



# Global Impact

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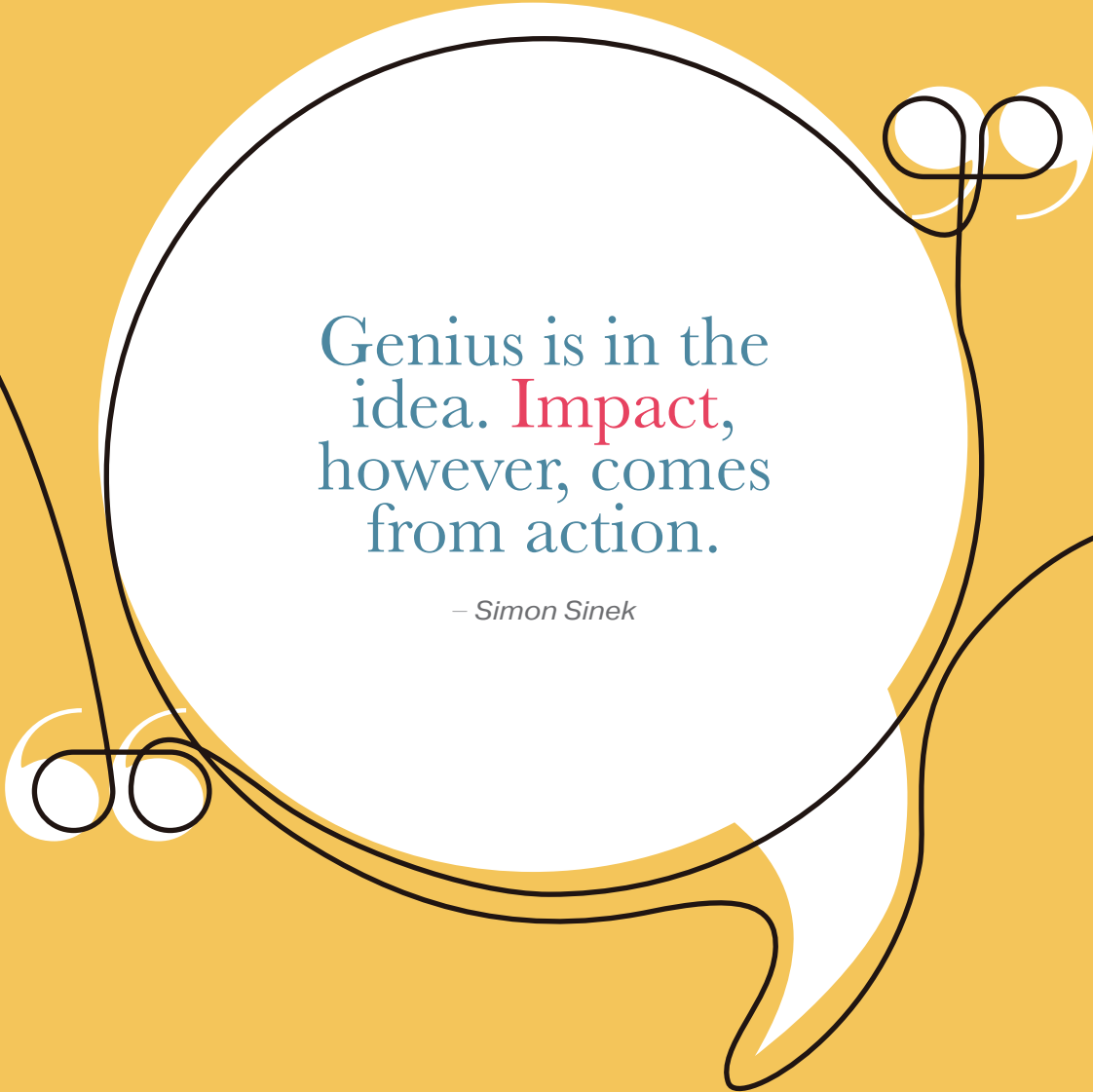
ALBERTA GAMBLING RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
Annual Report 2020 - 2021

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

**[www.abgamblinginstitute.ca](http://www.abgamblinginstitute.ca)**

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).



Genius is in the  
idea. **Impact**,  
however, comes  
from action.

– *Simon Sinek*

# Message from the Board Chair

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the 21st Annual Report of the Alberta Gambling Research Institute (AGRI) covering the period April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021, its 21th year of operation.

To no one's surprise now, this has been a very unusual year for AGRI and its researchers, partners, collaborators, and pretty much everyone else on the planet. The various lockdowns, protocols, and other changes that resulted from the response to the COVID-19 pandemic have necessitated major revisions to AGRI operations. Some were already being planned, as we worked to minimize bureaucracy. AGRI has extensive reporting for transparency and accountability, and has processes to implement its competitions for funds for research grants and graduate students, and the rigorous reviews needed to maintain quality control. These all were adapted successfully to deal with the 'action at a distance' format required by governments and institutions to ensure public health was protected.

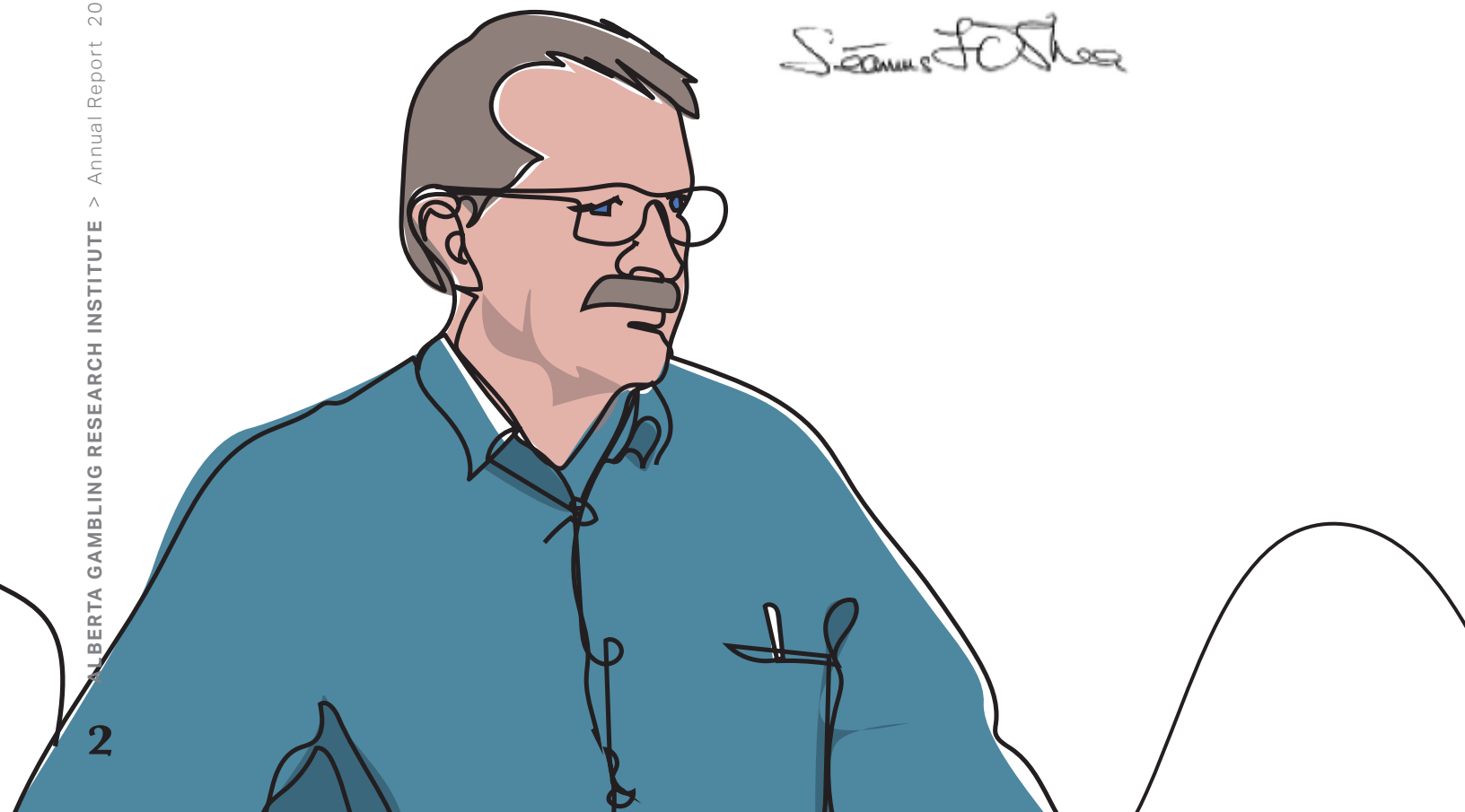
The mandated communications with stakeholders to maintain currency of research were considerably more difficult, and the communication of research results and insights competed for attention against the deluge of COVID news. AGRI continued to publish regular accounts of research and periodic digests of recent developments. AGRI also provided advice to the Government of Alberta and Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis, as required. The annual conference for 2019-20 was cancelled and the conference for 2020-21 will be delivered virtually in April 2021. The conference will focus largely on the results of the AGRI National Project (ANP). The objective is for high attendance and a more diverse than usual audience with the worldwide accessibility for the conference.

