

A YEAR OF TRANSITION



ALBERTA GAMBLING RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Annual Report 2015 - 16


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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).

For additional information on research grants and other Institute initiatives, see

<http://www.abgamblinginstitute.ca>

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A photograph of a white paint palette containing a large pool of bright blue paint. A paint roller with a blue cover is partially submerged in the paint. A blue sponge is also visible, resting on the paint. The background is a light-colored surface.

Times of transition are strenuous, but I love them. They are an opportunity to purge, rethink priorities, and be intentional about new habits. We can make our new normal any way we want.

– Kristin Armstrong

Message from the Board Chair

On behalf of the Board of Directors I am pleased to present the 16th Annual Report of the Alberta Gambling Research Institute for the period ending March 31, 2016.

The report summarizes AGRI's continuing contributions to the understanding of gambling as a multidimensional human activity, and to broaden and deepen that understanding.

This was the final year of AGRI's third five-year contract with the Province of Alberta. As such, it was a time to review our performance, the progress that has been made in gambling research, and AGRI's contribution to it. The most striking thing is that research in the area has grown enormously, with the number of published papers world-wide having grown about six-fold since 2000; this number is an estimate based on a particular bibliographic tool, but is consistent with our intuitive sense of what's happening. The good news is that Alberta researchers funded by AGRI continue to make important and original contributions to our understanding of gambling behaviour, its origins and consequences.

Following consultations with AGRI and the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission, the Government of Alberta has signed a new five-year contract with AGRI to continue its support for gambling research in Alberta. The contract embodies the same ethical framework that has characterized its predecessors: AGRI is at arms-length from the government so that decisions on which research is funded and which results are published is determined on the basis of peer review. At a time when the issue of funder bias is hotly debated internationally, we are fortunate to have and grateful for the enlightened attitude of the Government of Alberta.

We continue to seek stakeholder input into priorities for research and to broaden the range of methodologies used to study gambling as a complex human activity.



The publication of the final report of the multi-year, longitudinal study, Leisure, Lifestyle, & Lifecycle Project¹, provided important insights into how complex it is, and how any 'one size fits all' approach to the prevention of problem gambling is unlikely to be successful. The rapid growth of new avenues to gambling through electronic media is likely to raise new challenges to our understanding.

AGRI's initiative to assist the Partner Universities to increase the number

of active researchers in the field continues. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Fiona Nicoll who has joined the Department of Political Science of the University of Alberta.

During the year AGRI's administrative hub was moved from the University of Alberta to the University of Calgary. Happily, the transition appears to have been achieved without any disruption in services thanks to the efforts of our staff and the administrative staff of both universities.

A seismic shift in the organization occurred as the transition was implemented: Ms. Vickii Williams, Executive Director since AGRI was founded, retired. It would be hard to overstate the value to AGRI of Vickii's commitment, intelligence and diligence in stewarding the organization from birth to maturity. Thank you, Vickii. The new Executive Director, at the University of Calgary, is Ms. Glenda Wong.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the Board for their generous contributions of time and effort. I would like to thank the retiring Board Member, Dr. Matthew Letts of the University of Lethbridge, for his important contributions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Seamus O'Shea'.

Dr. Seamus O'Shea

¹ The Institute-funded Leisure, Lifestyle, & Lifecycle Project (LLLP) was a five year longitudinal study of gambling in Alberta completed in 2014-15. It identified a number of robust predictors of gambling and problem gambling.

Message from the Executive Director

This past year as the Executive Director of the Institute has been a truly wonderful learning experience. I have had the privilege of getting to know and work with the Institute's Board members, Research Director, Research Coordinators, Research Chairs, and Librarian. Each have provided me with significant insight into the workings of the Institute and its gambling research investigations. I would like to thank everyone for their support!



Vickii Williams. I look forward to further establishing the administrative office to ensure it provides resources for all Institute stakeholders, Board members, researchers, other staff, and any Albertans who require information regarding gambling-related research.

In closing, I am honoured to be the Executive Director of the Alberta Gambling Research Institute. The newfound relationships have certainly provided me with the necessary

This annual report provides a synopsis of the activities undertaken by the Institute. The activities are varied within the gambling research arena and include funding of research projects, awarding of graduate student scholarships, granting post-doctoral fellowships, and communicating gambling research findings. I'm sure that each of these sections will be informative, interesting, and insightful for those reading this annual report.

foundation to continue the success the Institute has had over its 16-year history.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Glenda Wong', written over a light green background.

Glenda Wong

As Executive Director, I have noted the high quality of gambling research from the Institute. This is certainly a testament to the commitment of the Institute's researchers, post-doctoral fellows, scholarship recipients, Board members, and the Partner Universities (Universities of Alberta, Calgary and Lethbridge). As well, the funding support received from the Alberta Government has played an instrumental role in the Institute's continued success.

The transition of the Institute's administrative offices from the University of Alberta to the University of Calgary this past year was a smooth process with myself and administrative assistant, Karen Buttner, settling in efficiently and effectively. I would like to thank all those who were involved in the transition, especially the Board, the Office of the Vice President (Research), University of Calgary, and past Executive Director,





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.

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 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. [For biographical information, see 'Board of Directors', page 33]



Back row: Seamus O'Shea, Erin Gibbs Van Brunschot, Sandy Dougall

Middle row: Cam Wild, Tom Strong, Nady el-Guebaly

Front row: Helen Kelley, Claudia Malacrida, Glenda Wong, Rhys Stevens

Gambling Research at the Partner Universities

Reflecting on the Year



Dr. Nady el-Guebaly, Research Director

I. Development a “Campus Alberta” Approach to Gambling Research

The traditional strength of the Alberta Gambling Research Institute (AGRI) has been in its multidisciplinary research. There have, however, been challenges with a relative lack of depth in each discipline (with the possible exception of Psychology) as a result of this broad-based approach. A cross-pollination strategy across the three Partner Universities undertaken during 2015-16 aimed to strengthen and create the necessary “critical mass” of research being undertaken in particular focal areas.

• RECRUITMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY POSITIONS

Gambling Research Chairs Dr. Darren Christensen at the University of Lethbridge and Dr. Daniel McGrath at the University of Calgary continued development of their research programs. In 2015-16, the University of Alberta initiated the recruitment of a Chair in Gambling Research in the Department of Political Science. Dr. Fiona Nicoll, most recently of the University of Queensland in Australia, was appointed to this position and she is anticipated to help AGRI strengthen the policy component of its research output.

• GATHERING A CRITICAL MASS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

We continued efforts to support and empower the student body affiliated with the Institute. In the 2015-16 scholarship application cycle, AGRI received a record number of high-quality scholarship applications at the Master's and Ph.D. levels. Twelve out of the 25 applications received were selected for awards which were to commence in the 2016-17 academic year. Of note, AGRI post-doctoral researcher Dr. Anna Lund obtained a tenure-track position at the Faculty of Law at the University of Alberta starting July 2016. Congratulations!

• DEVELOPING CROSS-CAMPUS RESEARCH INTEREST GROUPS

The Neuroscience group continued efforts to synergize both its animal and human research activities. They also developed a new collaboration with senior investigators from the University of British Columbia.

