



ANNUAL REPORT 2002-2003





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### TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Message from the Board Chair</b>	<b>001</b>
<b>Message from the Executive Director</b>	<b>002</b>
<b>About the Alberta Gaming Research Institute</b>	<b>003</b>
Vision	003
Mission	003
Core Purposes	003
Core Businesses	003
<b>Performance Highlights</b>	<b>004</b>
<b>Communications</b>	<b>005</b>
Research Publications	005
Public Relations	005
Institute Documents	006
Media Enquiries	006
<b>Capacity Building:</b>	
<b>Partner Universities Gambling Research Activity</b>	<b>007</b>
University of Alberta	007
University of Calgary	008
University of Lethbridge	009
The Institute Library Collections and Clearinghouse	010
<b>Research projects and grants</b>	<b>011</b>
Approved in 2002/03	011
Approved in 2001/02	013
Approved in 2000/01	017
<b>Audited Financial Statements</b>	<b>019</b>
<b>Alberta Gaming Research Institute</b>	
<b>Board of Directors, 2002/03</b>	<b>029</b>
<b>Contact Information</b>	<b>029</b>
<b>Credits</b>	<b>Back Cover</b>

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

As new Board Chair, succeeding Dr. Keith Archer, I am pleased to introduce the Third Annual Report of the Alberta Gaming Research Institute (AGRI) for the year ending March 31, 2003. This year was a busy one for the Institute.

The contractual understanding between the Government of Alberta and the three universities of Alberta, Calgary and Lethbridge was renewed based on our experience with the first years of operation and should serve us well as we continue our research endeavours.

The development of gambling related research in Alberta in the four domains: bio-psychological, sociocultural, economic and policy-related is our first order of business. With the help of an impressive network of reviewers, we have funded over 30 projects. After the initial time required for data collection, a steady stream of results from prior funded studies is now becoming available to Albertans and the international community at large. An expanding group of investigators is being attracted to gambling research, and studies in the four domains reflect and further the state of the respective fields.

We are committed to the dissemination of the information acquired and are pleased that the use of our website has increased to an average of more than 600 visitors a month and the print copy of our newsletter *Research Reveals* reaches another 17,000 individuals. We



are reaching educational television viewers in Alberta through broadcast of our researcher profiles in public service announcements (ACCESS). We have held our second annual conference in Lethbridge on *Prevention of Problem Gambling*.

We continue to benefit from the advice and wisdom of the Alberta Research Gaming Council and are actively involved in furthering linkages with related research institutions nationally and internationally. We strive for and are recognized for excellence and leadership in several areas of investigation and will benefit by collaborating in several other national and international projects with investigators from around the world. We are proud of our achievement in fulfilling the recommendation of the Gaming Summit to develop high quality, independent research within available resources.

***Nady el-Guebaly, MD***

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

During our third fully operational year, the Institute-sponsored cadre of initiatives grew as did the recognition and support from our institutional and researcher affiliates. The theme of our second annual conference, co-sponsored with the University of Lethbridge, was *Prevention of Problem Gambling*. It attracted a wide spectrum of delegates and internationally esteemed experts.

Particularly noteworthy were the number of new researchers who are being attracted to the field of gambling research. Their already valuable contributions will, undoubtedly, continue to grow together with the profile and achievements of Alberta's academic research community.

In 2002/03, we were able to successfully respond to the research priorities identified by the Alberta Gaming Research Council. We take our mission 'to significantly improve Albertans' knowledge of how gambling affects society' very seriously and, towards this end, include library research services, website postings, educational television information spots, a bi-monthly newsletter, media interviews, hosting of a topical annual conference and other events, and conference presentations.

Once again, I wish to acknowledge the benefit we derive from the fine research reputations of the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, and the University of Lethbridge and re-affirm my commitment to contributing to the maintenance of their high standards. The funding support of the provincial government, through the Alberta Lottery Fund, is equally significant and critical. By bringing together the research talent at the partner Alberta universities and this unique funding opportunity, we are able to significantly contribute to building the knowledge base in gambling research.