This report includes further details of the ANP. I will confine myself to thanking all of the organizations and researchers who have contributed to this landmark study of gambling in Canada, particularly the Canadian Council on Gambling Research, Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse, Mise Sur Tois, and Gambling Research Exchange Ontario. This has been a very difficult year for many of our provincial partners, and, in the case of Alberta Health Services, a harrowing one. Thank you all.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the AGRI Board for their generous contributions of time and effort.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Séamus O'Shea**



# Message from the Executive Director

This year's theme for AGRI's Annual Report is 'Global Impact', which is appropriate in so many ways for AGRI and its activities this year. The entire 2020/2021 fiscal year (April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021), saw the closure of AGRI offices due to the global pandemic. Remote operations of AGRI's activities began immediately once staff were required to work from home. Teleconferences, Zoom and WebEx meetings, emails and telephones/cellphones kept communications open for AGRI Board members, researchers, staff and stakeholders. As with AGRI, the new normal for virtual and e-communication tools kept the entire world in touch with each other. Despite the global pandemic and resulting consequences, the year saw the complete and effective operations of all AGRI activities. At the time of writing, it is hoped that the offices will safely re-open in early 2022.

AGRI researchers continue their partnerships and collaborations locally, provincially, nationally and internationally. The expanse of these research relationships truly makes AGRI a global organization with impact throughout the world. The Institute's annual Major Grant call relies on global peer-reviewers in awarding major grants. These reviews further AGRI's relationships with national and international gambling researchers. Attendance from AGRI Board members, researchers and staff at virtual events have provided global educational and networking opportunities – with the added bonus of lower costs and in the comfort of one's own home!

On the subject of virtual events, the planning of AGRI's 20th annual conference has been a substantial endeavor with the decision to have it completely virtual – first ever! As the pandemic continued to rage globally, the AGRI Board confirmed that the conference would indeed take place and would be held virtually. Dr. Rob Williams, AGRI 2021 Conference Chair, and I were tasked to make this happen! The learning curve regarding virtual platforms, presentations, and posters was high but with the procurement of a virtual conference provider and a coordinator, their expertise has proven to be a worthwhile investment! With the conference being offered virtually, it is anticipated delegates from around the world will participate making the 2021 Conference a global event. The 2021 Conference will focus on presenting the AGRI National Project's (ANP) research findings, which will afford the ANP with global impact.

Global introduction of the findings from the ANP, "Gambling and Problem Gambling in Canada: A National Study" is currently occurring with publications, social media, AGRI's website and through the Institute's 2021 Annual Conference (as aforementioned). Dr. Robert Williams, lead investigator, and the project's co-investigators, Drs. Darren Christensen, Nady el-Guebaly, David Hodgins, Fiona Nicoll, Dan McGrath,

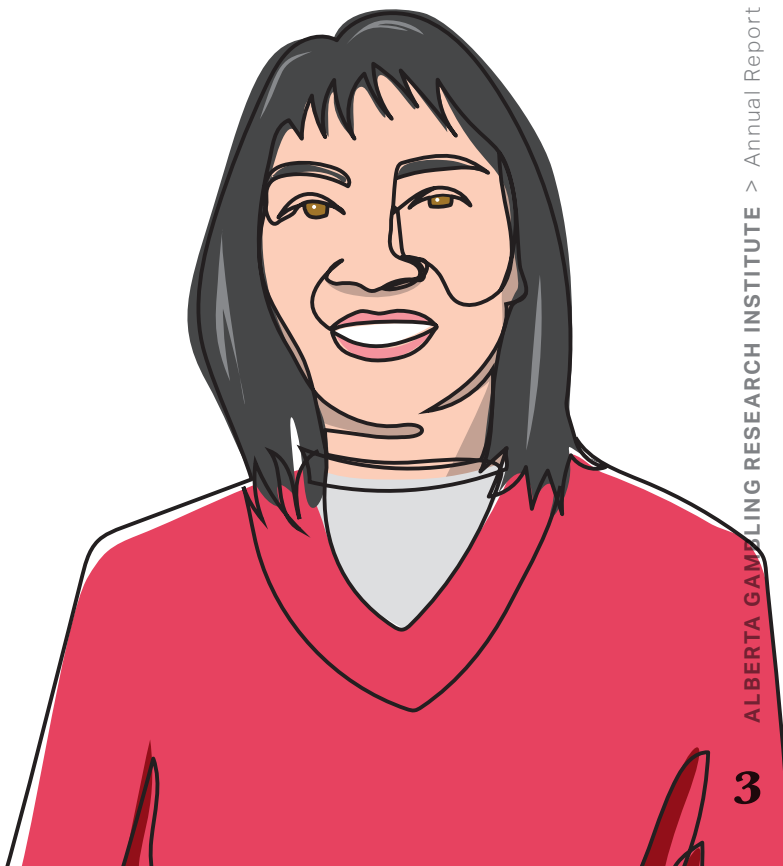
Carrie Shaw, Garry Smith, Yale Belanger and Mr. Rhys Stevens, are continuing this global distribution of ANP results with additional papers for publication based on their analyses. The papers share important gambling research for interested parties globally. I invite you to read the Annual Report's section on Strategic & Collaborative Initiatives for further information on the ANP.

On a more local level, I would like to thank the Institute's Board, the Government of Alberta, Treasury Board and Finance, the Office of the Vice President (Research), University of Calgary and consortium universities (University of Alberta, Calgary and Lethbridge) for their support, which has and continues to enable the Institute to operate and contribute to important gambling research with global impact. Also, thank you to Rhys Stevens, Institute Librarian, for his support and contribution in the Institute's administrative processes, procedures and meeting stakeholders' needs and requirements this past year.

The global impact of this pandemic year has provided the Institute with opportunities to develop and utilize creative courses of action to meet its Mission of "facilitating evidence-based broad research that informs gambling public policy and educates Albertans and the wider audience about the effects of gambling". Both Albertans and the wider audience have been impacted and benefited with sharing research using methodology and technology with a global reach. Most of which will become standard operating procedure to continue the Institute's success and longevity as one of the world's oldest gambling research institutes.

Regards,

**Glenda Wong**



# 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 include, but are 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 a seven-member Board consisting of two directors appointed by and from each Partner University and an external Board Chair appointed by the Vice Presidents, Research, of the Partner Universities. The Executive Director serves as an advisory role on the Board.

*[For biographical information, see 'Board of Directors,' page 37]*

Dr. Séamus O'Shea



Dr. Cheryl Currie



Dr. Chris Nicol



Dr. Jenny Godley



Dr. David Stewart



Dr. Anna Luna



Dr. Jared Wesley



An illustration on a teal background showing three hands in black outline. One hand at the top is placing a yellow puzzle piece into a larger assembly. Another hand at the bottom left is holding a yellow puzzle piece. A third hand at the bottom right is also interacting with the puzzle pieces. The puzzle pieces are yellow with black outlines.

# Gambling Research at the Partner Universities



# University of Alberta

Dr. Fiona Nicoll, Ph.D., was appointed as the Alberta Gambling Research Coordinator at the University of Alberta on April 1, 2018 and has held the Institute Chair in Gambling at the University of Alberta since July, 2016. Dr. Nicoll holds a Ph.D. in Cultural Studies from the University of Melbourne and is a full Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Alberta. Her book *Gambling in Everyday Life: Spaces, Moments and Products of Enjoyment* was published by Routledge in 2019. She is the founding editor of the international academic journal *Critical Gambling Studies* and co-author of a book on *Disciplinary and Academic Integrity in Gambling Research* which will be completed in 2021.

## Main Themes

- Showcasing Indigenous gambling research
- Supporting early career research in gambling studies
- Expanding interdisciplinary conversations about gambling in Humanities and Social Sciences

The year had a very unpromising start with the cancellation of the AGRI conference in April due to COVID-19 and remote working for the remainder of the year. In spite of these challenges, we have been successful in generating and promoting gambling research across disciplines at the University of Alberta.

We continued our invited work with Indigenous youth from Northern Ontario. Murat Akcayir, an AGRI Postdoctoral researcher, generated new knowledge from the metadata of gambling research in Web of Science and Scopus databases and David Baxter was funded as a Master's student to pursue his study grey literature in the Department of Political Science. The *Critical Gambling Studies* journal continues to publish peer-reviewed academic research on gambling as well as to promote international and interdisciplinary scholarship through a regular program of blog publications.

## Events

While 2020-2021 was a challenging year for research meetings, a big highlight was the launch of Futures of Gambling Studies: Showcasing Early Career Research, a special issue of *Critical Gambling Studies*

edited by Eva Monson and Jennifer Reynolds. To celebrate this publication (which includes ten peer-reviewed articles by ECRs) the event opened with comments by Professor Rebecca Cassidy followed by an international panel of early career researchers including: Riitta Matilainen (EHYT Finnish Association for Substance Abuse Prevention), Cesar Albarran-Torres (Swinburne University of Technology) and Juan Zhang (University of Bristol).



Dr. Fiona Nicoll  
Research Coordinator and  
Chair in Gambling Research

## Critical Gambling Studies

Peer-reviewing and editing of articles is almost complete for three special forthcoming issues of *Critical Gambling Studies* close to production. The themes of these are: Transnational Landscapes of Gambling in Macao, Indigenous Gambling Research, and What are Critical Gambling Studies? *Critical Gambling Studies* also published seven original blogs by members of our editorial board in 2021.

## Kule Scholars Fellowship

Dr. Nicoll was awarded a three year research fellowship to join the inaugural cohort of KULE Institute Scholars. In this role she is creating connections with other Arts Faculty researchers to link the political economy and socio-cultural aspects of gambling with broader challenges of climate resilience for Alberta.

## University of Calgary

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 the University of Calgary's Research Coordinator for the Alberta Gambling Research Institute and is a registered Clinical Psychologist in Alberta.

Dr. David Hodgins  
Research Coordinator

The gambling research program at the University of Calgary continues to flourish despite some limitations on data collection related to the COVID pandemic restrictions. Drs. Hodgins and McGrath, both originally recruited to the university through AGRI's capacity building and sustainability programs, continue to have active research labs. An average of 12 students and research assistants attend joint biweekly research meetings. In addition, a number of other faculty members are conducting gambling projects as part of larger research programs. Seven University of Calgary Master's and 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. Two M.Sc. students completed their degrees this year.

