# Gauging the Success of First Nation Casinos in Canada

University of Lethbridge

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# First Nations Gaming in Canada

- Maria Campbell (Métis), *Office of the Order of Canada*;
- Wouldn't purchase a book about a questionable industry;
- Why?
- Gambling would inevitably exacerbate social problems proliferating in Aboriginal communities.

# First Nations Gaming in Canada

- Two key issues evident:
  - The gambling industry is an inherently negative and destructive force;
  - Social problems are endemic in First Nations/Aboriginal/Métis communities.

# First Nations Gaming in Canada

- Highlights a social deficit approach/understanding of gambling (& FNs and Abor peoples for that matter);
- Why do we approach gambling research from problem perspectives?
- Garry's impassioned presentation considered/aside, why has the deficit approach become normative?
- Why is social justice ignored as an

# First Nations Casinos in Canada

- Dates back to 1984 (community lottery);
- 5 First Nation casinos opened in 1996;
- Currently 18 First Nations casinos operating (16 for profit; 2 charity);
- 10 First Nations operate “VLT palaces” in Nova Scotia (582 VLTs).

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# First Nations Casinos, Canada


1. St. Eugene Mission Resort, Cranbrook
2. River Cree Resort and Casino, Enoch First Nation
3. Gold Eagle Casino, North Battleford
4. Northern Lights Casino, Prince Albert
5. Painted Hand Casino, Yorkton
6. Bear Claw Casino, Carlyle
7. Aseneskak Casino, Opaskwayak Cree Nation
8. South Beach Casino, Brokenhead First Nation
9. Golden Eagle Casino, Kenora
10. Casino Rama, Mnjikaning First Nation
11. Blue Heron Charity Casino, Scugog Island
12. Grey Eagle Casino, Tsuu T'ina First Nation
13. Stoney Nakoda Resort Casino, Stoney Nakoda First Nation
14. Eagle River Casino, Alexis First Nation
15. Casino Dene, Cold Lake First Nation
16. Dakota Dunes Casino, Whitecap First Nation
17. Living Sky Casino, Swift Current (est. Dec 2008)

(Casino locations are approximate.)

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# First Nations Gaming Models

- VLT palaces: Nova Scotia
- Single, community operated casino (B.C.);
- Charity casinos (ON);
- Centralized casino(s); revenue distr. agreements (AB, SK, MB, ON)
- Majority are repeater market casinos;
- 3 destination integrated resorts: CasinoRama, Grey Eagle Casino, River Cree Resort & Casino.