I welcome your comments on this Annual Report or on any of the Institute's research and other activities. Thank you for your confidence and interest in the research initiatives and events sponsored by the Institute.

*Sincerely,*

***Vickii Williams***



## ABOUT THE ALBERTA GAMING RESEARCH INSTITUTE

**VISION: AN INSTITUTE THAT IS INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE BASE IN GAMBLING RESEARCH.**

**MISSION: TO SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE ALBERTANS' KNOWLEDGE OF HOW GAMBLING AFFECTS SOCIETY.**

The primary aim of the Alberta Gaming Research Institute, a consortium of the University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and University of Lethbridge, is to support academic research related to gambling. It is achieved through building research capacity at the partner Universities, sponsoring specific research initiatives, 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 these research universities provides the Institute with considerable versatility and the opportunity to match research expertise 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). It is staffed by an Executive Director and Administrative Assistant. The Institute Librarian is located at the University of Lethbridge.

### CORE PURPOSES

The purpose of the Institute is to produce, either directly or through sponsorship, research findings that can be used to frame and implement both effective public policy relating to gaming and gambling and responsible gaming and gambling practices. The core purposes are expressed in the following points:

- (1) to expand the depth and breadth of scientific knowledge of gaming and gambling in four broad and overlapping domains:

- a. biopsychological and health care,
  - b. economic,
  - c. socio-cultural ,and
  - d. government and industry policy and practice
- (2) to act as a clearinghouse for gaming research
  - (3) to act to facilitate the ready access to, and the development of, the applicable library collections of the Institute Universities
  - (4) to forge strong collaborative links with national and international scholars and organizations involved in gaming/gambling research and studies
  - (5) to provide education about current knowledge through research publications and reporting of research results
  - (6) to sponsor research that is peer reviewed, of the highest academic quality and related to emergent gaming activities
  - (7) to the extent reasonably possible, promote research in priority areas identified in annual calls for research proposals

### 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.



## PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

The following is a summary of the performance of the Institute with respect to its core businesses from April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003.

### 1 Develop and promote gambling-related research and disseminate results

- Eight new high quality research initiatives were approved for funding based on expert recommendations through a peer review process
- Research activity continued on twenty previously funded research projects (six were completed in 2002/03 in addition to two that were completed in 2002)
- Five research reports related to the completed research projects were posted on the website and their findings communicated via other Institute publications and media coverage
- The range of disciplines (and sub-disciplines) supported includes medicine, addictions, psychology, history, sociology, physical education, statistics, anthropology, native studies, and human ecology
- Numerous Institute-funded research articles were accepted for publication in scholarly journals, including the *Journal of Gambling Studies*, *International Gambling Studies*, *Journal of Case Management*, and *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior: the Official Journal of the American Association of Suicidology*
- Institute-funded researchers presented papers and lectures at major conferences and annual meetings of professional bodies including the Canadian Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting, American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry 13th Annual Meeting, Academy of Legal Studies in Business Regional Meeting, Association for the Advancement of Behavior Therapy, Western Social Sciences Annual Conference (Canadian Studies section), Prevention of Problem Gambling Conference (Lethbridge), 5th European Conference on Gambling Studies and Policy Issues, and National Council on Problem Gambling Conference (US-based)

- Research node coordinators at all three Institute Universities continued to generate and promote interest into gambling-related research
- An International conference sponsored by the University of Lethbridge and the Alberta Gaming Research Institute, *Prevention of Problem Gambling* (held March 27 & 28, 2003 at the University of Lethbridge) was highly rated by attendees and presenters for its contribution to expanding research knowledge