Dr. Andrew Kim, a doctoral scholarship recipient has accepted a tenure track position at Ryerson University.

National and international collaboration has always been a value of the University of Calgary gambling researchers. The University

of Calgary continues our active collaboration with the University of São Paulo supported by AGRI's first Team Development grant to foster exchanges of researchers between the centres. The International Behavioural Addictions and Impulse Control Disorder Network is now well established, although student exchanges were suspended during the pandemic. This collaboration allows the clinical experience in one treatment centre to be shared world-wide through peer reviewed publications.

Drs. Hodgins and McGrath and other faculty across the university have active research projects funded by AGRI's grant program. Topics are diverse, including the effect of pop-up responsible gambling messages on slot machines, the interaction of gambling and alcohol, the association between video games and gambling, and selective attention to gambling images among gamblers. These projects have both theoretical and practical implications.

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## University of Lethbridge

Dr. Rob Williams, Ph.D., is a Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Lethbridge, and 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; and regularly gives expert witness testimony on the impacts of gambling.

In 2020-21, gambling research at the University of Lethbridge continued to involve faculty and students from a myriad of different academic disciplines. Departments represented included Sociology,

Dr. Robert Williams  
Research Coordinator

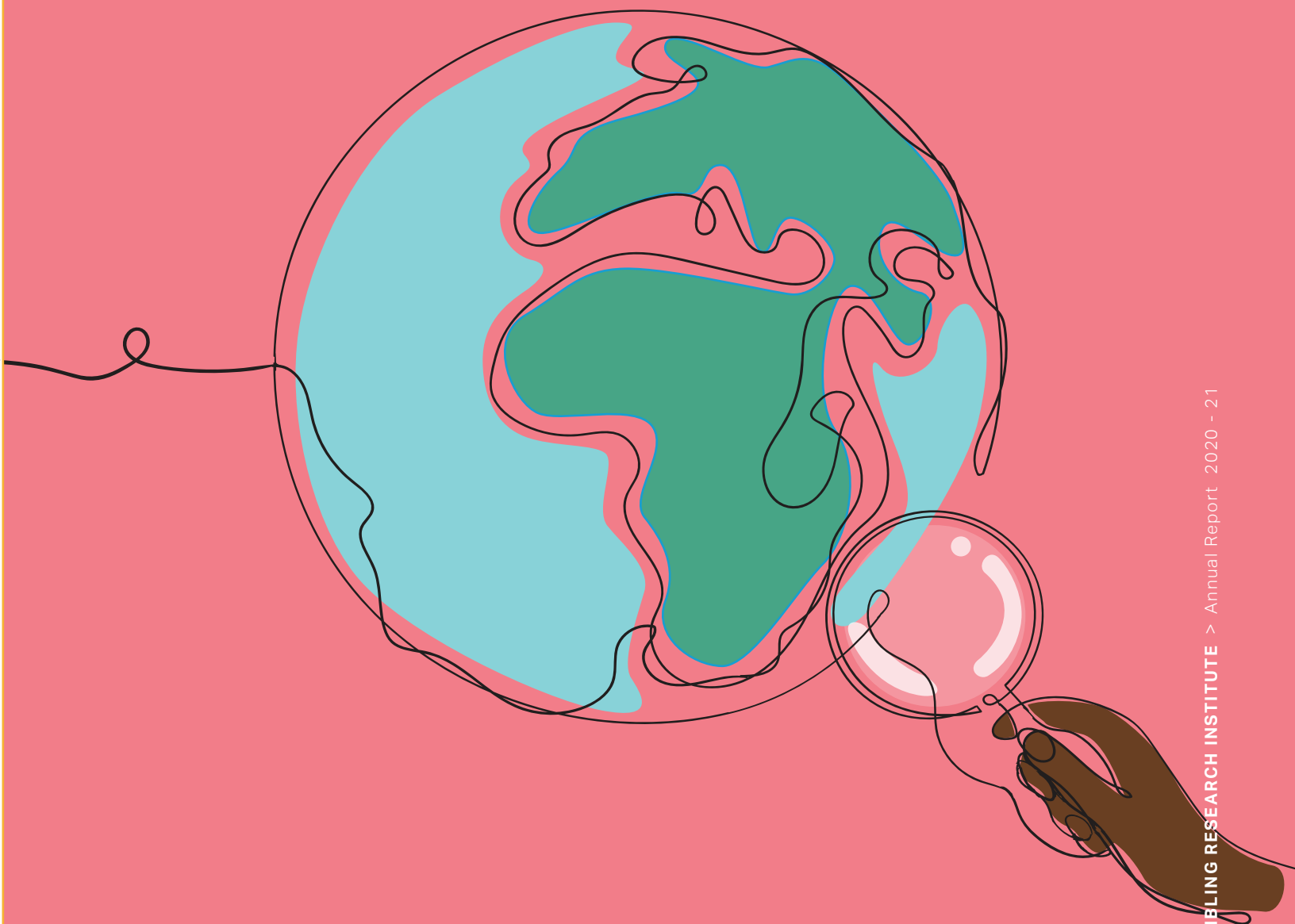


Addictions Counselling, Psychology, Political Science, Neuroscience, and Public Health. In total there were approximately 15 to 20 people engaged in gambling research at the university. Because of the pandemic, the Gambling Research Group met virtually during the academic year and showcased the work of the gambling researchers at the University of Lethbridge. The meetings this year were again very capably organized by Ph.D. student Gillian Russell.

Several AGRI-funded research projects are ongoing. Of particular note is a comprehensive national study of gambling "Gambling and Problem Gambling in Canada: A National Study," that involves several AGRI researchers (Williams, Belanger, Christensen, el-Guebaly, Hodgins, McGrath, Nicoll, Smith, Stevens) and co-funding from the Canadian Consortium for Gambling Research, the Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse and Addiction, and Gambling Research Exchange Ontario. This is the largest and most comprehensive investigation of gambling ever undertaken in Canada. This project will be profiled at AGRI's 20th anniversary conference in April 2021. To date 5 papers have been published and 3 have been submitted for publication.

Dr. Williams has been provided consulting work with Gambling Research Australia (online gambling) and Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis (online gambling). This past year, Dr. Williams was integrally involved in the first ever virtual AGRI Conference as Chair with selecting speakers, program development and virtual platform planning.

# 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 2020-21)

THE FOLLOWING **NEW** RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSALS WERE APPROVED IN THE 2020-21 GRANT FUNDING CYCLE:

- [#89 Major Grant 2020-21] ***Lottery Winnings and Financial Wellbeing*** – Dr. Barry Scholnick (U of Alberta) [Priority: **Socio-economic / Economics**]
- [#90 Major Grant 2020-21] ***Giwii-Nisidopanmin Odaminowin: Gambling and Videogames in the Lives of Indigenous Youth in Northwestern Ontario*** – Dr. Fiona Nicoll (U of Alberta); Dr. Darrel Manitowabi (Laurentian U); Dr. Lori Haskell (Western U) & Dr. Kevin Harrigan (U of Waterloo) [Priorities: **Indigenous / First Nations; Internet Gambling**]
- [#91 Major Grant 2020-21] ***Gambling in Canada in the Aftermath of the Pandemic*** – Dr. Carrie Leonard & Dr. Robert J. Williams (U of Lethbridge) [Priorities: **Internet Gambling; Longitudinal Research**]
- [#S49 Small Grant 2020-21] ***The Cognitive Operations of Predictive Agents: How Mental Simulation Generates Cognitive Biases*** – Dr. Gerald Haeubl & Mr. Rory M. Waisman (U of Alberta) [Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]

AS OF MARCH 31, 2021, THE FOLLOWING RESEARCH PROJECTS WERE **ONGOING**<sup>1</sup> AS FUNDING WAS PROVIDED IN A PREVIOUS GRANT FUNDING CYCLE:

- [#69 Major Grant 2014-15] ***Naltrexone-Imaging Study*** – Dr. Darren Christensen (U of Lethbridge) [Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]
- [#73 Major Grant 2014-15] ***Gambling Disorder vs. Alcohol Use Disorder: Comparing Treatment Outcomes with Congruence Couple Therapy*** – Dr. Bonnie K. Lee & Dr. Darren Christensen (U of Lethbridge) [Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]
- [#75 Major Grant 2015-16] ***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 Regina); Dr. Rebecca Hudson Breen (U of Alberta) & Dr. Eli Teram (Wilfrid Laurier U) [Priorities: **Public Policy, Treatment and Stigma**]
- [#81 Major Grant 2016-17] ***The effect of video lottery terminal (VLT) play on alcohol self-administration in gambling*** – Dr. Daniel McGrath, Dr. David Hodgins (U of Calgary); Dr. Hyoun S. Kim (Ryerson U) & Dr. Sean Barrett (Dalhousie U) [Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]