The Longitudinal study group was successful in recruiting post-doctoral researcher Dr. Seema Mutti for the University of Calgary. We look forward to her work.

II. Diversifying AGRI's Granting Options and the Role of the Proposal Adjudication Committee (PAC)

This year there were refinements to the job descriptions and expectations for post-doctoral positions.

The Proposal Adjudication Committee and its Chair, Dr. Erin Gibbs Van Brunschot, undertook exemplary extra work to prioritize grant applications. The past year's process was particularly competitive as grant applications exceeded the available research grant budget.

III. Strengthening Collaborations with Other Organizations

Provincially: Our main stakeholders continued to be the three Partner Universities and the Alberta Gaming & Liquor Commission (AGLC).

- University Advisory Committees met for a third consecutive year. Senior investigators from outside the field were invited to share their experience and become aware of AGRI's opportunities.

- The Responsible Gambling Council at AGLC continued to pursue its advisory role regarding the Alberta government's gambling strategy entitled "Both Sides of the Coin." AGRI Board members and researchers provided valuable input as part of the AGLC's Responsible Gambling Symposium event in October 2015.
- A consultation for a public survey of Internet gambling by AGLC was initiated and ongoing.

Nationally: Our main network was the Canadian Consortium for Gambling Research (CCGR). Glenda Wong, Executive Director, and I attended these teleconferences. A review of low-risk guidelines literature was initiated and ongoing.

Internationally: Our research profile evolved over the course of the year and is becoming more focussed on the further development of particular areas of gambling research excellence.

IV. Participating in the Institute's Data Management

Data repositories: The development of an optimal data repository structure for AGRI was ongoing and based upon Board guidelines.

Estimating our impact: Work continued to identify the optimal variables for the measurement of research impact. A survey of past holders of our Master's and Ph.D. scholarships was also approved.

Knowledge transfer (KT): A collaborative discussion with the Gambling Research Exchange Ontario (GREO) was initiated and ongoing.

In conclusion, 2015-16 marked the fifth and final year of the Institute's Funding Agreement. Much effort was devoted to the process of creating a new agreement. Thanks to the efforts of the Board and the Government of Alberta, we are proud to announce the renewal of our Funding Agreement for a further five years. We look forward to an invigorating strategic planning process in the year ahead.



Nady el-Guebaly MD
Research Director, AGRI



University of Alberta

Dr. Garry Smith, Research Coordinator

Dr. Garry Smith, Ph.D., is a University of Alberta Professor Emeritus who has been researching gambling-related topics for over 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.

University of Alberta faculty from the following academic departments were actively involved in gambling studies research in 2015-16: Psychology (Dr. Marcia Spetch and Dr. Esther Fujiwara), Educational Psychology (Dr. William Hanson), Physical Education and Recreation (Dr. Gordon Walker and Dr. Craig Chapman), Business (Dr. Barry Scholnick), Psychiatry (Dr. Katherine Aitchison), Law (Dr. Anna Lund), and Extension (Dr. Garry Smith).

In terms of faculty recruitment and development, two new scholars with an interest in gambling studies research joined the University of Alberta. Dr. Anna Lund was awarded an AGRI post-doctoral position working in the Faculty of Law which began on January 1, 2016. As is the goal of successful post-docs, Anna secured a tenure track law faculty position as of July 1, 2016. Dr. Fiona Nicoll, formerly of Queensland University in Brisbane, Australia, was hired by the Department of Political Science to assume the role of Chair in Gambling Public Policy, which she commenced on July 1, 2016. These new appointments will bolster the University of Alberta's research production in those aspects of gambling studies related to the social sciences.

Six University of Alberta graduate students currently hold AGRI scholarships (four PhDs and two Masters), one of whom (Gabriel Yanicki, PhD student in Anthropology) won the poster competition at the 2016 AGRI Conference.

AGRI funding for scholarships, research grants, chair positions, and post-doctoral appointments have greatly enhanced the University of Alberta's research capacity in gambling studies. Due to the commitment of a growing coterie of faculty and graduate students, this area of scholarly inquiry is flourishing and promises to accelerate with the addition of the new faculty members noted above.

University of Calgary



Dr. David Hodgins, Research Coordinator

Dr. 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. Dr. Hodgins is a registered Clinical Psychologist in Alberta.

Gambling research at the University of Calgary continued to flourish in 2015-16. Much of the activity originated in the Faculty of Arts, where Drs. Hodgins and McGrath had very active research labs. An average of 12 students and research assistants attended our joint biweekly research meetings. In addition, a number of other faculty members conducted gambling projects as part of larger research programs. Six University of Calgary doctoral graduate students were supported by AGRI scholarships, and numerous research assistants and undergraduate students gained exposure to gambling research through the active small and large research projects. Dr. Seema Mutti, our AGRI-funded post-doctoral fellow, diligently worked to extract useful findings from the Leisure, Lifestyle, & Lifecycle Project dataset. Andrew Kim, a doctoral student working with Dr. Hodgins, spent four months collaborating with Dr. Hermano Tavares at the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil, with funding from MITACS. This visit was part of a plan to establish a more formal link between these active gambling research centres.

Dr. Hodgins chaired the Scientific Program of the annual AGRI conference in 2016. This was greatly facilitated with the relocation of the AGRI

administrative office to the University of Calgary campus in close proximity to the Department of Psychology. University of Calgary researchers also participated in the annual Addiction Day conference as well as the Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine conference which were held concurrently and served to further promote the Institute's work.



**Dr. Daniel McGrath,
Chair in Gambling Research**

Dr. Daniel McGrath, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology and is the Alberta Gambling Research Institute's Chair in Gambling at the University of Calgary. Dr. McGrath's research focus is in the behavioural pharmacology of substance use and gambling and his primary research interests involve studying the impact of addictive substances (e.g., tobacco and alcohol) on gambling outcomes and behaviour. Dr. McGrath's other interests include underlying motives for gambling as well as cognitive biases associated with problematic gambling.

Over the course of 2015-16, Dr. McGrath was involved in a number of research projects. Of particular significance, he oversaw the construction of the Substance Use and Gambling Laboratory which officially opened in November of 2015. The lab includes several testing rooms, a main office area, a realistic gambling-bar lab, and an eye-gaze tracking test centre. One experiment currently underway in the lab is a project investigating the effects of tobacco withdrawal symptoms on craving and gambling behaviour.

Dr. McGrath has applied for grant funds to extend this work to examine the impact of e-cigarette use on gambling. He has also recently submitted a grant application to begin new research involving gambling and alcohol drug-challenge designs.

A separate line of eye-tracking research within the lab has also proven to be productive and involved U. of Calgary collaborators, Dr. Chris Sears and Dr. David Hodgins. As part of this work, Dr. McGrath has begun collecting data for an eye-tracking study examining associations between psychological constructs and attentional biases in disordered gamblers. Testing continues on a second project comparing attentional biases based on gambling preference (i.e., poker players vs. video lottery terminal players). In addition, Amanda Fernandez, an AGRI-funded graduate student, has been testing participants for a project on the effects of stress on attentional biases in gamblers.