### 2 Develop and sustain a gambling-related research infrastructure

- Institute-funded researchers from all three partner universities incorporated gaming components into seven undergraduate courses, one graduate course, and numerous guest lectures
- Well over 800 university students at the consortium universities and other post-secondary institutions were exposed to gaming and gambling issues through coursework and guest lectures, research assistantships, and research collaboration
- The 2002 National Council on Problem Gambling Student Research Award for the Outstanding Dissertation in the Field of Problem Gambling was presented to Dr. Hermanto Tavares, a post-doctoral fellow for the Department of Psychiatry, University of Calgary, for his innovative and important research on pathological gambling and obsessive-compulsive disorders.
- The Institute librarian responded to approximately 132 requests for research assistance (e.g. literature reviews, research findings) from researchers and the general public
- 7,516 visitors accessed the resources on the Institute's website
- Librarians at the three consortium universities collaborated to develop a comprehensive collection of research materials relevant to gambling. More than 200 items were added to the physical collections and topical bibliographies were developed and/or updated

### 3 Establish and encourage national and international gambling-related research linkages

- Linkages were developed with various provincial (e.g. AADAC, First Nations communities, external researchers, industry) and national/international organizations (e.g. Responsible Gambling Council - Ontario, University of Nevada - Las Vegas, Australian Centre for Gambling Research)
- An extensive and diverse disciplinary group (pool of over 100) gambling experts from outside Alberta (including other provinces, USA, UK, Australia, New Zealand) agreed to contribute their expertise for peer review of research grant applications
- Institute-funded gambling conference events attracted more than 150 attendees and included delegates and presenters from Australia, New Zealand, Ontario, Nova Scotia, Rhode Island, Nevada, and New Jersey

### 4 Establish and efficiently conduct gambling-related research governance and administration

- The Institute conducted its 2002/03 research grant process which attracted a large volume of highly qualified applicants as well as those new to the field of gambling research
- Distributed bi-monthly Institute newsletter *Research Reveals... an update on gambling research in Alberta* to a wide audience (17,000 hardcopies produced cost-efficiently) in addition to posting the newsletter on the Institute website ([www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca](http://www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca))
- Completed negotiations to renew Government/Universities Agreement
- Produced 2001/02 Annual Report and promotional documents
- Responded to steadily increasing number of queries to the central administrative office (e.g. through website, by phone, and in person)
- Administered and oversaw Institute operations to meet business plan goals and accountability reporting requirements

## COMMUNICATIONS

A host of communications mechanisms are used by the Institute to assist those seeking specific documents or other information about gambling research. Many of the articles, other publications and videos have been made available at the Institute's website ([www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca](http://www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca)). The electronic version of this Report includes direct links to each available item.

### RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

#### Research Reports / Journal Articles

- Dr. Sandra O'Brien Cousins, Chad Witcher, Judith Moodie, *High Quality Aging or Gambling with Health? The Lifestyles of Elders Who Play Bingo: Final Summary Report* (2002, December)
- Newman, S. C., & Thompson, A. H. (2003). *A Population-Based Study of the Association Between Pathological Gambling and Attempted Suicide. Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*, 33(1), 80-87.
- Dr. Robert Williams, *Prevention of Problem Gambling: A School-Based Intervention* (2002, December)
- Dr. Tom Hinch and Dr. Gordon Walker, *Casino Patrons, Travel Behaviour, Place Attachment, and Motivations: A Study of Alberta Residents* (2003, February)
- Dr. Garry Smith, Dr. Harold Wynne, Dr. Tim Hartnagel, *Examining Police Records to Assess Gambling Impacts: A Study of Gambling-Related Crime in the City of Edmonton* (2003, March)

### PUBLIC RELATIONS

#### Newsletter: *Research Reveals* (with feature article)

- **Volume 2**

Issue 3 - February / March 2003: Dr. Tom Hinch, University of Alberta (How Important is 'Place' in Gambling?)

Issue 2 - December 2002 / January 2003: Conference 2003: Prevention of Problem Gambling; 2002/03 Research Grants

Issue 1 - October / November 2002: Dr. Hermano Tavares, University of Calgary ( Brazilian Psychiatrist Seeks to Understand Compulsive Gambling); Dr. Nady el-Guebaly, University of Calgary (New Institute Board Chair elected)

## • Volume 1

Issue 6 - August / September 2002: University of Alberta (Emerging research in gaming issues: Taranjeet Birdi); Robert H. (Bob) McDonald (The Alberta Gaming Research Council: a point of view from a Council member)