- [#82 Major Grant 2017-18] ***Gambling in the Workplace: Characteristics and Experiences*** – Dr. Rebecca Hudson Breen (U of Alberta) & Dr. James Sanders (U of Lethbridge) [Priority: **Internet/Remote Gambling**]
- [#83 Major Grant 2017-18] ***Pop-up Messages for Internet Gambling: An Experimental Study Examining the Efficacy of Fear Appraisals*** – Dr. David C. Hodgins, Dr. Seema Mutti-Packer, Dr. Daniel McGrath (U of Calgary); Dr. Hyoun S. Kim (Ryerson U); Dr. Matthew J. Rockloff (Central Queensland U) & Dr. Michael Wohl (Carleton U) [Priority: **Internet/Remote Gambling**]
- [#84 Major Grant 2017-18] ***From Motivation to Compulsion: The Neural Bases of Disordered Gambling Explored in a Rodent Model*** – Dr. David Euston (U of Lethbridge) [Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]
- [#85 Major Grant 2018-19] ***Development of an Ecologically Valid Non-Human Primate Model of Gambling*** – Dr. Jean-Baptiste Leca, Dr. Robert J. Williams (U of Lethbridge) & Dr. Elsa Adessi (CNR Institute of Cognitive Sciences and technologies) [Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]
- [#86 Major Grant 2018-19] ***Lottery Winnings and Entrepreneurship*** – Dr. Barry Scholnick & Dr. Sahil Raina (U of Alberta) [Priorities: **Socio-economic / Economics, Public Policy**]
- [#87 Major Grant 2019-20] ***Targeting Implicit Cognitions in Comprehensive Prevention Programming for Gambling, Alcohol and Cannabis Use*** – Ms. Gillian Russell (U of Lethbridge); Dr. Marvin Krank (UBC Okanagan) & Dr. Robert J. Williams (U of Lethbridge) [Priorities: **Longitudinal Research, Treatment and Stigma**]
- [#88 Major Grant 2019-20] ***A Cross-National Investigation of the Convergence of Gambling and Gaming*** – Dr. David C. Hodgins (U of Calgary); Dr. Hyoun S. Kim (Ryerson U); Dr. Sherry Stewart (Dalhousie U); Dr. Daniel L. King (U of Adelaide); Dr. Zsolt Demetrovics (U of Gibraltar); Dr. Hermano Tavares (U of Sao Paulo) & Dr. Jung-Seok Choi (Seoul National U) [Priority: **Internet/Remote Gambling**]
- [#S44 Small Grant 2017-18] ***Gambling Risk-Taking Behavior in the Aftermath of Broken Promises: The Role of Stress*** – Dr. Yannick Griep & Dr. Daniel McGrath (U of Calgary) [Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]
- [#S46 Small Grant 2017-18] ***Selective Memory in Gamblers: An Autobiographical Memory Approach*** – Dr. Norman R. Brown (U of Alberta) [Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]
- [#S47 Small Grant 2019-20] ***What you see and what you get: Incomplete and cumulative information as determinants of competitive decision-making quality*** – Dr. Ben Dyson (U of Alberta) [Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]
- [#S48 Small Grant 2019-20] ***Multimodal Investigation of the Relationship between Cannabis, Decision-making, Reward Processing and Motor Learning*** – Dr. Anthony Singhal & Dr. Reyhaneh Bakhtiari (U of Alberta) [Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]

- [Team Development Grant 2018-19] ***Towards a Transdiagnostic Etiological and Treatment Model of Gambling Disorder and Addiction*** – Dr. David Hodgins, Dr. Daniel McGrath, Dr. Kristin von Ranson (U of Calgary); Dr. Hyoun S. Kim (Ryerson U); Dr. Hermano Tavares & Dr. Andre Malbergier (U of Sao Paulo) [Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]
- [Strategic Research Grant 2018-21] ***Gambling and Problem Gambling in Canada: A National Study*** – Dr. Robert J. Williams, Dr. Carrie Leonard, Dr. Yale D. Belanger, Dr. Darren R. Christensen, Mr. Rhys M.G. Stevens (U of Lethbridge); Dr. Nady A. el-Guebaly, Dr. David C. Hodgins, Dr. Daniel S. McGrath (U of Calgary); Dr. Fiona Nicoll & Dr. Garry J. Smith (U of Alberta) [Priorities: **Public Policy, Indigenous/First Nations, Longitudinal Research, Treatment and Stigma**]

## THE FOLLOWING RESEARCH PROJECTS WERE **COMPLETED**<sup>2</sup> DURING 2020-21 (AS OF MARCH 31, 2021):

- [#68 Major Grant 2014-15] ***Family Study of Executive Functioning Deficits in Gambling Disorder*** – Dr. David Hodgins & Dr. Vina Goghari (U of Calgary) [Priorities: **Longitudinal Research, Treatment and Stigma**]
- [#76 Major Grant 2015-16] ***Towards Understanding Addiction Substitution: An Examination of Substituted vs. Recovered Gamblers*** – Dr. David Hodgins (U of Calgary) & Dr. Hyoun S. Kim (Ryerson U) [Priorities: **Longitudinal Research, Treatment and Stigma**]
- [#77 Major Grant 2015-16] ***Identifying Psychological Factors that Are Predictive of Attentional Bias in Gamblers: An Eye-tracking Study*** – Dr. Daniel McGrath, Ms Kristy Kowatch, Dr. David Hodgins (U of Calgary) & Dr. Hyoun S. Kim (Ryerson U) [Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]
- [#79 Major Grant 2016-17] ***Gambling Responsibly: Measuring and Validating Responsible Gambling Behaviours Amongst Regular Gamblers in Alberta*** – Dr. Garry Smith, Dr. Fiona Nicoll (U of Alberta); Dr. Nerilee Hing, Dr. Matthew Rockloff, Dr. Matthew Browne & Dr. Alex Russell (Central Queensland U) [Priorities: **Public Policy, Internet Gambling, and Treatment and Stigma**]
- [#80 Major Grant 2016-17] ***Do Social Casino Games Encourage Gambling? An Experimental Approach*** – Dr. David C. Hodgins, Dr. Daniel McGrath (U of Calgary); Dr. Hyoun S. Kim (Ryerson U); Dr. Matthew J. Rockloff (Central Queensland U) & Dr. Michael Wohl (Carleton U) [Priority: **Internet/Remote Gambling**]

1 - Principal Investigators (PIs) of ongoing Institute-funded research projects are required to submit annual research project status reports using an Institute-provided template.

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

# Strategic and Collaborative Initiative Grants

## Gambling and Problem Gambling in Canada: A National Study [AGRI National Project]

This strategic, collaborative grant is one of the largest and most comprehensive national investigations of gambling ever conducted in Canada. It is being undertaken by a team of eight Institute researchers from the Universities of Lethbridge, Calgary, and Alberta and is being funded by the Alberta Gambling Research Institute (AGRI), the Canadian Consortium for Gambling Research (CCGR), the Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse and Addiction, and Gambling Research Exchange Ontario (Greo). The study commenced in 2018-19 and is expected to be completed in 2021-22.

**Dr. Carrie A. Shaw is currently serving as the Project Coordinator for the AGRI National Project "Gambling and Problem Gambling in Canada: A National Study." Her research interests include the spectrum of individual differences, cognitive and social, and the role those of those factors in erroneous belief formation and correction. Dr. Shaw's recent publications include: "Gambling in Canada During the COVID Lockdown: Prospective National Survey" (2021), "Gambling Fallacies: Predicting Problem Gambling in a National Sample" (2021), "Fallacious beliefs: Gambling specific and belief in the paranormal" (2018), "The relationship between gambling fallacies and problem gambling" (2016), "Gambling Fallacies: What are they and how are they best measured?" (2015), and "Characteristics of good poker players" (2015).**



Carrie A. Shaw

Project Manager, AGRI National Project

The 2020-2021 fiscal year marked another successful phase of the AGRI National Project (ANP). The first ANP element, the Statistics Canada project, utilized the Rapid Response Gambling Module data. This module was the prosperous outcome of collaborations between AGRI researchers, CCGR and Statistics Canada. The Rapid Response Gambling Module (RRGM) was administered during the 2018 Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) data collection. Analysis of this data took place in late 2019 and from these analyses two pivotal articles were published. The first article elaborated on the changes in Canadian gambling engagement since 2002. The second provided an extensive examination of the factors that predict problem gambling in Canadian adults.

The second National Project element implemented during this fiscal year was the Online Panel Cohort follow-up study. Data collection for this project element used a study survey designed to augment the Statistics Canada project by obtaining more comprehensive information with respect to gambling, demographics, and comorbidities. Baseline data were collected in the fall of 2018, and in this fiscal year, the follow-up study data - collected in the fall of 2019 - provided comprehensive longitudinal data from this national cohort. In this fiscal year, the data from the Online Panel Cohort baseline were used in conjunction with the Rapid Response Gambling Module data in the third major ANP publication submitted which examined Indigenous gambling. Data from the Online Panel were published in a study investigating the predictive power of Gambling Fallacies on subsequent problem gambling. Furthermore, two additional articles have been submitted for publication using this data. The first assessing illegal gambling in Canada, and the second investigating Financial Speculation activities. The data from the Online Panel project is currently being prepared, with accompanying user manual and codebooks, for release to Greo.

During this fiscal year, tremendous progress was also made on the third element of the AGRI National Project. The third element of the ANP included multiple independent corroborating investigations that were designed to provide a qualitative context for the ANP

quantitative data by collecting information from four unique Key Informant groups: gambling stakeholders, Indigenous leaders, casino patrons, and problem gamblers in treatment. In 2019 the procedures for three of the Key Informant groups had been formalized. In 2020, ethics approval was obtained and data collection undertaken among these three groups: gambling stakeholder, Indigenous leader, and casino patron groups. To date, the data from these studies has resulted in one publication expounding on casino patrons' understanding of available responsible gambling tools, a second publication is in preparation that examines casino employees awareness of responsible gambling tools and a book is in preparation elaborating on the Indigenous perspective of gambling in Canada.

One additional project was developed – and undertaken – during the 2020-2021 fiscal year: the ANP COVID Supplement study. In early 2020, the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated social and economic restrictions to curb the spread of the virus. These restrictions in turn, introduced an unprecedented experience whereby Canadians had access to online gambling platforms but also experienced the sudden prohibition of legal in-person gambling. The ANP team responded quickly to this phenomenon by extending the Online Panel Cohort Study. The ANP COVID Supplement study re-recruited the Online Panel Cohort study participants for two additional data collection periods: the first during the national lockdown and the second taking place six months later. This quick action ensured the capture of Canadians' experience during the national lockdown and six months later, while provinces were dealing with the aftermath of these national restrictions. The first manuscript detailing the impacts of the pandemic on Canadians' gambling experiences during lockdown has been published, and a manuscript detailing the follow-up study – ascertaining the impacts of the pandemic six-months after the lockdown will be submitted during this fiscal year. The data from this study, like those from the original Online Panel project, is being prepared for housing at Greo along with data codebooks and user manual.