A third line of Dr. McGrath's research has involved exploring how personality and motives influence gambling. Working with Dr. Kibeom Lee, Dr. McGrath recently finished a study exploring differences between disordered and non-disordered gamblers on personality characteristics from the HEXACO personality model.

Aside from his research, Dr. McGrath actively supervised graduate and undergraduate students, served on several doctoral and master's thesis committees, and contributed to numerous department and university committees.



Dr. Robert Williams, Research Coordinator

Dr. Rob Williams, Ph.D., is a Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Lethbridge, in Lethbridge, Alberta and also a 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*.

In 2015-16, gambling research at the University of Lethbridge continued to involve faculty and students from a myriad of different academic disciplines. Departments represented included Education, Mathematics, Sociology, Addictions Counselling, Psychology, Native American Studies, Neuroscience, and Public Health. In total there were approximately 15 to 20 people engaged in gambling research at the university.

Two Major Grants were awarded to Lethbridge researchers during this reporting period. The first grant, "Implications of Integration of Mental Health and Addiction Systems for Problem Gambling Treatment: Case Studies of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Ontario," involves Dr. Darren Christensen (Health Sciences) and Dr. Rebecca Hudson Breen (Health Sciences). The second grant, "Examining the Relationship between Problem Gambling and Problematic Video Game Use," involves Dr. James Sanders (Addictions) and Dr. Rob Williams (Health Sciences). Grants awarded in previous granting cycles were ongoing (Dr. Currie,

University of Lethbridge

Dr. Christensen, Dr. Euston, and Dr. Lee) or completed (Dr. Tata and Dr. Sanders).

As in past years, the “Gambling Research Group” met monthly during the academic year and showcased the work of the gambling researchers at the University of Lethbridge. This year the meetings were very capably organized by graduate student Erin Mason.

In addition to faculty members, undergraduate and graduate students were actively involved in gambling research, either as part of theses, independent studies, or as research assistants. Four Lethbridge graduate students (Mackenzie Becker, Vicki Ivan, Carrie Leonard, and Odedeji Odeloye) also received Institute scholarships for the 2015-16 academic year.

Dr. Darren Christensen, Chair in Gambling Research



Dr. Darren Christensen received his PhD in experimental psychology from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand. Dr. Christensen is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences and currently the Alberta Gambling Research Institute's Chair in Gambling at the University of Lethbridge. Dr. Christensen's research includes developing behavioural treatments for problem gambling, evaluations of the effectiveness of harm minimisation measures, and the effects of regular opioid antagonist dosing on gambling urges and brain function.

Dr. Christensen and colleagues worked on a number of research projects in 2015-16 that investigated a range of issues from basic science to applied studies. These included animal models of gambling (Dr. Euston), new treatments for disordered gambling using naltrexone (Drs. Hodgins, Goodyear, Crockford, and Lim), terrestrial contingency management (Drs. Leighton and Hudson-Breen), and congruence couple's therapy (Drs. Lee, Greenshaw, Aitchison, and Awosoga).

He also started work on an Internet-delivered contingency management study for rural and remote Albertan problem gamblers (Dr. Witcher and Dee Ann Bernard, Alberta Rural Development Network), and a study examining the implications of integrating problem gambling treatment into general addictions/mental health treatment by provincial governments in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Ontario (Drs. Novotna, Hudson-Breen, and Teram). He continued to report findings from the 2011 Tasmanian social and economic impact study of gambling that he co-wrote with colleagues from Australia (Drs. Jackson and Dowling). These investigations examined the psycho-social correlates of problematic gambling and binge gambling.

Dr. Christensen is currently supervising a number of post-graduate University of Lethbridge students investigating the veracity of a major theoretical model of problem gambling etiology, predictors of low and moderate-risk gambling, and developing a new model of gambling accessibility. He recently authored a paper published in the *Canadian Journal of Addiction's* Special Issue on Gambling Research in Canada. In that paper, he applied a novel theoretical understanding of behaviour change to improve problem gambling treatment effectiveness. He is currently finalising a paper with Dr. Rob Williams on the structure of problem gambling based on an international online data set. Lastly, Dr. Christensen and colleagues from four Canadian universities are preparing a proposal for an online battery of tests that support basic science research.

A person wearing a white protective suit and a blue cap is painting a wall with a roller. A wooden ladder is visible on the left, and several paint cans are on the floor in the foreground.

Research Activity

Major and Small 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 applications from researchers to address stakeholder-identified high priority research topics as well as those identified by researchers themselves. The submissions are subjected to a rigorous peer review process which involves the critical review of proposals by external experts with related areas of expertise. This type of review process provides the most reliable means of ensuring that only the highest quality research submissions receive Institute funding.

Research Projects

(New, ongoing, and completed in 2015-16)

In 2015-16, the following new Research Grant proposals were approved:

- [#74 Major Grant] Reducing the Allure of Winning Cues in Gambling – Dr. Marcia Spetch (U of Alberta)
- [#75 Major Grant] Implications of Integration of Mental Health and Addiction Systems for Problem Gambling Treatment: Case Studies of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Ontario – Dr. Darren Christensen (U of Lethbridge) & Dr. Gabriela Novotna (U of Regina)
- [#76 Major Grant] Towards Understanding Addiction Substitution: An Examination of Substituted vs. Recovered Gamblers – Dr. David Hodgins (U of Calgary)
- [#77 Major Grant] Identifying Psychological Factors that Are Predictive of Attentional Bias in Gamblers: An Eye-tracking Study – Dr. Daniel McGrath (U of Calgary)
- [#78 Major Grant] Examining the Relationship between Problem Gambling and Problematic Video Game Use – Dr. James Sanders (U of Lethbridge)

- [#S39 Small Grant] Public Stigma of Gambling Disorder: Attitudes toward Gambling and the Effect of Labels – Ms. Jennifer Prentice, Ms. Leanne Quigley, Dr. David Hodgins, & Dr. Keith Dobson (U of Calgary)
- [#S40 Small Grant] Problem Gambling in Individuals with Schizophrenia: The Role of Cognitive Deficits and Effects of Working Memory Training – Ms. Briana Cassetta (U of Calgary)
- [#S41 Small Grant] Using Custom Built Board Games and Video-Game Level Editors to Measure the Impact of Theme and Medium on Risky Decision Making – Dr. Craig Chapman (U of Alberta)

AS OF MARCH 31, 2016, THE FOLLOWING RESEARCH PROJECTS WERE ONGOING² AS FUNDING WAS PROVIDED IN PREVIOUS GRANT CYCLES:

