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

Aitchison, Katherine J.; Castellani, Brian; Chapman, Craig S.; Christensen, Darren R.; Crawford, Sandy; Currie, Cheryl; Downs, Carolyn; Euston, David; Forrest, David; Goodyear, Bradley G....

http://hdl.handle.net/1880/49991
conference proceedings

Downloaded from PRISM: https://prism.ucalgary.ca
Merits of a National Gambling Review in Canada

Does federal oversight and involvement need to be reconsidered in relation to the Criminal Code and the Canada Health Act?
Gambling in Canada is a Substantial Business

• In 2011-12, gambling generated $13.9 billion in revenue
• $7.2 billion (51.8%) was transferred to provincial governments
• This revenue represented 2.3% of total provincial budgets
• 35,783 gambling venues - 106,040 games; 32,300 lottery terminals
Under the Criminal Code of Canada, gambling is legal only when *conducted and managed* by a provincial government;

• Failing to comply with these conditions violates the law.

• *Morris, Rose, Ledgett* review: off-loading to private sector operators violated the requirement to “conduct”.
Further specify “Conduct”

- Analysis of benefits/disadvantages of private sector involvement
- Exceptions, if any, to direct provision of operations
- Conditions attached to any exceptions
- Identify a federal oversight role, enforcement powers, and penalties
Further specify “Manage”

Consider:

• the merits of legislative duty of care: negligence, reasonable, foreseeable, proximal relationship
• requirements and standards for the prevention of harm
• measures to impede illegal activity
Other Thorny Issues to be Considered

- Management of the proceeds of crime
- Mandatory identification of patrons
- Return of losses in findings of negligence
- Penalties for negligent or illegal staff activity
- Inclusion of gambling in the Competitions Act
- Proper protections and oversight for inherent conflict of interest
The Way Forward

- Identify a champion
- Multi-author justification paper
- Public mobilization – petitions and lobbying of MPs & MPPs
- Engage high profile Canadians
- Engage gambling researchers and program staff
- Outcome: a parliamentary committee with powers