# Other Grant Opportunities

*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- and inter-disciplinary academic teams among Partner Universities, nationally, internationally, and with other stakeholders. *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.).

More information on all grant types is available from the Institute Apply for Grants web page:

<https://research.ucalgary.ca/alberta-gambling-research-institute/apply-grants>

## Scholarship and Research Allowance Awards

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 promotes gambling-related research to promising new scholars.

### The following eleven scholarships were awarded in 2020-21:

- **Jami Albright-Tolman**, Doctoral, Health Sciences (Population Studies in Health), University of Lethbridge.

*Revamp and re-test the Prison Gambling Awareness and Prevention Program implemented in the Lethbridge Correctional Centre (2006).*

[Priorities: **Public policy; Treatment and Stigma**]

- **David Baxter**, Master's, Political Science, University of Alberta.

*An interdisciplinary inquiry of the political economy of gambling research by uniting the disciplines of political science and information science to study the role of the “grey literature” in informing gambling policy.* [Priorities: **Public policy; Internet Gambling**]

- **Bradley Brazeau**, Master's, Psychology, University of Calgary.

*This research seeks to provide more up-to-date measures of gambling disorder for use in gambling intervention trials, specifically, online interventions with minimal clinician contact. [Priorities: **Internet Gambling; Longitudinal Research; Treatment and Stigma**]*

- **Megan Cowie**, Doctoral, Clinical Psychology, University of Calgary.

*Investigating the transdiagnostic processes of treatment-seeking individuals with gambling disorder and substance use disorder. [Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]*

- **Danika Dorchak**, Master's, Neuroscience, University of Lethbridge.

*Using an animal model, to test whether more impulsive individuals prefer reward delivered on a random-ratio (gambling-like) schedule vs a fixed schedule (reward delivered after a fixed number of responses). [Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]*

- **Julie Gorenko**, Doctoral, Clinical Psychology, University of Calgary.

*To evaluate how late-life events influence gambling among older adults, and examine if social support and coping behaviours mediate the link between stressful life-events and gambling. [Priority: **Longitudinal Research**]*

- **Catherine Laskowski**, Doctoral, Neuroscience, University of Lethbridge.

*Using an animal model, increase our understanding of the role the brain plays in gambling addiction and ultimately lead to brain-based interventions which may help to both prevent and treat gambling addiction. [Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]*

- **Diandra Leslie**, Master's, Psychology, University of Calgary

*Examine stigma and its relationship to treatment seeking in moderate and high-risk online, offline, and mixed-mode gamblers [Priorities: **Internet Gambling; Treatment and Stigma**]*

- **Dallas Novakowski**, Doctoral, Business, University of Calgary.

*The usage of both self-report and archival measures of risk-acceptance will allow for a strong test of the validity of the proposed factor of risk propensity. [Priority: **Public Policy**]*

- **Gillian Russell**, Doctoral, Psychology, University of Lethbridge.

*Understand the relationship between implicit memory associations and gambling behaviour longitudinally in both adolescents and adults. [Priorities: **Public Policy; Longitudinal Research; Treatment and Stigma**]*

- **Magdalen Schluter**, Doctoral, Psychology, University of Calgary.

*Investigate the role of impulsive choice by addressing what the interplay is between gambling-related misbeliefs, reward-related decision making and impulsive traits in individuals who gamble. [Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]*

- **Maryam Sharif-Razi**, Doctoral, Clinical Psychology, University of Calgary.

*Examine what is the nature of the relationship between early traumatic experiences and addictive behaviours such as gambling and substance use in adolescents; what factors explain this link and what factors strengthen or weaken this relationship. [Priorities: **Longitudinal Research; Treatment and Stigma**]*

- **Maegan Trottier**, Master's, Health Sciences, University of Lethbridge.

*Understand the impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) on the development of multiple addictions, including drug and alcohol use disorders, and gaming and gambling disorders. [Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]*

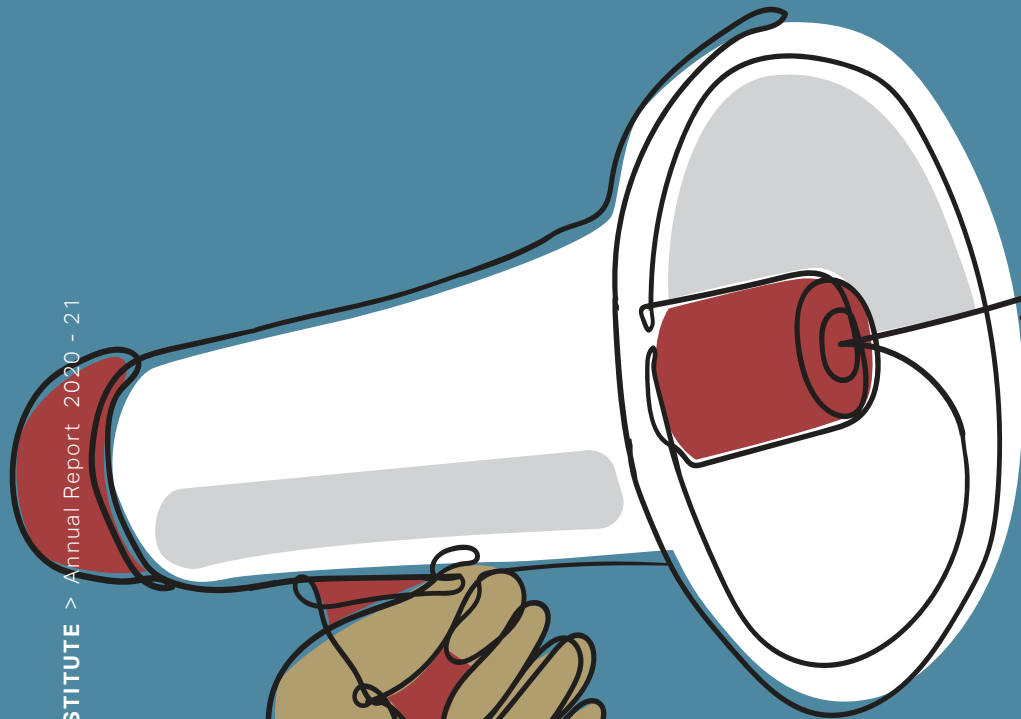
- **Sean Wilcox**, Doctoral, Cultural, Social, and Political Thought, University of Lethbridge.

*Utilizing Foucault's genealogical approach in a study of the concept of gambling addiction. [Priorities: **Public Policy; Treatment and Stigma**]*





# Communicating Gambling Research





# Institute Library & Web Site Overview 2020-21

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

The Institute's three affiliated university libraries (U. of Lethbridge, U. of Calgary, and U. of Alberta) selected and purchased approximately \$30,000 of materials in support of gambling-related research at their institutions. Specifically, \$14,000 was allocated to U. Lethbridge, \$8,000 to U. of Alberta and \$8,000 to U. of Calgary. Purchases included electronic journal title subscriptions, E-books, print books, and audio-visual resources<sup>3</sup>.

As well as supporting collection building, the Institute Librarian provided assistance with 33 specific reference requests, updated research guides on gambling-related topics, digitized and/or archived a variety of significant gambling-related publications, maintained the Institute web site, authored newsletter articles, and assisted with knowledge transfer/translation services.

**Rhys Stevens**

Librarian & Information Specialist

A major focus during 2020-21 involved collecting and organizing statistical information about gambling from all Canadian provinces and territories for the Institute's ongoing strategic research project *Gambling and Problem Gambling in Canada: A National Study*. Using Google Data Studio, an online database was created containing [Canadian gambling statistics](#) for the period 1970-2020. In addition, a series of ten Excel spreadsheets containing background information about gambling in Canada which are available from the [Research](#) section of the Institute's National Project webpage.

The Institute web site went through a major refresh and modernization in December, 2020. It continued to function as the primary point of access for information about the Institute and its ongoing research activities. Citations, abstracts, digital object identifiers (DOIs) and project-relevant details were added to grant web pages as new research publications and presentations became available. The Institute's Twitter account was used for sending notifications about Institute activities and developments in the field of gambling research. Lastly, online spreadsheets detailing worldwide gambling prevalence studies and the Institute's 154 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, 2020, to March 31, 2021:

Akçayır, M., Nicoll, F., Baxter, D. G., & Palmer, Z. S. (2021). Whose responsibility is it to prevent or reduce gambling harm? A mapping review of current empirical research. *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11469-020-00459-x>

Allami, Y., Hodgins, D. C., Young, M., Brunelle, N., Currie, S., Dufour, M., Flores-Pajot, M-C. & Nadeau, L. (2021). A meta-analysis of problem gambling risk factors in the general adult population. *Addiction*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/add.15449>

Berg, R., Kim, H. S., Hodgins, D. C., & Tavares, H. (2020). Uncovering underlying processes before illusion of control begins in gambling disorder: A pilot study. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 36, 829-849. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10899-020-09947-0>

Christensen, D. R. (2020). Responsible gambling: Who is responsible? *Critical Gambling Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.29173/cgs83>

Currie, S. R., Hodgins, D. C., Williams, R. J., & Fiest, K. (2021). Predicting future harm from gambling over a five-year period in a general population sample: a survival analysis. *BMC Psychiatry*, 21(1), 15. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12888-020-03016-x>