- [Strategic & Collaborative Initiative 2011-12] Development and Evaluation of a Gambling Participation Instrument - Canadian Consortium for Gambling Research (CCGR) – Dr. Robert Williams (Williams and Associates) & Dr. Rachel Volberg (Gemini Research)
- [#60 Major Grant 2012-13] Assessing Transitions in Problem Gambling in a Longitudinal Study – Dr. David Hodgins (U of Calgary)
- [#61 Major Grant 2012-13] Effectiveness of a Voluntary Casino Self-Exclusion Online Self-Management Program – Dr. David Hodgins (U of Calgary) & Mr. Igor Yakovenko (U of Calgary)
- [#62 Major Grant 2012-13] Prescription Drug Misuse among Problem Gamblers in Canada – Dr. Cheryl Currie (U of Lethbridge)
- [#64 Major Grant 2012-13] Effects of Information Feedback Programs on Gambling Decisions – Dr. Robert Oxoby (U of Calgary)
- [#66 Major Grant 2013-14] Needs, Gambling, and Well-being – Dr. Gordon Walker (U of Alberta)
- [#67 Major Grant 2013-14] The Role of Memory Distortions in Gambling – Dr. Marcia Spetch (U of Alberta)

- [#68 Major Grant 2014-15] Family Study of Executive Functioning Deficits in Gambling Disorder – Dr. Vina Goghari (U of Calgary)
- [#69 Major Grant 2014-15] Naltrexone-Imaging Study – Dr. Darren Christensen (U of Lethbridge)
- [#70 Major Grant 2014-15] Neural Mechanisms of Gambling – Dr. David Euston (U of Lethbridge)
- [#72 Major Grant 2014-15] Lottery Winners and Bankruptcy Filers – Dr. Barry Scholnick (U of Alberta)
- [#73 Major Grant 2014-15] Gambling Disorder vs. Alcohol Use Disorder: Comparing Treatment Outcomes with Congruence Couple Therapy – Dr. Bonnie Lee (U of Lethbridge) & Dr. Darren Christensen (U of Lethbridge)
- [#S37 Small Grant 2014-15] Preliminary Investigation of Loss Sensitivity – Dr. Aaron Gruber (U of Lethbridge)

AS OF MARCH 31, 2016, THE FOLLOWING RESEARCH PROJECTS WERE COMPLETED³:

- [#65 Major Grant 2013-14] The Impact of VLT Location on Problem Gamblers: Evidence from Individual Bankruptcy Filings – Dr. Barry Scholnick (U of Alberta)
- [#71 Major Grant 2014-15] Examining the Psychometric Properties of a Test of Video Game Addiction – Dr. James Sanders (U of Lethbridge)
- [#S34 Small Grant 2013-14] Using Reach Behavior to Measure the Role of Information, Ambiguity and Experience in a Gambling Choice Task – Dr. Craig Chapman (U of Alberta)
- [#S36 Small Grant 2013-14] Chasing the Loss: Factors That Predict Within- and Between-Session Chasing in Gamblers – Dr. David Hodgins (U of Calgary) & Mr. Igor Yakovenko (U of Calgary)
- [Leveraging Grant 2014-15] Contribution to Lethbridge Brain Dynamics Research Group – Dr. Matt Tata (U of Lethbridge)

² Principal Investigators (PIs) of ongoing Institute-funded research projects are required to submit annual research project status reports.

³ Institute-funded research projects are considered complete once a completion report template has been received by the Institute from the project Principal Investigator (PI).

Expanded Grant Opportunities

To supplement the range of grant opportunities offered by the Alberta Gambling Research Institute, on January 19, 2015, the Board approved the implementation of a new grant type. Post-Doctoral Fellowship grants provide training and mentorship opportunities for the candidate's academic growth in an area of gambling-related research identified as needing development. In Fall 2015, Dr. Anna Lund, Faculty of Law, University of Alberta, and in Winter 2016, Dr. Seema Mutti, Department of Psychology, University of Calgary, were awarded post-doctoral fellowship grants. Dr. Lund's research will focus on how Canada's personal bankruptcy system may create a better rehabilitation model for problem gamblers. Dr. Mutti's research will provide primary and secondary analysis of the Leisure, Lifestyle, & Lifecycle Project's unique dataset.

Each year the Institute uses a multi-faceted approach in expanding gambling research activities at partner universities. This includes an annual call for investigator-initiated Major Grant proposals each May; twice per year 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.

Leveraging grants aim to enable researchers with non-AGRI funding to augment projects with a gambling-related component in stakeholder identified high priority areas; *Team development grants* provide an opportunity for joint proposals aiming to support the development of multi/interdisciplinary academic teams among Partner Universities, nationally, internationally, and with other stakeholders; and, *Impact grants* provide support for 'special purpose' initiatives that contribute to addressing Institute priorities other than primary research (e.g., research data repository, knowledge transfer/translation initiatives, outcome measurement, etc.). The *Leveraging grant*

awarded in 2014-15 to Dr. Matt Tata for Contribution to Lethbridge's Dynamics Research Group was completed in July 2015.

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

Scholarship and Research Allowance Awards

In an effort to foster young researcher involvement in gambling-related research, a multi-tiered (doctoral and graduate level in addition to a 'top-up' opportunity for students receiving other major external awards) scholarship and research allowance program was created to promote gambling-related research to promising new scholars.

Fourteen scholarships were awarded for Fall 2015/Winter 2016

- Address the amount of knowledge and training available to future counselling practitioners. **Mackenzie Becker**, Masters level scholarship, Education, University of Lethbridge [Priority: **Treatment**]
- Longitudinal study to investigate the degree to which numerous difficulties with emotion regulation can be used to predict changes over time in the frequency and severity of a variety of addictive behaviours among women from the community. **Sarah Farstad**, Doctoral level scholarship, Clinical Psychology, University of Calgary [Priority: **Longitudinal research**]
- Examine whether the amount of daily stress experienced by individuals with varying degrees of gambling behavior affect the level of attention towards gambling related stimuli. **Amanda Fernandez**, Doctoral level scholarship, Psychology, University of Calgary [Priority: **Treatment & Stigma**]
- Understand how the brain uses reward and error information to adapt future decisions. **Vicky Ivan**, Masters level scholarship, Neuroscience, University of Lethbridge