# Evaluating Success

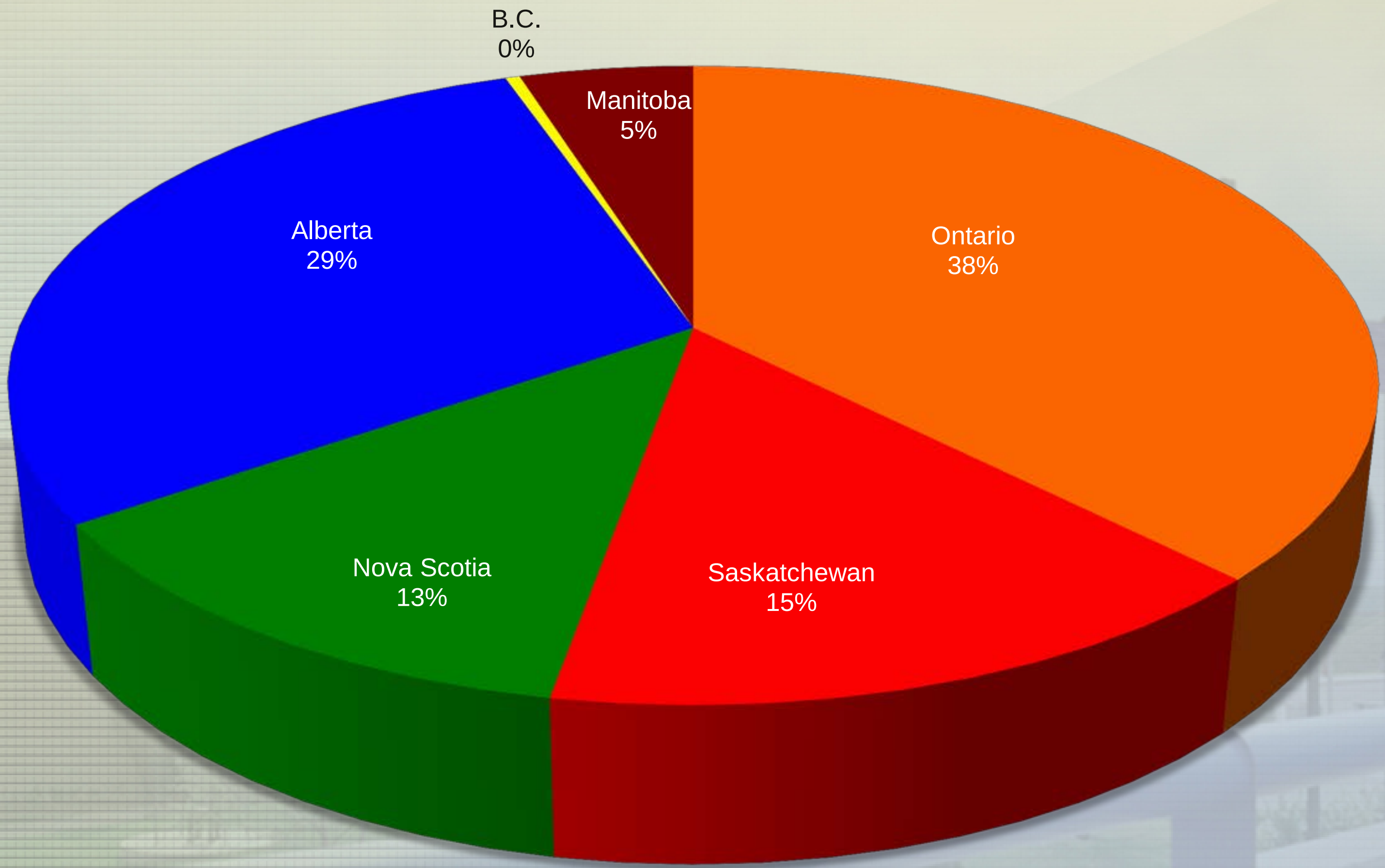
- Gambling Revenues
  - Following the revenues
  - Aggregate
  - Per capita
  - Above federal contributions
- Population/customer catchment
- Employment