Ethier, A. R., Kim, H. S., Hodgins, D. C., & McGrath, D. S. (2020). High rollers: Correlates of problematic cocaine use among a community sample of gamblers. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 36(2), 513-525. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10899-020-09943-4>

Flores-Pajot, M-C., Atif, S., Dufour, M., Brunelle, N., Currie, S. R., Hodgins, D. C., Nadeau, L. & Young, M. M. (2021). Gambling self-control strategies: A qualitative analysis. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(2), 586. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18020586>

Goghari, V. M., Shakeel, M. K., Swan, J. L., Kim, H. S., Sharif-Razi, M., & Hodgins, D. C. (2020). A family study of trauma and coping strategies in gambling disorder. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 36(3), 767-782. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10899-020-09963-0>

Hilbrecht, M., Baxter, D., Abbott, M., Binde, P., Clark, L., Hodgins, D. C., Maniowabi, D., Quilty, L., Spångberg, J., Volberg, R., & Walker, D. & Williams, R. J. (2020). The Conceptual Framework of Harmful Gambling: A revised framework for understanding gambling harm. *Journal of Behavioral Addictions*, 9(2), 190-205. <https://doi.org/10.1556/2006.2020.00024>

Hollingshead, S. J., Kim, H. S., Rockloff, M., McGrath, D. S., Hodgins, D. C., & Wohl, M. J. A. (2021). Motives for playing social casino games and the transition from gaming to gambling (or vice versa): Social casino game play as harm reduction? *Journal of Gambling Issues*, 46, 43-61. <https://doi.org/10.4309/jgi.2021.46.4>

Jonsson, J., Hodgins, D. C., Munck, I., & Carlbring, P. (2021). Reaching out to big losers: How different types of gamblers are affected by a brief motivational contact initiated by the gambling provider. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 37(2), 387-401. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10899-020-09978-7>

Kim, H. S., Cassetta, B. D., Hodgins, D. C., & Tomfohr-Madsen, L. M. (2021). A preliminary study of the cognitive correlates and efficacy of working memory training for comorbid problem gambling and schizophrenia spectrum disorders. *The Canadian Journal of Addiction*, 12(1), 34-39. <https://doi.org/10.1097/CXA.000000000000102>

- Kim, H. S., Sears, C. R., Hodgins, D. C., Ritchie, E. V., Kowatch, K. R., & McGrath, D. S. (2021). Gambling-related psychological predictors and moderators of attentional bias among electronic gaming machine players. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/adb0000716>
- Király, O., Potenza, M. N., Stein, D. J., King, D. L., Hodgins, D. C., Saunders, J. B., Griffiths, M. D., Gjoneska, B., Billieux, J., Brand, M., Abbott, M. W., Chamberlain, S. R., Corazza, O., Burkauskas, J., Sales, C. M. D., Montag, C., Lochner, C., Grünblatt, E., Wegmann, E., Martinotti, G., Lee, H. K., Rumpf, H.-J., Castro-Calvo, J., Rahimi-Movaghar, A., Higuchi, A., Menchon, J. M., Zohar, J., Pellegrini, L., Walitza, S., Fineberg, N. A., & Demetrovics, Z. (2020). Preventing problematic internet use during the COVID-19 pandemic: Consensus guidance. *Comprehensive Psychiatry*, *100*, 152180. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.comppsy.2020.152180>
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- Leonard, C., & Violo, V. (2021). Gender equality in gambling student funding: A brief report. *Critical Gambling Studies*, *2*(1), 68-75. <https://doi.org/10.29173/cgs59>
- Leonard, C. A., Williams, R. J., & McGrath, D. S. (2021). Gambling fallacies: Predicting problem gambling in a national sample. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/adb0000673>
- Liese, B. S., Kim, H. S., & Hodgins, D. C. (2020). Insecure attachment and addiction: Testing the mediating role of emotion dysregulation in four potentially addictive behaviors. *Addictive Behaviors*, *107*, 106432. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.addbeh.2020.106432>
- MAGIC Research Team. (2021, March 10). MAGIC: A 6 year longitudinal study of gambling and problem gambling in Massachusetts. Amherst, MA: School of Public Health and Health Sciences, UMass Amherst. <https://massgaming.com/research/massachusetts-gambling-impact-cohort-study-six-year-longitudinal-study-of-gambling-and-problem-gambling-in-massachusetts/>
- McGrath, D. S., Sears, C. R., Fernandez, A., & Dobson, K. S. (2021). Attentional biases in low-risk and high-risk gamblers and the moderating effect of daily psychosocial stress. *Addiction Research & Theory*, *29*(2), 166-174. <https://doi.org/10.1080/16066359.2020.1762867>
- Ofori Dei, S. M., Christensen, D. R., Awosoga, O., Lee, B. K., & Jackson, A. C. (2020). The effects of perceived gambling availability on problem gambling severity. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, *36*(4), 1065-1091. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10899-020-09930-9>
- Ofori Dei, S. M., Christensen, D. R., Awosoga, O. A., Lee, B. K., & Jackson, A. C. (2020). A composite measure of gambling exposure: Availability, accessibility or both? *Journal of Gambling Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10899-020-09985-8>
- Ofori Dei, S. M., Christensen, D. R., Awosoga, O. A., Lee, B. K., & Jackson, A. C. (2021). The relative and interactive effects of actual and perceived gambling exposure on gambling behaviour. *Journal of Gambling Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10899-020-09991-w>
- Russell, G. E. H., Puttick, A. C., Spilchen, D. T., Williams, R., & Sanders, J. (2021). Applying self-coding to the measurement of self-generated video gaming and gambling memory associations. *Journal of Gambling Issues*, *46*. <https://doi.org/10.4309/jgi.2021.46.3>
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- Thomas, J., McGrath, D. S., & Dechant, K. (2020). Similar motives? The relationship between reasons for drinking and gambling in a population sample. *International Gambling Studies*, 20(2), 315-330.  
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- Volberg, R. A., Zorn, M., Evans, V., Stanek, E. J., & Williams, R. J. (2020, November 13). *Impact of MGM Springfield on gambling attitudes, participation and problem gambling.* Amherst, MA: School of Public Health and Health Sciences, University of Massachusetts Amherst.  
<https://massgaming.com/research/impact-of-mgm-springfield-on-gambling-attitudes-participation-and-problem-gambling/>
- Volberg, R. A., Evans, V., Zorn, M. & Williams, R. J. (2020, May 22). *Gambling harms in Massachusetts: Evidence from the BGPS and BOPS.* Amherst, MA: School of Public Health and Health Sciences, University of Massachusetts Amherst.  
<https://massgaming.com/research/gambling-harms-in-massachusetts-evidence-from-the-bgps-and-bops/>
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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2020.108434>
- Williams, R. J., Belanger, Y. D., Leonard, C. A., Stevens, R. M. G., Christensen, D. R., el-Guebaly, N., Hodgins, D. C., & McGrath, D. S. (2021). Indigenous gambling and problem gambling in Canada. *Journal of Gambling Studies*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10899-021-10022-5>
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<https://massgaming.com/research/ma-gambling-impact-cohort-magic-transitions-across-four-waves/>
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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neubiorev.2019.12.026>

3 Details of specific Library acquisitions 2020-21 are available from Librarian upon request.



## Spring 2020

Feature articles:

- COVID-19 and Canadian Gambling Venue Closures [page 1]
- Institute Scholarships Present Findings as Research Posters [page 3]
- Spotlight on Dr. Murat Akçayır, Postdoctoral Research Fellow [page 4]
- New Open-Access Journal: Critical Gambling Studies [page 5]



Following is a list of the contents of the Institute's *Gambling Research Reveals* newsletter published from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021:

## Summer 2020

Feature articles:

- Gambling in the Workplace: An Interview with Dr. Rebecca Hudson Breen [page 1]
- Recently Published E-Book Titles About Gambling [page 4]



## Fall 2020

Feature articles:

- Provincial Gambling Statistics Being Collected as Part of Institute's National Project [page 1]
- Alberta's Online Gambling Website Launched October 1st [page 3]
- Dr. David Hodgins Recognized as Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS) [page 5]
- First Journal Article Publications from the AGRI National Project [page 6]
- Covid-19 and Casino & VLT Availability in Canada [page 7]
- Responding to the Pandemic: AGRI National Project Online Panel/COVID-19 Supplement [page 7]
- Announcement of Graduate Scholarship Recipients 2020/21 [page 8]



## Winter 2021

Feature articles:

- Gambling in Canada the Focus of Institute 'Virtual' Conference [page 1]
- Ph.D. Student Gillian Russell Receives Durand Jacobs Award [page 2]
- Article Examines Gender Equity amongst AGRI Scholarship Recipients [page 3]
- Three Major Grants Awarded in 2020-21 [page 4]
- AGRI Website Refreshed [page 4]



# Consulting and Collaborating: A Coordinated Approach

**In 2020-21, the Institute was a participating organization in the following:**

- Alberta Gambling and Gaming Advisory Committee (AGGAC), Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis - Participants Dr. Jenny Godley, Rhys Stevens and Glenda Wong.
- Canadian Consortium for Gambling Research (CCGR) - Participant Glenda Wong.