Issue 5 - June / July 2002: Meghan Davis, University of Lethbridge, Kate Diskin, University of Calgary, Chad Witcher, University of Alberta (A Growing Expertise: graduate students and gaming research)

Issue 4 - April / May 2002: Rhys Stevens, University of Lethbridge (A Vital (and Virtual) Resource: The Institute Library and Librarian)

## • Notable Web Resources

- *Gambling Literature Database*
- *Conference 2003: Prevention Of Problem Gambling* - presentations from conference program
- *Problem Gambling Prevalence Studies in Canada*
- *Listing of Casinos in Canada*



## • Videos

- *Alberta Gaming Research Institute Corporate Video* (100 MB) - March 2003
- *Conference 2003:Prevention of Problem Gambling Promotional Video* (Small - 533 Kb) | (Large - 1.8 Mb)
- Dr. Sandy O'Brien Cousins, *High Quality Aging or Gambling with Health? The Lifestyles of Elders Who Play Bingo* (QuickTime video, Small - 507 Kb) | (Large - 1.7 Mb)
- Dr. Tom Hinch, *Casino Patrons, Travel Behaviour, Place Attachment, and Motivations: A Study of Alberta Residents* (QuickTime video, 1.09 Mb)

## INSTITUTE DOCUMENTS

- *2001/02 Annual Report*
- *2001/02 Report Card*
- *2003-06 Business Plan* (2003, January)
- *2002/03 Research Grant Guidelines & Grant Application*

## MEDIA ENQUIRIES

- 10 - 15 media enquiries per month to the Institute's Media Contact (Dr. Garry Smith), including radio talk shows, newspapers, magazines, consortium universities' publications
- mainly regional enquiries, but also national and international, including articles featuring Institute sponsored research
- liaison with other gaming/gambling research agencies and institutions
- enquires also made to researchers at the consortium universities for their specific expertise



## CAPACITY BUILDING: PARTNER UNIVERSITIES GAMBLING RESEARCH ACTIVITY

The Alberta Gaming Research Institute provides funding support to the Institute Universities to facilitate, conduct and promote multi-disciplinary, intra- and inter-university, and other collaborative research into various aspects of gambling. Each of the partner universities has appointed a 'Node Coordinator' to identify and stimulate this area of research interest.



### UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

**Node Coordinator Dr. Garry Smith** (BPE, Alberta; MA, Western Ontario; PhD, Alberta) taught at the Universities of New Brunswick and Western Ontario, and for 25 years was a professor in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation at the University of Alberta. Dr. Smith has researched gambling-related topics for more than twenty years, has produced numerous articles for academic journals, and made presentations at national and international conferences. He completed two Institute-funded initiatives (reports posted on the Institute website) and is continuing to work on one other. In January 2003, Dr. Smith attended the Australian Centre for Gambling Research (ACGR, Sydney) as a Visiting Scholar, where he worked with Dr. Jan McMillen to develop a collaborative research project, as well as a potential online collaborative educational project. Dr. Smith also gave lectures at the ACGR and Griffiths University in Brisbane. He also serves as the Institute's media contact.

### Gambling research activity at the University of Alberta

- Eleven (cumulative total) research projects approved (four from the 2000/01 grant cycle, six in 2001/02 and one in 2002/03), completed (8) or in process (3) in physical education and recreation, human ecology, public policy, sociology, and psychiatry
- Seventeen researchers (internal and external) actively engaged in gambling research sponsored by the Institute
- Thirteen publications (accepted or publication pending) on gambling-related research by Institute-sponsored faculty
- Twelve conference and colloquia presentations by Institute-sponsored researchers
- Participation in interdisciplinary, tri-university planning for longitudinal study (focus on social and economic factors)
- Dr. Garry Smith continued to be supported (.6 position) by University of Alberta as its Gambling Research Specialist
- Nine research and graduate student assistants engaged in gambling-related research
- One undergraduate and one certificate course offered that included a gambling research component
- More than 300 undergraduate (university and college) and fifteen graduate students exposed to courses or guest lectures on gambling research
- Recruitment process commenced for a Postdoctoral scholar in area of gambling research in Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation
- Gambling researchers served as peer reviewers for affiliated agencies, e.g. Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre

## UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

**Node Coordinator Dr David Hodgins** (MA, PhD, Queen's) joined the Department of Psychology as an Assistant Professor in July 2001, and has developed a program of research in the area of gambling treatment. He is supervising two doctoral students (one whose project has received Institute funding), three master's and one undergraduate student. The concept of self-help is a focal point of his research. His research focus is in the area of the prevention of relapse in people who have recovered from their addiction.