## Net First Nations Gaming Revenue, 2005-2011

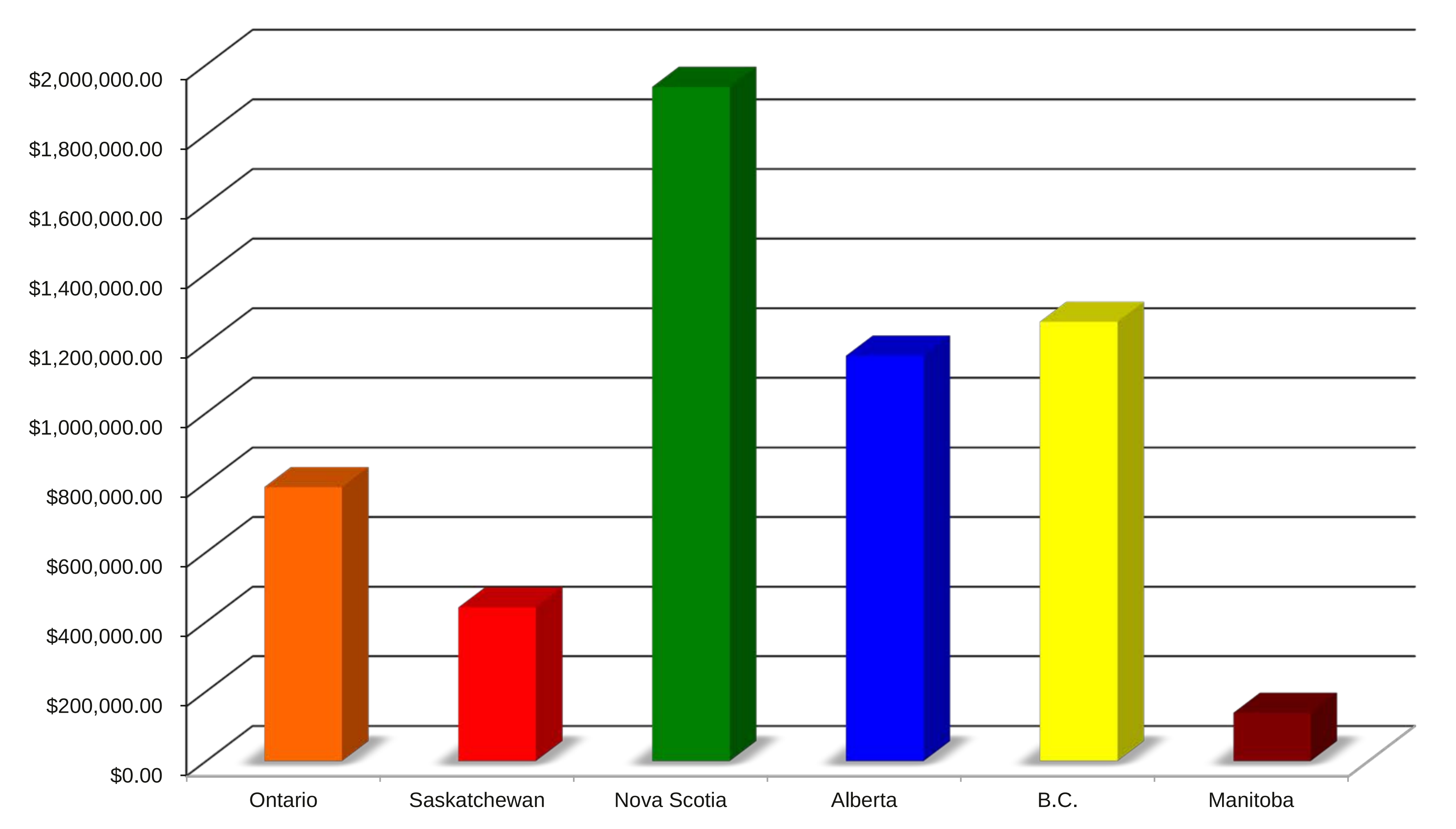
| | Ontario | Alberta | Saskatchewan | N. Scotia | Manitoba | BC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2010-2011 | $122,381,818 | $141,378,035 | $64,094,671 | $48,731,431 | $19,734,660 | $1,391,000 |
| 2009-2010 | $131,815,500 | $135,950,554 | $60,240,739 | $49,422,083 | $18,615,502 | $1,426,000 |
| 2008-2009 | $140,619,200 | $144,147,429 | $67,220,171 | $52,148,309 | $17,740,036 | $1,681,240 |
| 2007-2008 | $140,725,000 | $141,440,396 | $61,106,749 | $47,194,517 | $17,660,108 | $1,731,596 |
| 2006-2007 | $145,431,000 | $77,752,523 | $48,836,918 | $42,676,547 | $16,110,440 | $1,543,266 |
| 2005-2006 | $160,797,000 | $18,974,925 | $40,157,971 | $40,739,543 | $12,363,254 | $1,312,956 |

| Increase/Decrease First Nations Gaming Revenue, 2006-2011 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Ontario | Alberta | Saskatchewan | N. Scotia | Manitoba | BC |
| 2010-2011 | -7.05% | 3.99% | 6.40% | -1.40% | 6.01% | -2.45% |
| 2009-2010 | -6.20% | -5.69% | -10.38% | -5.23% | 4.93% | -15.18% |
| 2008-2009 | -0.12% | 1.91% | 10.00% | 10.50% | 0.45% | -2.91% |
| 2007-2008 | -3.11% | 81.91% | 25.12% | 10.59% | 9.62% | 12.20% |
| 2006-2007 | -9.01% | 309.76% | 21.61% | 4.75% | 30.31% | 17.54% |