**In 2020-21, Institute Research Coordinators consulted in the following:**

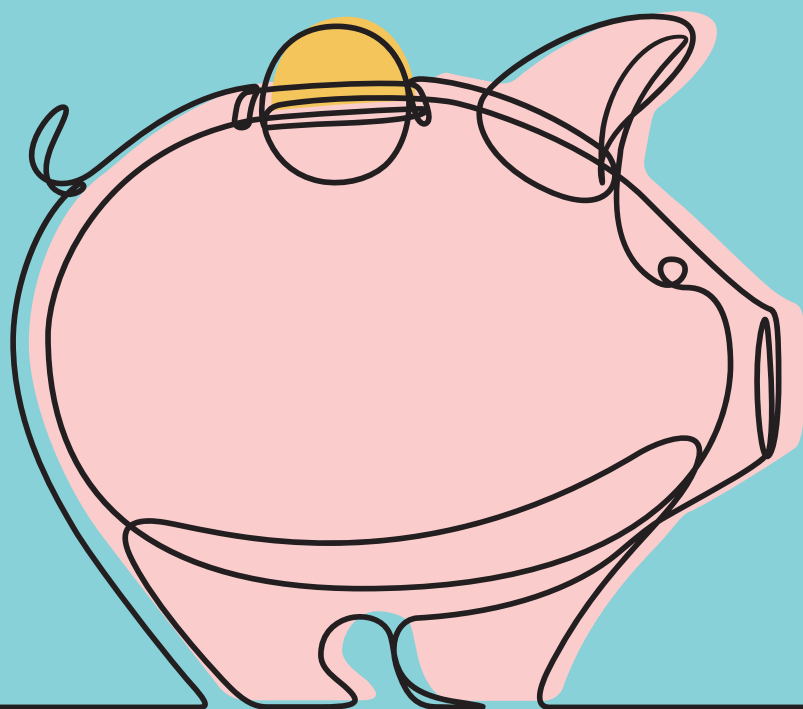
- Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis (online gambling) – Participants Dr. David Hodgins, Dr. Rob Williams
- National Low Risk Gambling Guidelines, Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction – Participant Dr. David Hodgins.
- Gambling Research Australia (online gambling) - Participant Dr. Rob Williams.





# Audited Financial Statements

<b>26</b>	<b>Independent Auditor's Report</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>Statement of Financial Position</b>
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<b>29</b>	<b>Statement of Cash Flows</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>Notes to the Financial Statements</b>
<b>36</b>	<b>Schedule of Expenses</b>



## Independent Auditor's Report



To the Directors of Alberta Gambling Research Institute:

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Alberta Gambling Research Institute (the "Institute"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2021, and the statements of operations, cash flows and changes in net financial assets for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Institute as at March 31, 2021, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Institute in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the 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.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Institute's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Institute or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Institute's financial reporting process.

### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Institute's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Institute's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Institute to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Calgary, Alberta

August 26, 2021

**MNP LLP**

Chartered Professional Accountants



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# Statement of Financial Position

AS AT MARCH 31

	2021	2020
<b>FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 4)	\$ 963,429	\$ 802,116
Conference refund receivable	-	7,000
Unexpended funds receivable (Note 5)	21,537	12,741
	<u>984,966</u>	<u>821,857</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	6,022	5,622
	<u>6,022</u>	<u>5,622</u>
<b>NET FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>	<u>978,944</u>	<u>816,235</u>
<b>NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>		
Prepaid expenses	24,101	2,000
	<u>24,101</u>	<u>2,000</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>1,003,045</u>	<u>818,235</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Accumulated surplus	818,235	776,094
Annual surplus (deficit)	184,810	42,141
	<u>\$ 1,003,045</u>	<u>\$ 818,235</u>

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

Approved by the board:

E-signed by:

**Jenny Godley**

Signature

**Acting Board Chair**

Position

**David Stewart**

Signature

**Audit Committee Chair**

Position

# Statement of Operations

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

	<b>2021 BUDGET (Note 9)</b>	<b>2021 ACTUAL</b>	<b>2020 ACTUAL</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Government transfers	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000
Other/unexpended funds recovered	<u>9,000</u>	<u>21,537</u>	<u>12,741</u>
	<u>\$ 1,509,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,521,537</u>	<u>\$ 1,512,741</u>
<b>EXPENSES (Schedule 1)</b>			
Research	\$ 1,108,706	\$ 1,012,644	\$ 1,107,538
Infrastructure and library	140,000	140,000	140,000
Research linkages	80,000	24,639	17,863
Research administration	<u>253,892</u>	<u>159,444</u>	<u>205,199</u>
	<u>\$ 1,582,598</u>	<u>\$ 1,336,727</u>	<u>\$ 1,470,600</u>
<b>ANNUAL SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b><u><u>\$ (73,598)</u></u></b>	<b><u><u>\$ 184,810</u></u></b>	<b><u><u>\$ 42,141</u></u></b>

## COMMITMENTS (NOTE 6)

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

# Statement of Cash Flows

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

	2021	2020
<b>OPERATING TRANSACTIONS</b>		
Contributions from the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000
Unexpended funds	12,741	18,524
Prepaid expense	(22,101)	-
Research expenditures	(1,102,644)	(1,107,538)
Infrastructure and library expenditures	(140,000)	(140,000)
Research linkages expenditures	(17,639)	(57,513)
Research administration expenditures	(159,044)	(246,410)
<b>CASH RECEIVED FROM (USED FOR) OPERATING TRANSACTIONS</b>	<b>161,313</b>	<b>(32,937)</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>802,116</b>	<b>835,053</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 963,429</b>	<b>\$ 802,116</b>

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

# Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

	2021 BUDGET	2021 ACTUAL	2020 ACTUAL
Annual surplus (deficit)	\$ (73,598)	\$ 184,810	\$ 42,141
Change in prepaid expenses	2,000	(22,101)	2,000
<b>Increase (decrease) in net financial assets</b>	(71,598)	162,709	44,141
<b>Net financial assets, beginning of year</b>	816,235	816,235	772,094
<b>Net financial assets, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 744,637</b>	<b>\$ 978,944</b>	<b>\$ 816,235</b>

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



# Notes to the Financial Statements

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, Partner 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 Partner 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 revenue is 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 (the "Ministry") effective April 1, 2016 to provide the Institute with \$1,500,000 annually until March 31, 2021. The funding agreement with the Ministry was renewed on March 24, 2021 and will provide the Institute with \$700,000 in funding for the fiscal year commencing April 1, 2021 and \$1,500,000 for the fiscal year commencing April 1, 2022. As a condition of funding, the Institute must budget at least \$250,000 each fiscal year to the implementation of research projects related to the stakeholder priority action plan and at least \$250,000 each fiscal year to the funding of investigator research projects. The Ministry may require repayment if these conditions are not met or if the funds are not expended prior to the end of the term, excluding funds required to pay reasonable administrative or overhead expenses after the term in respect of any necessary wind-up of operations.

The agreement calls for detailed reporting to the Ministry at various dates throughout the year. Reporting is complete for fiscal year ended March 31, 2021

Unspent funds are returned to the Institute by the grant recipient and recorded as other revenue.

### **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, unexpended funds receivable, and accounts payable and accrued liabilities. 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 rate, currency, or credit risks arising from its financial instruments.

### **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, when paid to the Institute, is at a rate that is referenced to the 90-day Treasury Bills Canada rate.

**Note 5 Unexpended Funds Receivable/Recovered**

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. Unexpected funds balance of \$21,537 in the current period relates to unused major grants and capacity building allowance. In the 2019/2020 fiscal year, unexpected funds balance of \$12,741 related to unused research allowance, post-doctoral and small grants.

	2020				2019
	University of Alberta	University of Calgary	University of Lethbridge	Total	Total
Unexpended grants, opening balance	\$ –	\$ 7,800	\$ 4,941	\$ 12,741	\$ 18,524
Capacity building	20,000	100,000	100,000	220,000	300,000
Library and collections	–	–	140,000	140,000	140,000
New grants provided	20,000	100,000	240,000	360,000	440,000
Current year expenditures	(15,000)	(100,000)	(240,000)	(355,000)	(435,059)
Recovered	–	(7,800)	(4,941)	(12,741)	(18,524)
	(15,000)	(107,800)	(244,941)	(367,741)	(453,583)
Unexpended major grant	–	16,537	–	16,537	7,800
Unexpended grants, closing balance	\$ 5,000	\$ 16,537	\$ –	\$ 21,537	\$ 12,741

**Note 6 Commitments**

The Institute receives its principal funding from the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance. The two-year agreement was renewed effective April 1, 2021 and expires on March 31, 2023. 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 <sup>(a)</sup>	Lease <sup>(b)</sup>	Sustainability positions <sup>(c)</sup>	Research direction	Total
2021/2022	137,710	16,392	32,500	–	186,602
2022/2023	41,985	16,392	–	–	58,377
2023/2024	–	16,392	–	–	16,392
2024/2025	–	16,392	–	–	16,392
2025/2026	–	4,098	–	–	4,098
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 179,695</b>	<b>\$ 69,666</b>	<b>\$ 32,500</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>\$ 281,861</b>

**(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, 2020 to June 30, 2025 with a renewal option of five years.

**(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, 2021, one appointment was in place and two have expired in November 2018 and June 2019.

**Note 7 Economic Dependence**

The Institute receives its principal funding from the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance and is dependent on committed funding to maintain on-going operations.

**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 the notes and schedules to these financial statements.

**Note 9 Budget**

The 2020-2021 budget was approved by the Institute's Board of Directors on January 21, 2020. The budget figures are unaudited.

**Note 10 Approval of Financial Statements**

These financial statements were approved by the Institute's Board of Directors on August 26, 2021.

