

# **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](http://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 2004-07**

### ***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 nine members, including constituency representatives (industry, seniors, First Nations), one from each of the following organizations: Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, Alberta Health and Wellness and Alberta Gaming and the Alberta Gaming Research Institute Chair. 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.

**Business Plan 2004-07**  
**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  • 1.2 The visibility of gambling-related academic research in Alberta is enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide opportunities and support for new academics to conduct research in this field</li> <li>• Promote and support interdisciplinary/inter-organizational research across all domains (eg. achieving balance through Board directed /commissioned research longitudinal study, economics position)</li> <li>• Ensure that a peer review process enhances the quality of research.</li> <li>• Present scholarly findings and research outcomes to a wide audience (lay and expert)</li> <li>• Sponsor, organize, and support conferences, symposia, and colloquia as forums for communicating research outcomes to various stakeholder groups</li> <li>• Encourage researchers to publish and promote their research</li> <li>• Publish Institute-sponsored research in scholarly journals</li> </ul>

Performance Measures			
	Target 2004-05	Target 2005-2006	Target 2006-2007
• Number of disciplines and sub-fields represented in gambling-related research	18	19	20

**Business Plan 2004-07**

• Number of research grants pending completion	20	25	28
• Number of projects completed	10	12	14
• Number of directed (Board commissioned to balance research program)	5	5	5
• Number of academic papers published in reviewed publications	25	28	30
• Number of academic papers/presentations/posters presented in academic settings	40	45	50
• Number of Institute-(co)sponsored research communications	10	11	12
• Number of attendees at Institute-(co)sponsored research events	550	575	600
• Number of visits to website per month	750	800	850

**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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 The capacity to undertake gambling-related research at each of the Institute universities is increased</li> <li>2.2 Provide comprehensive library</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain researcher-to-researcher link within, among, and outside the Institute Universities</li> <li>Identify collaborative gambling-related</li> </ul>

**Business Plan 2004-07**

resource support

- Develop the research capacity to address each of the domains (with particular reference to Alberta Gaming Research Council identified concerns)
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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

Performance Measures			
	Target 4-2005	Target 2005-2006	Target 2006-2007
• Number of experts/researchers engaged in gambling-related research funded by the Institute	45	50	55
• Number of graduate students engaged in gambling-related research	35	38	40
• Number of university courses with gambling educative component	12	13	14
• Number of developmental (small grant) awards to promote gambling research (\$100,000 over 3 years approved)	4	3	N/A
• Enrollment numbers in university courses with gambling-related component	700	750	800
• Number of library queries	150	160	175

**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.

## Business Plan 2004-07

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"> <li>Engage the services of outstanding academic peer reviewers</li> <li>Identify, initiate, and develop mutually beneficial national and international collaborative research initiatives</li> <li>Host regular conferences on Council identified issues in Alberta</li> <li>Present workshops on gambling-related research</li> <li>Participate in national and international conferences to ensure Alberta-based research is presented and the Institute profile is promoted</li> <li>Pursue awards for gambling research and/or Institute</li> <li>Communicate role of Institute and contribution of sponsored research</li> </ul>

	Performance Measures		
	Target 2004-2005	Target 2005-2006	Target 2006-2007
• Number of expert reviews from outside Alberta	50	55	60
• Number of out-of-province academic researchers /experts involved in Institute activities (workshops, conferences, etc.)	25	30	35
• Number of inter-organizational collaborative projects	10	11	12
• Number of print copies of newsletters distributed	16,250	16,500	17,750

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