Controversial Topics in Gambling: Alberta Gambling Research Institute's 13th Annual Conference

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Organized Crime and the Connection to Illegal Gambling

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Introduction

- Who is this Guy??????
  - I am like you, I have an interest in Gambling
  - But, I am different.
    - Aim to Dismantle, Disrupt and Convict Organized Crime Members

- OPP has a long History in Investigating Illegal Gambling
  - Since 1942

- 1996 O.I.G.E.U. created
  - Joint Forces Operation with 40 members
In 2009, Criminal Intelligence Service Canada estimated over 750 OC Groups across Canada.

Criminal Code of Canada defines “Criminal Organizations”
- Composed of three or more persons
- Main Activities is to commits a serious offence
- Indirect/direct gain (includes financial)

Aug 2010, Amends to the CC “Serious Offences” were updated and included most of the Illegal Gambling charges.
OC and IG

• OC require any Racket that is profitable.
  • Illegal Gambling is very profitable

• Little concern with Police Enforcement.
  • Generally low knowledge of Part VII of the CC
  • Lenient Court Imposed Sentences
  • Costly and Labour Intensive Investigations
OC and IG

- Little concern with Severe Jail Sentences
  - (Changing since amendments to CC in August of 2010)

- Illegal Gambling
  - NO Product, Just a Service!!!!!!!

- Illegal Gambling Activities
  - VGM / VLT
  - Cardhouses / Underground Casino
  - Bookmaking or Sportsbook
Mustano Brothers and “Pops” Papalia

- Papalia was “God Father” of Ontario and “godfather” to Pat and Angelo Mustano.
- A Hamilton Police investigation named Project “Windfall” was targeting gaming activities and later the murders of Carmen BARILLARO and John (POPS) PAPALIA.
- May 31, 1997, PAPALIA was shot and killed outside of Galaxy Vending, Railway Street, Hamilton, Ontario.
- Pat and Angelo charged with first-degree murder and convicted of ordering the contract killings.

Known Enforcer for the COTRONI family.

Shot while departing one of his gaming houses.

Information from Project “JUICE” helped solved case.

Charles GAGNE convicted for the murder.
“Independent Bookies”

- Carlo DiMatteo (11 Feb 60).
- Worked at the Brampton, Ontario Chrysler Plant. Known Bookmaker within the plant.
- Early June 2005, two known males threatened DiMatteo at his front door demanding 50% of the book.
- Late June 2005, found murdered in his home with a single gun shot wound to the head.
- Pasquale Ferrari and Salvatore Zingareillo convicted in 2009.
Recent Results of OPP assisted Investigations

- **Project Derby**
  - Asian Organized Crime in Kitchener and Peel Regions
  - 11 individuals charges with 44 CC Offences relating to Part VII of the CC

- **Project Amethyst**
  - TOC in the National Capital Area
  - Offshore Internet Bookmaking
  - 21 individuals charges with 54 CC Offences related to Part VII of the CC including Criminal Organizations.

- **Project O-River**
  - TOC / HA in the Greater Toronto Area
  - Offshore Internet Bookmaking
  - 32 individuals charged with CC offences related to Part VII of the CC including Criminal Organizations
Recent Results of OPP assisted Investigations

• Project Helensburgh
  • AOC in the Windsor Area
  • 11 individuals charged with 43 CC Offences related to Part VII of the CC

• Project Kwadrant (Calgary RCMP IPOC)
  • AOC in the Calgary, Alberta
  • Police seized 4.5 kilograms of cocaine, 2 Lamborghini, 2 Porches, a strip mall and 4 homes
  • 5 individuals charged with Illegal Gambling, tax evasion, money laundering, possession of proceeds of crime and Criminal Organization charges
Trends with Organized Crime and Illegal Gambling