# Schedule of Expenses

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

## SCHEDULE 1

	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2020 Actual
<b>Research</b>			
Grant competition/strategic research	\$ 661,206	\$ 692,644	\$ 706,382
Capacity building	447,500	320,000	401,156
	1,3108,706	1,012,644	1,107,538
<b>Infrastructure and Library</b>			
Library and collections	140,000	140,000	140,000
	140,000	140,000	140,000
<b>Research Linkages</b>			
Events, colloquia	50,000	9,879	6,701
Communications, exchanges	30,000	14,760	11,162
	80,000	24,639	17,863
<b>Research Administration</b>			
Governance	40,000	11,286	20,268
Personnel costs	170,00	127,086	156,971
Contract service	-	-	-
Professional fees	13,892	12,600	12,915
Administrative hub	30,000	8,472	15,015
	253,892	159,444	205,199
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,582,598</b>	<b>\$ 1,336,727</b>	<b>\$ 1,470,600</b>



# Board of Directors

## Currie, Cheryl

Cheryl Currie is an Associate Professor of Public Health in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Lethbridge. She completed a Ph.D. in the School of Public Health at the University of Alberta in 2012. As a social epidemiologist, Dr. Currie's research is focused on the ways in which our social experiences, both positive and negative, get under the skin to shape our health, health-risk behaviour, and stress biology with a special focus on addictive behaviours including gambling and gambling problems. Dr. Currie joined the Institute Board on January 1, 2021.

## Godley, Jenny

Jenny Godley is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Calgary. Trained as a quantitative sociologist and a demographer, her major research areas are interdisciplinary research evaluation, social network analysis, gender, demography, and health. Dr. Godley has published both quantitative and qualitative articles in a variety of journals in sociology, public health, and evaluation science. She frequently works with interdisciplinary teams to conduct empirical examinations focusing on the social determinants of health using nationally representative data from Statistics Canada. Dr. Godley also has a strong interest in the ethics of human subjects research, and has served as the Chair of the Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board at the University of Calgary since July 2019. She is on the editorial board of the *Canadian Journal of Public Health* and an ad hoc reviewer for several other journals. Dr. Godley joined the Institute Board in May 1, 2018.

## Lund, Dr. Anna

Anna Lund is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Alberta. She researches in the areas of bankruptcy and insolvency, and debtor creditor law, and civil procedure. She is currently researching the role of public income support programs in preventing medical bankruptcy and the intersection of insolvency law and family law. Her book, *Trustees at Work: Financial Pressures, Emotional Labour*, and *Canadian Bankruptcy Law* was published by UBC Press in December 2019. Additionally, she has published articles in journals including the *University of Toronto Law Journal*, the *Canadian Business Law Journal*, and the *Alberta Law Review*. A member of the Law Society of Alberta, she continues to practice on a pro bono basis through the Edmonton Community Legal Centre. Dr. Lund sits on the Canadian Bar Association's Access to Justice Committee (Alberta Branch). Dr. Lund joined the Institute Board on March 1, 2018.

## Nicol, Dr. Christopher

Chris Nicol completed nine years as the University Librarian at the University of Lethbridge on June 30, 2021, and is now on Administrative Leave. He continues at the University of Lethbridge as a Professor of Economics, with a number of Leave projects underway. Prior to his appointment as University Librarian, Dr. Nicol was Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science at the University of Lethbridge for twelve years. He was a member of the Board of The Alberta Library (TAL) and was Chair of the Board of the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries (COPPUL) while University Librarian. Dr. Nicol has also served as a member of the Editorial Board of the *Canadian Journal of Economics*, and a member of the Executive Council of the Canadian Economics Association.

His interests are in econometrics, applied econometrics, the theory of consumer behaviour, and macroeconomic policy debates. Dr. Nicol joined the Institute Board on January 1, 2018.

## O'Shea, Dr. Séamus

Séamus O'Shea is a former Vice President (Academic) and Provost, and Professor of Chemistry at the University of Lethbridge. In addition to duties at the University, he is an advocate for increasing university participation and a promoter of university transfer programs, post-diploma degrees, and student-focused programming. He participated in planning and implementing advanced infrastructure for research and development, particularly high performance networks and computing systems. Dr. O'Shea's research interests involved mathematical and computer modelling of molecular liquids and solids. He is past Chair, Board of Directors, of iCORE (informatics Circle of Research Excellence), of Cybera (networks), and of WestGrid (high performance computing systems.) Dr. O'Shea was appointed Chair of the Institute's Board of Directors on February 1, 2012, and reappointed in February 2019 for a two-year term.

## Stewart, Dr. David

David Stewart is a Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Calgary. He has taught at seven universities in the four western Canadian provinces. He was a member of the Department of Political Science at the University of Alberta from 1992 until 2000. He moved to the University of Manitoba in 2000 and subsequently served as the Dean of Studies of St. John's College, Acting Head of Political Studies, and

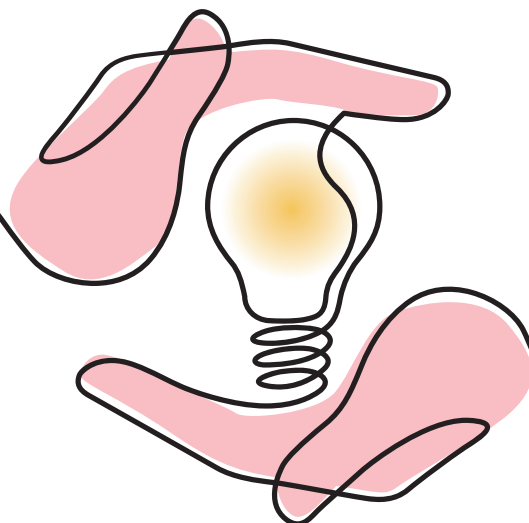
Associate Dean in the Faculty of Arts. He joined the University of Calgary in the summer of 2005 and has served as Head of the Political Science Department, Acting Head of Classics and Religion and as an Associate Dean in the Faculty of Arts. His research interests focus on Canadian politics. He has an extensive teaching record in Canadian politics at both the undergraduate and graduate level and has frequently served as a media commentator on Canadian politics. Dr. Stewart joined the Institute Board on July 1, 2019.

## Wesley, Dr. Jared

Jared Wesley is Associate Chair of Graduate Studies and Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Alberta. He has a professional background in public policy and public administration, having served seven years in various positions in the Governments of Alberta and Manitoba. Dr. Wesley joined the Institute Board on January 1, 2020.

## Wong, Ms. 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 the area of health care education within the University of Calgary. She has also collaborated and worked with other Canadian 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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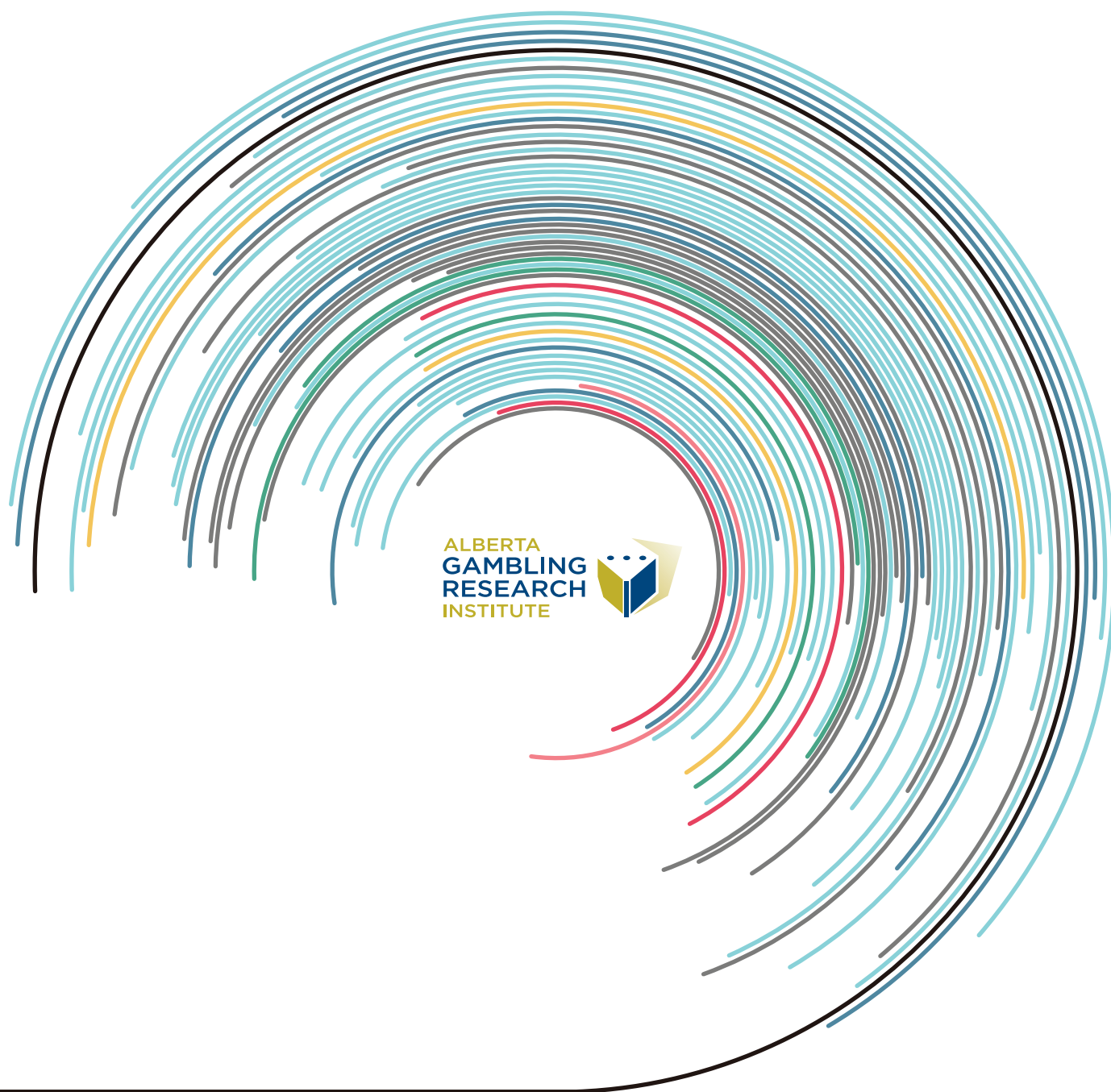
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