- Shed light on the process of addiction substitution among disordered gamblers as substituting gambling for another addiction can increase the risk of relapse and/or lead to the development of a new addiction. **Hyoun (Andrew) Kim**, Doctoral level scholarship, Clinical Psychology, University of Calgary
- Investigating susceptibility to gambling-related erroneous cognitions. **Carrie Leonard**, Doctoral level scholarship, Psychology, University of Lethbridge
- Identify studies involving Canadian student gamblers, calculate national prevalence rates of pathological gambling (PG), and summarize methodological trends in order to better understand the problem and help reduce PG among this, “at risk” subpopulation. **Dustin Marcinkevics**, Doctoral level scholarship, Educational Psychology, University of Alberta [Priority: **Treatment & Stigma**]
- Examine the relationship between gambling severities (low risk, moderate risk and non-problem gamblers) and gambling related harm (personal, psychosocial and financial harms) in a population sample in order to improve understanding of harm minimization strategies for specific gamblers. **Odedeji Odeloye**, Masters level scholarship, Health Sciences, University of Lethbridge [Priority: **Treatment & Stigma**]
- Using a highly controlled resistance to extinction paradigm, the work is designed to behaviourally test, in both pigeons and humans, whether near-misses actually produce the predicted increase in gambling persistence. **Jeffrey Pisklak**, Masters level scholarship, Psychology, University of Alberta [Priority: **Longitudinal research**]
- Investigate the relationship between stigma (i.e., stereotypes, social distance, and discrimination) and different labels that are used to describe problem gambling (i.e., problem gambler, pathological gambler, gambling addict, and disordered gambler). **Jennifer Prentice**, Doctoral level scholarship, Psychology, University of Calgary [Priority: **Treatment & Stigma**]
- Investigate whether the use of different labels for the behavior that constitutes gambling disorder influence attitudes and beliefs about gambling disorder, and combine quantitative and qualitative methods for a more in-depth exploration of stigma related to gambling disorder. **Leanne Quigley**, Doctoral level scholarship, Clinical Psychology, University of Calgary [Priority: **Longitudinal research and Treatment & Stigma**]
- Further examination of the mechanisms by which motivational interviewing (MI) promotes behaviour change, specifically among disordered gamblers. **Jennifer Swan**, Doctoral level scholarship, Psychology, University of Calgary [Priority: **Treatment & Stigma**]
- Measure the decision process before a choice is made through analysis of brain recordings conducted while people are making decisions. **Nathan Wispinski**, Masters level scholarship, Psychology, University of Alberta
- Examine how gaming and gambling could have served as a primary vehicle for the social interaction between bison-hunting and maize horticulturalist societies in the Great Salt Lake area between 1240 and 1290 AD. **Gabriel Yanicki**, Doctoral level scholarship, Anthropology, University of Alberta [Priority: **Indigenous/First Nations**]

Communicating Gambling Research



Rhys Stevens, MLIS is a Librarian III at the U of Lethbridge Library in Lethbridge, Alberta. His primary responsibility is Librarian & Information Specialist for the Alberta Gambling Research Institute (AGRI).

Mr. Stevens is also

subject liaison librarian for Geography, Maps & Government Documents, Anthropology and Spatial/Numeric Data.

Institute Library & Web Site Overview 2015-16

Over the course of fiscal 2015-16, the Institute's three affiliated university libraries (U of Lethbridge, U of Calgary, and U of Alberta) once again selected and purchased approximately \$30,000 of materials in support of gambling-related research at their institutions. Specifically, \$14K was allocated to U Lethbridge, \$8K to U of Alberta and \$8K to U of Calgary. These primarily included electronic journal title subscriptions, E-books, print books, and audio-visual resources⁴.

In addition to supporting collection building, the Institute Librarian provided assistance with 42 specific reference requests, updated research guides on gambling-related topics, digitized and archived a variety of significant gambling-related 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. From April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016, the site received 58,017 page views from 21,522 users according to Google Analytics.

During fiscal 2015-16 a major focus involved planning for a relocation of the site hosting from the U of Alberta to the U of Calgary.

Examples of past-year changes included revisions to the graduate student profiles and scholarship application forms. In addition, online spreadsheets detailing worldwide gambling prevalence studies and details relating to all 130 Institute-funded grants were kept up-to-date.

Research Publications

An important aspect of research is the communication of peer-reviewed research findings through publication in the scholarly literature. Following is a list of Institute-funded research published from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016:

Agarwal, S., Mikhed, V., & Scholnick, B. (2016). Does inequality cause financial distress? Evidence from lottery winners and neighboring bankruptcies. *FRB of Philadelphia Working Paper No. 16-4*. Retrieved from <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2731562>

Arthur, J., Delfabbro, P., & Williams, R. (2015). Is there a relationship between participation in gambling activities and participation in high-risk stock trading? *Journal of Gambling Business and Economics*, 9(3), 34-53.

Chapman, C. S., Gallivan, J. P., Wong, J. D., Wispinski, N. J., & Enns, J. T. (2015). The snooze of lose: Rapid reaching reveals that losses are processed more slowly than gains. *Journal of Experimental Psychology*, 144(4), 844. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/xge0000085>

Christensen, D. R. (2015). Complimentary forces of change: Contingency management and behavioural momentum as treatments for problematic gambling. *Canadian Journal of Addiction*, 6(2), 45-53. Retrieved from <http://www.csam-smca.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/CJAM-Vol6No2-Double.pdf>

⁴ Details of specific U. of Lethbridge Library acquisitions 2015-16 are available from Librarian upon request.

- Cortina, S. C., Williams, J. V. A., Lavorato, D. H., Link, S. B., & el-Guebaly, N. A. (2015). Disordered gambling and health functioning in individuals receiving disability benefits. *Addictive Disorders & Their Treatment*, 14(4), 188-197. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/adt.0000000000000050>
- Currie, C., Wild, T. C., Schopflocher, D., & Laing, L. (2015). Racial discrimination, post-traumatic stress and prescription drug problems among Aboriginal Canadians. *Canadian Journal of Public Health*, 106(6), 382-387. <http://dx.doi.org/10.17269/cjph.106.4979>
- Diaz, R. L., Wong, U., Hodgins, D. C., Chiu, C. G., & Goghari, V. M. (2016). Violent video game players and non-players differ on facial emotion recognition. *Aggressive Behavior*, 42(1), 16-28. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/ab.21602>
- el-Guebaly, N. (2015). Investigating gambling behaviors: Canadian contributions. *Canadian Journal of Addiction*, 6(2), 3-4. Retrieved from <http://www.csam-smca.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/CJAM-Vol6No2-Double.pdf>
- Farstad, S. M., von Ranson, K. M., Hodgins, D. C., El-Guebaly, N., Casey, D. M., & Schopflocher, D. P. (2015). The influence of impulsiveness on binge eating and problem gambling: A prospective study of gender differences in Canadian adults. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*, 29(3), 805-812. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/adb0000069>
- Fujiwara, E., Tomlinson, S. E., Purdon, S. E., Gill, M. J., & Power, C. (2015). Decision making under explicit risk is impaired in individuals with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology*, 37(7), 733-750. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13803395.2015.1057481>
- Hodgins, D. C., & Holub, A. (2015). Components of impulsivity in gambling disorder. *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction*, 13(6), 699-711. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11469-015-9572-z>
- Hodgins, D. C., Ranson, K. M., & Montpetit, C. R. (2015). Problem drinking, gambling and eating among undergraduate university students. What are the links? *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction*, 14(2), 181-199. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11469-015-9598-2>
- Jackson, A. C., Christensen, D. R., Francis, K. L., & Dowling, N. A. (2016). Consumer perspectives on gambling harm minimisation measures in an Australian jurisdiction. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 32(2), 801-822. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10899-015-9568-4>
- Kim, H. S., Dobson, K. S., & Hodgins, D. C. (2016). Funding of gambling research: Ethical issues, potential benefit and guidelines. *Journal of Gambling Issues*, 111-132. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4309/jgi.2016.32.7>
- Kim, H. S., Hodgins, D. C., Bellringer, M., & Abbott, M. (2016). Gender differences among helpline callers: Prospective study of gambling and psychosocial outcomes. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 32(2), 605-623. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10899-015-9572-8>
- Kowatch, K. R., & Hodgins, D. C. (2015). Predictors of help-seeking for gambling disorder from the transtheoretical model perspective. *International Gambling Studies*, 15(3), 450-469. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14459795.2015.1078391>
- Kushnir, V., Godinho, A., Hodgins, D. C., Hendershot, C. S., & Cunningham, J. A. (2016). Gender differences in self-conscious emotions and motivation to quit gambling. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 32(3), 969-983. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10899-015-9574-6>
- Kushnir, V., Godinho, A., Hodgins, D. C., Hendershot, C. S., & Cunningham, J. A. (2016). Motivation to quit or reduce gambling: Associations between Self-Determination Theory and the Transtheoretical Model of Change. *Journal of Addictive Diseases*, 35(1), 58-65. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10550887.2016.1107315>
- Lee, C.-K., Back, K.-J., Williams, R. J., & Ahn, S.-S. (2015). Comparison of telephone RDD and online panel survey modes on CPGI scores and co-morbidities. *International Gambling Studies*, 15(3), 435-449. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14459795.2015.1068353>