During 2002/03, Dr. Hodgins completed one research Institute funded project, the *Psychophysiological and subjective responses in video lottery gamblers* (summary on Institute website) and continued to work on two others, *Preventing Relapse in Former Gamblers* and *Effects of a Motivational Interview on Problem Gambling Behaviour*. He also commenced work on a new initiative, *The Influence of Substance Dependence and Mood Disorders on Outcome from Pathological Gambling*.



## Gambling research activity at the University of Calgary

- Nine (cumulative total) research projects approved (three in each cycle), completed (2) or in process (7) in psychology, psychiatry, addictions, public policy, economics, sociology and management
- Research laboratory (psychology) established
- Biweekly gambling research discussion groups (average of 12 researchers)
- Eleven researchers (internal and external) actively engaged in gambling research sponsored by the Institute
- Six publications (accepted or pending) on gambling-related research sponsored by the Institute
- Fifteen conference and colloquia presentations by Institute-sponsored researchers
- Participation in interdisciplinary, tri-university planning for longitudinal study (focus on addictions factors)
- At least twelve research and graduate student assistants engaged in gambling-related research
- Two undergraduate courses and one graduate course offered that included gambling research as a major component
- 25 undergraduate and 20 graduate students exposed to courses or guest lectures on gambling research
- Dr. Hermano Tavares, a post-doctoral scholar from Brazil engaged in gambling research in the Department of Psychiatry, received the *2002 National Council on Problem Gambling Student Research Award- Outstanding Dissertation in the Field of Problem Gambling*
- Gambling researchers contributed expertise as peer reviewers for affiliated agencies



## UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE

**Node Coordinator Dr. Robert Williams** (BA, PhD, McMaster, CPsych) was recruited in January 2001 as Associate Professor in the University of Lethbridge's School of Health Sciences. He has research interests in several areas of gambling. Dr. Williams completed one Institute-funded research pilot project initiative in 2002/03, *Prevention of Pathological Gambling*, is continuing work on two previously funded projects and commenced two new ones. Dr. Williams is also involved in numerous other gambling related research initiatives and was principally responsible for planning the very well-received program for *Conference 2003: Prevention of Problem Gambling*.

## Gambling research activity at the University of Lethbridge

- Ten (cumulative total) research projects approved (two in 2000/01, four in 2001/02 and four in 2002/03) completed (1) or in process (9) in history, native studies, addictions, statistics, anthropology, medicine, and gerontology
- Fourteen researchers (internal and external) actively engaged in gambling research sponsored by the Institute
- Five publications published on gambling-related research by Institute-sponsored faculty
- Two graduate students completing Master's degrees in gambling
- Nine conference and colloquia presentations by Institute-sponsored researchers
- The School of Health Sciences co-hosted (with the Institute) a major Conference on Problem Gambling, March 27 and 28, 2003, which attracted leading gambling researchers, educators and industry participants from Alberta, Canada and abroad.
- Participation in interdisciplinary, tri-university planning for longitudinal study (focus on developmental psychology, mental health, cross-cultural factors)
- Five research and graduate assistants engaged in gambling-related research
- Two undergraduate courses offered that include gambling research as a major component
- More than 300 undergraduate students exposed to courses or guest lectures on gambling research

## THE INSTITUTE LIBRARY COLLECTIONS AND CLEARINGHOUSE

In 2002/03, the Alberta Gaming Research Institute Library greatly expanded its range of traditional and web-based services. Through the development of valuable online initiatives such as the Gambling Literature Database, the Institute Library has earned a reputation as an essential source of information in the field. It is not surprising to note that demand for library services from researchers and other Albertans has increased substantially. The Institute Librarian, Mr. Rhys Stevens, is based at the University of Lethbridge Library.

