000
Core Business #4							
Pro-rated under Core Businesses #1 -3							
Total Expense	1,014,967	516,334	1,500,000	1,490,000	2,205,000	2,105,000	2,595,000
Net Operating Results	330,033		-	2,510,000			
		(16,334)			(705,000)	(605,000)	(595,000)
Net Assets, beg of yr	133,936	463,969	447,635	447,635	2,957,635	2,252,635	1,647,635
Net Assets, end of yr	463,969	447,635	447,635	2,957,635	2,252,635	1,647,635	1,052,635