- Leonard, C. A., & Williams, R. J. (2015). Characteristics of good poker players. *Journal of Gambling Issues*, 45-68. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4309/jgi.2015.31.5>
- Leonard, C. A., Williams, R. J., & Vokey, J. (2015). Gambling fallacies: What are they and how are they best measured? *Journal of Addiction Research & Therapy*, 6(4), 256. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4172/2155-6105.1000256>
- McGrath, D. S. (2015). The Influence of smoke-free policies on gambling revenues and intentions to gamble: A review of the literature. *Canadian Journal of Addiction*, 6(2), 78-86. Retrieved from <http://www.csam-smca.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/CJAM-Vol6No2-Double.pdf>
- Nisbet, S., Jackson, A., & Christensen, D. R. (2016). The influence of pre-commitment and associated player-card technologies on decision making: Design, research and implementation issues. *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction*, 14(3), 228-240. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11469-015-9574-x>
- Radomski, A. D., Power, C., Purdon, S. E., Emery, D. J., Blevins, G., Warren, K. G., & Fujiwara, E. (2015). Decision-making under explicit risk is impaired in multiple sclerosis: relationships with ventricular width and disease disability. *BMC Neurology*, 15(1), 61. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s12883-015-0318-0>
- Sanders, J. L., & Williams, R. J. (2016). Reliability and validity of the behavioral addiction measure for video gaming. *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking*, 19(1), 43-48. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1089/cyber.2015.0390>
- Schellenberg, B. J. I., McGrath, D. S., & Dechant, K. (2016). The Gambling Motives Questionnaire financial: Factor structure, measurement invariance, and relationships with gambling behaviour. *International Gambling Studies*, 16(1), 1-16. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14459795.2015.1088559>
- Stea, J. N., Yakovenko, I., & Hodgins, D. C. (2015). Recovery from cannabis use disorders: Abstinence versus moderation and treatment-assisted recovery versus natural recovery. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*, 29(3), 522-531. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/adb0000097>
- Swan, J. L., & Hodgins, D. C. (2015). Brief interventions for disordered gambling. *Canadian Journal of Addiction*, 6(2), 29-36. Retrieved from <http://www.csam-smca.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/CJAM-Vol6No2-Double.pdf>
- Volberg, R. A., Williams, R. J., Stanek, E. J., Houpt, A., Zorn, M., & Rodriguez-Monguio, R. (2015). *Gambling and problem gambling in Massachusetts: Results of a baseline population survey*. Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Amherst School of Public Health and Health Sciences. Retrieved from <http://archives.lib.state.ma.us/handle/2452/266341>
- Yakovenko, I., Clark, C. M., Hodgins, D. C., & Goghari, V. M. (2016). A qualitative analysis of the effects of a comorbid disordered gambling diagnosis with schizophrenia. *Schizophrenia Research*, 171(1-3), 50-55. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.schres.2015.12.008>
- Yakovenko, I., & Hodgins, D. C. (2014). Treatment of disordered gambling. In F. Gobet & M. Schiller (Eds.), *Problem gambling: Cognition, prevention and treatment* (pp. 221-251). London: Palgrave Macmillan UK. http://dx.doi.org/10.1057/9781137272423_10
- Yakovenko, I., Hodgins, D. C., el-Guebaly, N., Casey, D. M., Currie, S. R., Smith, G. J., Williams, R. J., & Schopflocher, D. P. (2016). Cognitive distortions predict future gambling involvement. *International Gambling Studies*, 16(2), 175-192. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14459795.2016.1147592>

Newsletter

Following is a list of the contents of the Institute newsletter, 'Gambling Research Reveals – an Update on Gambling Research in Alberta' published from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016:

Spring 2015

New Institute Gambling Research Chair Dr. Dan McGrath Keen to Disentangle the Nature of the Relationship Between Tobacco Dependence and Gambling Behaviour / Institute Announces Major Research Grant Award Recipients 2014-15

Summer 2015

Leisure, Lifestyle, & Lifecycle Project (LLLP): Final and Summary Reports Released / Conference 2015 Report: Critical Issues in Gambling Research a Success

Fall 2015

New Executive Director Glenda Wong Seeks to Enhance Existing Research Partnerships / Vickii Williams Retirement / Smoke-Free Policies and Gambling Revenues / Gambling and Personality Disorders / From The Library: Canadian Journal of Addiction Devotes Special Double-Issue to Gambling Research / Conference 2015 Report: Highlights from Day Two of the Institute Conference

Winter 2016

Institute Conference 2016 Understanding Gambling: Mechanisms and Predictors / Study Examines Bankruptcy Filings Post-Removal of Neighborhood Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs) / Etiology of Problem Gambling: Results of the Two Major Canadian Longitudinal Studies / Graduate Student Scholarship Awardees



Consulting and Collaborating: a Coordinated Approach

In 2015-16, AGRI was a participating organization in the following:

AGLC's **Responsible Gambling Advisory Committee (RGAC)** by Dr. Nady el-Guebaly and Glenda Wong and the interprovincial **Canadian Consortium for Gambling Research (CCGR)** by Dr. Nady el-Guebaly and Glenda Wong

Problem and Responsible Gambling Stakeholder Symposium held October 20, 2015

Institute-affiliated research coordinators and Board Members were invited to be part of the Alberta Gaming & Liquor Commission's (AGLC) annual responsible gambling stakeholders symposium held in Leduc on Tuesday, October 20, 2015. Event attendees had the opportunity to learn about the integration and importance of responsible gaming practices and cultures at the casino service provider level, social casino gaming, the use of holistic tools in managing gambling, substance abuse and the re-branding of the AGLC's Responsible Gambling Programs to GameSense.