### **The Institute Library's past year activities included:**

#### Acquisition of print and electronic materials for Institute gaming collections

Institute researchers and all Albertans have access to an extensive gaming collection comprising books, journals, videos, and other materials housed in libraries at the partner universities. Over 200 items were purchased and added to the collections during the year.

#### Development of innovative web-based technologies designed to facilitate access to these collections

In August 2002, the *Gambling Literature Online Database* (<http://gaming.uleth.ca>) was officially launched. This resource provides a centralized location for gaming researchers to access in excess of 500 online gaming-related publications. The Institute Librarian also selected and sourced much of the material to be included in a forthcoming digitization initiative being developed in collaboration with the University of Calgary.

#### Response to detailed information inquiries from Institute-funded researchers and members of Alberta's public

Over the course of the year, the Institute Library received 132 separate requests for assistance with gaming-related issues. Through the provision of quality services, the library has increasingly come to be viewed as a trusted and reliable source of gambling research information.

#### Dissemination of Institute findings / current awareness services

The Institute Librarian is responsible for developing and maintaining the Institute's web site ([www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca](http://www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca)). Institute research reports, newsletters, library resources, and other announcements are all made available in a timely manner from this site. An average of over 600 visitors per month visited this information-rich resource.

#### Coordination of library activities with Institute stakeholders

The Institute Librarian worked closely with the Institute's Executive Director to plan Institute conferences, events, and reporting activities over the past year. In addition, the Librarian liaises with Institute-affiliated libraries and librarians to promote and enhance library services.

## RESEARCH PROJECTS AND GRANTS

The Alberta Gaming Research Institute has completed three peer-reviewed approval cycles of gambling-related research proposals. Following is an overview of each of the funded projects, which are listed by title, description, names of Principal Investigators (PI) and Co-Investigators (CI), and a brief status report for each. Projects are listed with the most recently funded ones first; the accompanying table displays the relationship of each project to the Institute's Research Domains. Completed projects are denoted by a C in the top box under their number in the descriptions that follow.

Research Domains	Bio-psychological and healthcare	9, 10, 29	9	5, 9, 10, 14, 19, 25, 29	3, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20	7	8	13	29				
	Socio-cultural	2, 16, 17, 18		15, 24	4, 8, 15	20, 22, 23, 26, 27, 30	12, 18, 25	18, 27	23, 24, 26, 27, 30	23, 30			
	Economic					12, 28	8, 20, 21, 22, 28	20					
	Government and Industry policy and practice				4	1, 8, 12, 19, 21							
	Other							6					
	Youth	Seniors	First Nations	Problem Prevention	Assessment	Public Policy	Suicide	Social/Economic Impacts	Prevalence Measures	History	VLTs	Cultural Influences	Internet
	Research Topics												

### RESEARCH PROJECTS APPROVED IN 2002/03

#### 30 Using On-Line Survey Techniques to Profile the Internet Gambler: A Pilot Study

This study will create a demographic and gambling activity profile of Internet gamblers using an Internet-based survey methodology. Relatively little is known about the characteristics of individuals who gamble on the Internet, stemming partially from the difficulties in sampling Internet gamblers using traditional methods, such as random digit dialing. Using Internet survey techniques, this study seeks to generate a

characteristic profile of the Internet gambler, and to identify potential cross-cultural variations in that profile. Since Internet surveys have rarely, if ever, been used to profile Internet gamblers, this study will be an important pilot test of the methodology. *Dr. Robert Wood (PI), Department of Sociology; Dr. Robert Williams (CI), Alberta Gaming Research Institute, School of Health Sciences, University of Lethbridge*

**Status (April 2003):** ethics approval received.

**Timeframe:** March 1, 2003 - February 28, 2004



## 29 Prevention of Problem Gambling: A School-Based Intervention

This project expands on a previous Institute sponsored evidence-based problem gambling prevention program delivered to high school students at three sites: the Calgary Catholic system, the Edmonton Public system, and in rural high schools in Southern Alberta. A certain component of the program will be manipulated at each site to investigate ways of optimizing its effectiveness.