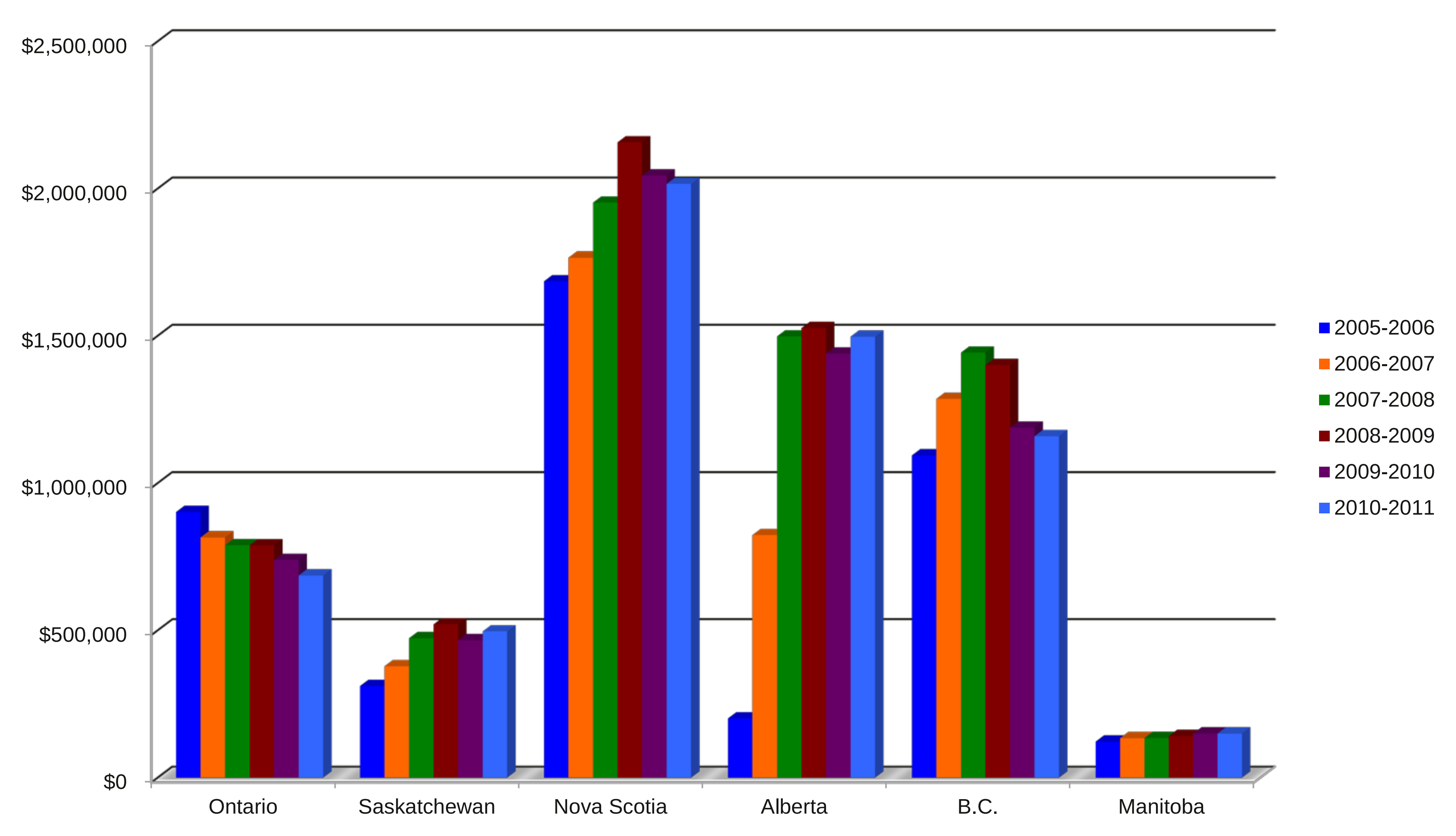
# Aggregate Net Revenues by, 2006-2011



# Aggregated Per 1000 Population Net Rev. 2006-2011



# Per 1000 Population Net Revenues, 2006-2010



**Gambling Contributions to First Nations as a Percentage of their Federal Payments.**

| | Federal Contribution | Gambling Revenues | Gambling Revenue as % of Federal Contribution |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Nova Scotia** | | |
| *Totals (2001-2009)* | *$572,117,366* | *$292,132,520* | *51.06%* |
| *Yearly Average* | *$10,013,523* | *$36,516,565* | *36.47%* |
| | **Ontario** | | |
| *Totals (2001-2009)* | *$4,966,776,964* | *$485,332,848* | *9.77%* |
| *Yearly Average* | *$620,847,121* | *$60,666,606* | *9.77%* |
| | **Saskatchewan** | | |
| *Totals (2002-2007)* | *$2,708,866,584* | *$98,385,295* | *3.63%* |
| *Yearly Average* | *$7,909,026* | *$291,434* | *3.68%* |
| | **Alberta** | | |
| *Totals (2006-2009)* | *$1,209,103,540* | *$238,167,844* | *19.7%* |
| *Yearly Average* | *$403,034,513* | *$79,389,281* | *19.7%* |
| | **Mississaugas Of Scugog Island (ON)** | | |
| *Totals (2002-2008)* | *$5,051,908* | *$31,351,000* | *620.58%* |
| *Yearly Average* | *$841,985* | *$5,225,167* | *621.99%* |
| | **Ktunaxa Tribal Council (B.C.)** | | |
| *Totals (2001-2009)* | *$50,521,582* | *$7,387,212* | *14.62%* |
| *Yearly Average* | *$6,315,198* | *$1,055,316* | *16.71%* |
| | **Manitoba** | | |
| *Totals (2006-2010)* | *$754,680,957* | *$13,453,918* | *1.78%* |
| *Yearly Average* | *$58,052,381* | *$1,034,917* | *1.78%* |
| | | | |
| **Totals (average)** | **$158,144,821** | **$26,311,327** | **16.6%** |