Audited Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2016

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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, 2016, and the statements of operations, change in net financial assets 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, 2016, and the results of its operations, its remeasurement gains and losses, its changes in net financial assets, and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

[Original signed by Merwan N. Saher FCPA, FCA]

Auditor General

August 24, 2016

Edmonton, Alberta

Statement of Financial Position

AS AT MARCH 31

	2016	2015
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 4)	\$ 2,334,903	\$ 2,620,557
Unexpended funds receivable (Note 5)	27,887	38,985
	<u>\$ 2,362,789</u>	<u>\$ 2,659,542</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	145,718	15,815
	<u>145,718</u>	<u>15,815</u>
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 2,217,072</u>	<u>\$ 2,643,727</u>
NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Tangible capital assets	—	2,671
Prepaid expenses	10,750	2,000
	<u>10,750</u>	<u>4,671</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>2,227,822</u>	<u>2,648,398</u>
NET ASSETS		
Accumulated surplus	2,648,398	2,799,089
Annual deficit	(420,576)	(150,691)
	<u>\$ 2,227,822</u>	<u>\$ 2,648,398</u>

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

Approved by the board:

Original signed by:

Dr. Seamus O'Shea

Signature

Board Chair

Position

Dr. Tom Strong

Signature

Audit Committee Vice Chair

Position

Statement of Operations

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

	2016 BUDGET (Note 9)	2016 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL
REVENUES			
Government Transfers (Note 3)	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000
Investment Income	—	2,785	—
Other/unexpended Funds Recovered	100,000	43,643	63,934
	<u>1,600,000</u>	<u>1,546,428</u>	<u>1,563,934</u>
EXPENSES (Schedule 1)			
Research	1,847,000	1,517,939	1,223,954
Infrastructure and Library	140,000	140,000	140,000
Research Linkages	85,000	53,031	82,666
Research Administration	285,000	256,035	268,005
	<u>2,357,000</u>	<u>1,967,004</u>	<u>1,714,625</u>
ANNUAL DEFICIT	<u><u>\$ (757,000)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (420,576)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (150,691)</u></u>

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

Statement of Cash Flows

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

	2016	2015
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Contributions from the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000
Unexpended Funds	57,526	88,419
Research Expenditures	(1,403,068)	(1,216,406)
Infrastructure and Library Expenditures	(140,000)	(140,000)
Research Linkages Expenditures	(71,186)	(69,203)
Research Administration Expenditures	(228,927)	(270,841)
CASH USED FOR OPERATING TRANSACTIONS	(285,654)	(108,031)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 2,620,557	\$ 2,728,588
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR	\$ 2,334,903	\$ 2,620,557

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

Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

	2016 BUDGET	2016 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL
Annual Deficit	\$ (757,000)	\$ (420,576)	\$ (150,691)
Acquisition of Tangible Capital Assets		—	(2,671)
Write down of Tangible Capital Assets		2,671	—
Change in Prepaid Expenses		(8,750)	7,267
Decrease in Net Financial Assets in the Year	(757,000)	(426,655)	(146,095)
Net Financial Assets, Beginning of Year	2,643,727	2,643,727	2,789,822
Net Financial Assets, End of Year	\$ 1,886,727	\$ 2,217,072	\$ 2,643,727

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 Ministry 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 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Reporting Practices

General – Public Sector Accounting Standards (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.

Note 3 continued...

Revenue Recognition

All revenues are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. Cash received for which expenses have not been incurred 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, 2016.

Unspent funds are returned to the Institute and recorded as Other Revenues.

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 instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, unexpended funds receivable and accounts payable. They are recognized at 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

Change in Accounting Policy

Adoption of the Net Debt Model

The net debt presentation (with reclassification of comparatives) has been adopted for the presentation of financial statements. Net debt or net financial assets is measured as the difference between the Institute's financial assets and liabilities. The effect of this change results in changing the presentation of the Statement of Financial Position and adding the Statement of Change in Financial Assets.

Note 4 Cash and Cash Equivalents

Under the Funding Agreement, funds are to be administered by the HUB University (University of Calgary) on behalf of the Institute. The Institute's funds are invested in keeping with the HUB University's policies for the investment of similar funds. Interest on the funds is paid to the Institute at a rate that is referenced to the 90-day Treasury Bills Canada rate.

Note 5 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.

	2016				2015
	University of Alberta	University of Calgary	University of Lethbridge	Total	Total
Unexpended grants, opening balance	\$ 23,160	\$ 10,367	\$ 5,457	\$ 38,984	\$ 31,437
Capacity building	107,200	130,000	130,000	367,200	405,000
Library and collections	-	-	140,000	140,000	140,000
New grants provided	107,200	130,000	270,000	507,200	545,000
Current year expenditures	(88,255)	(130,000)	(261,058)	(479,313)	(516,383)
Recovered	(23,160)	(10,367)	(5,457)	(38,984)	(21,070)
Unexpended capacity-building grants	18,945	-	8,942	27,887	39,984

Note 6 Commitments

The Institute receives its principal funding from the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance. The five year agreement was renewed effective April 1, 2016 and expires on March 31, 2021. The Institute's ability to maintain viable operations is dependent upon the continued support from the Alberta Government.

Note 6 continued...

The Institute has the following commitments:

Fiscal Year	Research Grants ^(a)	Lease ^(b)	Sustainability positions ^(c)	Research direction ^(d)	Total
2016/17	\$ 618,623	\$ 15,649	\$ 369,500	\$ 45,000	\$ 1,048,772
2017/18	254,298	15,649	390,000	—	659,947
2018/19	35,318	15,649	390,000	—	440,967
2019/20	-	15,649	346,667	—	362,316
2020/21+	-	3,912	205,833	—	209,745
Total	\$ 908,239	\$ 66,508	\$ 1,702,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 2,721,747

(a) Research Grants

The Institute has various types of granting programs. In response to calls for proposals, the Board approves researcher identified initiatives. Upon approval and receipt of various confirmation documents from the host Institute University's Research Services Office, the Institute authorizes payment of the first year funding of the approved award. For these types of awards extending beyond one year, authorization of subsequent period amounts is subject to satisfactory reporting. Commitments for these awards include the 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 Calgary for the period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2020 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 of the Partner Universities. As at March 31, 2016, two appointments were in place with a third to begin July/August 2016.

(d) Research Direction

The Board approved proceeding with the engagement of a faculty member at one of the Partner Universities for 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 years (with possibility of renewal).

Note 7 Economic Dependence

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

Note 8 Related Party Transactions

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

Note 9 Budget

The 2015-2016 budget was approved by the Institute's Board of Directors on December 14, 2014.

Note 10 Comparative Figures

Certain 2015 figures have been re-classified to conform to the 2016 presentation.

Note 11 Approval of Financial Statements

Financial Statements were approved by the Board on August 24, 2016.

Schedule of Expenses

Schedule 1

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	2015 Actual
Research			
Grant competition/strategic research (1)	\$ 900,000	\$ 809,306	\$ 482,252
Capacity building (2)	782,000	597,200	640,000
Governance, research direction (3)	165,000	111,433	101,702
	<u>1,847,000</u>	<u>1,517,939</u>	<u>1,223,954</u>
Infrastructure and Library			
Library and collections (4)	140,000	140,000	140,000
	<u>140,000</u>	<u>140,000</u>	<u>140,000</u>
Research Linkages			
Events, colloquia (5)	45,000	22,153	63,104
Communications, exchanges (6)	40,000	30,878	19,562
	<u>85,000</u>	<u>53,031</u>	<u>82,666</u>
Research Administration			
Personnel costs (7)	245,000	191,323	241,045
Contract services (8)	10,000	9,669	-
Administrative hub (9)	30,000	55,043	26,960
	<u>285,000</u>	<u>256,034</u>	<u>268,005</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 2,357,000	\$ 1,967,004	\$ 1,714,625

Note 1 Includes annual research grant competition, small grants, scholarships, post-doctoral fellowships and Board identified areas 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.