*Dr. Robert Williams (PI), Alberta Gaming Research Institute, School of Health Sciences, University of Lethbridge; Dr. Shawn Currie (PI), Clinical Psychologist, Addiction Centre, Foothills Medical Centre, Foothills Hospital; Dr. Robert Wood (PI), Department of Sociology, University of Lethbridge*

**Status (April 2003):** A revised prevention program is underway in three separate school districts and baseline data has been collected. The project is one of the few evidence-based problem gambling prevention programs being developed and field tested in the world. It has generated media interest and investigators have presented at the Prevention of Problem Gambling conference at the University of Lethbridge (March 2003) and for the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba Provincial Gambling Meeting (December 2002).

**Timeframe:** January 1, 2003 - January 31, 2005

## 28 Economic Analysis of Alternative Betting Duty Regimes

This project evaluates alternative mechanisms to extract revenue from betting activity in Alberta.

The theoretical and empirical analysis will focus largely on a gross profits tax as an alternative to the standard betting duty regime based on gross turnover. Authorizing bookmakers to operate fixed-odds betting and spread betting, and taxing them as any other business concern, may increase the competitive position of Alberta's gambling industry while increasing the level and stability of government betting revenues.

*Dr. W. David Walls (PI), Department of Economics, University of Calgary*

**Status (April 2003):** Data collection for this project is ongoing and a research assistant has been trained to assist with the analysis of horse betting data. Researchers from Hong Kong, Japan, United States, and Singapore

have indicated an interest in collaborating on this project as gambling taxation has changed in different ways in different jurisdictions.

**Timeframe:** December 1, 2002 - November 30, 2003

## 27 The Effect of Culture on Gambling

This project has three purposes: (1) to describe the prevalence of gambling among Chinese/Canadians residing in Edmonton, Alberta; (2) to compare these findings with Anglo/Canadians who reside in the same community; and (3) to develop a cross-cultural model of gambling intentions, specifically Chinese/Canadians' and Anglo/Canadians' intention to purchase lottery tickets in the near future (i.e. during the next month). *Dr. Gordon Walker (PI), Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, University of Alberta*

**Status (April 2003):** The questionnaire has been translated from English into Mandarin and Cantonese; a sample frame of British/Canadian and Chinese/Canadian Edmonton residents has been developed; all three language versions of the questionnaire have been pre-tested, and the telephone portion of the data collection stage of the project has been completed. A total of 453 individuals participated in this stage of the study (227 British/Canadians and 226 Chinese/Canadians). To compare study participants' intention to purchase lottery tickets with their actual lottery ticket behaviour, a second phase of the data collection process, now nearing completion, was added in which, a month after being interviewed by telephone, individuals received a mail-out follow-up questionnaire asking them how many lottery tickets they had actually bought.

**Timeframe:** December 1, 2002 - November 30, 2003

## 26 Gambling, Identity & Community: Evaluating the Place of Chance in the Formation of Moral Cultures

The research will focus on how people and organizations involved in gambling, or having a connection to the gaming industry, understand gambling in relation to cultural definitions of self, agency, identity and community. It will involve an extensive literature review and qualitative interviews with members of mainstream and aboriginal cultural communities. It will move beyond 'problem gambling' to clarify the place of gambling in public opinion and political life, as well as in relation to specific cultures.