## Estimated First Nations Payroll Benefits, 2006-2011

| | Employees | FNs Employees | % FNs | Annual Payroll | FNs Payroll |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ontario | 2,804 | 450 | 16.0 % | $114,900,000 | $18,439,729 |
| Alberta | 1,030 | 206 | 20.0 % | $31,000,000 | $6,200,000 |
| Saskatchewan | 1,922 | 1,253 | 65.2 % | $64,200,000 | $41,853,590 |
| Manitoba | 576 | 323 | 56.1 % | $17,000,000 | $9,532,986 |
| BC | 250 | 30 | 12.0 % | $7,500,000 | $900,000 |
| Lake Scugog | 249 | na | na | $13,340,000 | na |
| **Total** | **6,831** | **2,262** | **33.1 %** | **$247,940,000** | **$76,926,305** |

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| Contributions to Provincial Treasuries, 2006-2011 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2006-2007 | 2007-2008 | 2008-2009 | 2009-2010 | 2010-2011 | Total |
| Ontario | $103,000,000 | $99,800,000 | $97,6000,000 | $93,500,000 | $86,993,000 | **$480,893,000** |
| Alberta | $10,123,667 | $42,306,742 | $76,150,505 | $78,625,870 | $77,115,292 | **$284,322,074** |
| Saskatchewan | $10,210,094 | $5,252,187 | $4,105,043 | $2,368,185 | $5,271,543 | **$27,207,052** |
| Manitoba | $1,825,000 | $2,160,000 | $2,205,000 | $2,275,000 | $2,310,000 | **$10,775,000** |
| Nova Scotia | $1,674,400 | $1,729,728 | $1,726,816 | $1,700,608 | $1,686,048 | **$8,517,600** |
| BC | $307,467 | $347,012 | $336,873 | $285,771 | $278,757 | **$1,555,879** |

# Evaluating Success

- Improved employment;
- Funding stability;
- Consistent revenue stream:
  - Localized business development;
  - Enhanced community infrastructure;
  - Opens investment potential.
- Political/social empowerment;
- No discernable increases in problem gambling;
- No substantial increases in crime rates.

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