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 members meeting travel. The Board Chair received total honorarium payments of \$10,000 (2015: \$17,000). Other Board members do not receive honoraria.

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.

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 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 to Alberta to assist with Institute research.

Note 7 Salary and benefits compensation (Executive Director and salaried administrative support). The Executive Director's salary was \$57,835 plus non-cash benefits of \$12,268 (total of \$70,103). From August 10, 2015, the new Executive Director had a salary of \$64,583 plus non-cash benefits of \$14,208 (total of \$78,791).

Note 8 Special project consulting (eg. document drafting, graphic design work).

Note 9 Includes business and hub operational requirements. During the year the Institute moved its Administrative hub from the University of Alberta to the University of Calgary.

Board of Directors

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, Mr. Dougall 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 nine years up until September 2011. Mr. Dougall has been on the Institute Board as an external member since November 1, 2011 and served as Vice Chair as well as Chair of the Audit Committee.

el-Guebaly, Dr. Nady

Nady el-Guebaly is Professor and Head, Division of Addiction, Department of Psychiatry at the University of Calgary and past Chair of the Department. He is the Founding Past Medical Director of the Calgary Health Region's Addiction Program and Founding Past President of the International Society of Addiction Medicine. Currently, he is the Research Director of the Alberta Gambling Research Institute; Chief Examiner of the International Society of Addiction Medicine; Editor-in-Chief, *Canadian Journal of Addiction*; Senior Editor, *Textbook of Addiction Treatment: International Perspectives*. Dr. el-Guebaly's major research interests have resulted in 260 peer-reviewed papers and chapters and 60 past and current research grants.

Gibbs Van Brunschot, Dr. Erin

Erin Gibbs Van Brunschot is an Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Sociology 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. Dr. Gibbs Van Brunschot served on the Institute Board from August 2007 to August 31, 2011 and was reappointed effective September 1, 2012.

Kelley, Dr. Helen

Helen Kelley is Associate Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and an Associate Professor in the Policy and Strategy area in the Faculty of Management at the University of Lethbridge. Dr. Kelley teaches courses in the information systems analysis and design and change management. Her recent research focuses on individual learning, acceptance,

and use of information systems technologies plus e-health systems. More recently, Dr. Kelley's research interests include transforming the design, delivery and management of health services quality as a member of the Health Services Quality Institute at the University of Lethbridge. The purpose of the Health Services Quality Institute (HSQI) is to transform the design, delivery, and management of health services quality in Canada through research and education in partnership with key stakeholders. Dr. Kelley joined the Institute Board on March 1, 2015.

Letts, Dr. Matthew

Matt Letts is Associate Dean and Professor of Geography in the Faculty of Arts and Science at the University of Lethbridge, where he has carried out research in plant ecophysiology since 2003. During his term as a Board Member with AGRI, Dr. Letts was also the University of Lethbridge's Interim Associate Vice-President (Research). He has also served as Coordinator of the Environmental Science Program (2010-2012). Dr. Letts served on the Institute's Board from September 1, 2014 to December 31, 2015.

Malacrida, Dr. Claudia

Claudia Malacrida is Associate Vice-President in the Office of the Vice President Research at the University of Lethbridge and a Professor of Sociology. Dr. Malacrida is the author of five books relating to disability, the body and the history of institutionalization and eugenics in Alberta. Her current research is focused on disability and sexuality (newgenics to eugenics), and on motherhood and medicine (childbirth and choice). In each, she is concerned about how seemingly personal and embodied experiences are constrained and produced through public policy, social attitudes, and professional practice. Dr. Malacrida holds several major grants, including a SSHRC grant for the Newgenics to Eugenics project and an AIHS grant for the Childbirth and Choice project. Dr. Malacrida joined the Institute Board on January 1, 2016.

O'Shea, Dr. Seamus

Seamus O'Shea is a former 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 and re-appointed in January 2016 for another three years.

Smith, Dr. Constance

Constance Smith is a Professor and Department Chair in the Department of Economics at the University of Alberta. Dr. Smith's previous appointments include Economist at the Bank of Canada; Visiting Fellow at the School of Economics and at the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University, Canberra, Australia; and Visiting Fellow at the School of Economics and Finance, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. Dr. Smith's research is chiefly in the areas of international economics and finance. She is also interested in the economic stabilization benefits of fiscal rules and natural resource revenue stabilization funds. Dr. Smith joined the Institute Board on July 1, 2015.

Strong, Dr. Tom

Tom Strong is a Professor, psychologist, and counsellor-educator at the University of Calgary who researches and writes on the collaborative, critically-informed and practical potentials of discursive approaches to psychotherapy. Having recently completed a term as the Werklund School of Education's Associate Dean Research, Dr. Strong is interested in the use of mixed qualitative methods to examine helping processes, including natural recovery processes from addiction. Dr. Strong joined the Board on September 1, 2014.

West, Dr. Doug

Douglas West is Professor of Economics at the University of Alberta, where he has been teaching economics since 1981. Dr. West's fields of research and teaching include industrial organization, competition policy, spatial competition analysis, urban economics, and airline competition, and he has published widely in these areas. His current research interests include competition in liquor store and shopping centre markets. Dr. West joined the Institute Board in July

2009, and served as the Proposal Adjudication Committee Chair from September 2011 to June 2015, the end date of his Board appointment.

Wild, Dr. Cameron

Cam Wild is a research psychologist, specializing in addiction studies. Dr. Wild was the inaugural Associate Dean (Research) in the School of Public Health at the University of Alberta, where he is currently a Professor and Director of the U of A's Addiction and Mental Health Research Laboratory. Dr. Wild's research interests include: epidemiology of substance misuse and addictive behaviours, injection drug use, and comorbid addictions and mental disorders; randomized trials and quasi-experiments of community-based brief interventions, motivational factors influencing client retention in addiction treatment, compulsory treatment policies and outcomes, and organization of service systems in relation to population severity and need. Dr. Wild joined the Institute Board on September 1, 2014.

Williams, Vickii

Vickii Williams served as the Executive Director of the Alberta Gambling Research Institute since its inception (2000) until August 31, 2015, at the University of Alberta. Ms. Williams served in an ex officio advisory capacity on the Institute Board and represented the Institute on a number of inter-organizational and inter-jurisdictional planning bodies for collaborative research initiatives.

Wong, Glenda

Glenda Wong assumed the position of Executive Director of the Alberta Gambling Research Institute on September 1, 2015. Ms. Wong's work background includes twelve years of senior management and administration in continuing medical education at the University of Calgary. She has collaborated and worked with other provincial and national universities, provincial and national government health departments, and various health organizations. Ms. Wong serves in an ex officio advisory capacity on the Institute Board and represents the Institute on a number of inter-organizational and inter-jurisdictional planning bodies for collaborative research initiatives.

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