The goal is to understand how specific cultural and historical definitions of gambling affect not only personal identity and gambling behaviour, but also public policy and the civic actions of both individuals and organizations. *Dr. William Ramp (PI), Department of Sociology, University of Lethbridge; Dr. Robert Williams (CI), Alberta Gaming Research Institute, School of Health Sciences, University of Lethbridge; Dr. Jim Cosgrave (CI), Department of Sociology, Trent University; Dr. Thomas Klassen (CI), Division of Social Science, Faculty of Arts, York University*

**Status (April 2003):** Awaiting ethics approval.

**Timeframe:** November 1, 2002 - December 1, 2004

## 25 Developing a Gambling Awareness and Prevention Program: Impacting Gambling Behavior in Prison Populations

A gambling awareness program is to be developed and implemented at the Lethbridge Correctional Centre. The six-week program will consist of modules focusing on topics such as cognitive errors and understanding odds. The program will be offered twice, and the attitudinal and behavioural impact of this program will then be examined. *Dr. Gary Nixon (PI), School of Health Sciences, University of Lethbridge; Mr. T. Gordon Leigh, Executive Director, John Howard Society*

**Status (April 2003):** The first two prevention groups have been run at the Lethbridge Correctional Centre with both pre- and post-testing of 14 individuals. The project is being refined for the next six-session program at the facility and a manual has been produced. Early findings indicate the impact of cognitive-behavioural programs and awareness projects in jails.

**Timeframe:** October 1, 2002 - June 30, 2004

## 24 Problem Gambling in the Asian-Canadian Community in Calgary

Research on problem gambling in visible minority populations is grossly lacking. This project will explore the meaning of gambling and problem gambling among the Asian community in Calgary. It will also study the impacts of socio-cultural factors that contribute to the problem. Findings will facilitate understanding of the experiences faced by family members being affected by problem gambling as

well as the development of prevention and intervention programs. *Dr. Daniel Lai (PI), Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary*

**Status (April 2003):** Data collection has started and the recruitment of research participants is in progress. A group of community agencies have been contacted to form an advisory committee for this project. Additionally, the Chinese community of Vancouver has indicated a strong interest in this project and would like to participate in the study.

**Timeframe:** November 1, 2002 - October 31, 2003

## 23 The Influence of Substance Dependence and Mood Disorders on Outcome from Pathological Gambling

The role of co-morbid substance abuse and dependence and mood disorders from pathological gambling will be investigated over a five-year period by following a sample of pathological gamblers who had recently quit gambling. A secondary aim is to explore patterns of outcome from gambling problems in a naturalistic sample and to compare people who seek treatment to those who do not seek treatment.

*Dr. David Hodgins (PI), Department of Psychology; Dr. Nady el-Guebaly (CI), Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Calgary, Addiction Centre - Foothills Hospital*

**Status (April 2003):** Awaiting ethics approval.

**Timeframe:** January 1, 2003 - December 31, 2003

## RESEARCH PROJECTS APPROVED IN 2001/02


### 22 Proportion of Gaming Revenue Derived from Problem versus Nonproblem Gamblers

This is an investigation into the proportion of gaming revenue derived from problem versus nonproblem gamblers. In prior research into this issue, self-reported expenditures have not matched per capita gaming revenues. This study will re-investigate this issue using improved methodology to obtain self-reported expenditures. *Dr. Robert Williams (PI), School of Health Sciences; Dr. Robert Wood (PI), Department of Sociology, University of Lethbridge*

**Status (April 2003):** Approximately 65% of the sample has been recruited and is in the process of completing its one-month diaries. The University of Alberta Population Research Laboratory is collecting and tabulating the data. Preliminary results of this research were presented in October 2002 at the 5th European Conference on Gambling Studies and Policy Issues; a scholarly article is being prepared.


**Timeframe:** January 1, 2002 - December 31, 2003

## 21 Using Police Files to Assess Gambling Impacts

 This project analyzed police incident files for the purpose of documenting and analyzing linkages between gambling and criminal behaviour and to compare and contrast gambling-related crime trends over three different time spans. *Dr. Garry J. Smith (PI), Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta; Dr. Harold J. Wynne (CI), Wynne Resources, Edmonton; Dr. Timothy F. Hartnagel (Collaborator), Department of Sociology, University of Alberta*

**Status:** Complete. "Examining Police Records to Assess Gambling Impacts: A Study of Gambling-Related Crime in the City of Edmonton" (March 2003) is posted on the Institute website [www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/documents/research/Gambling\\_and\\_crime.pdf](http://www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/documents/research/Gambling_and_crime.pdf)

## 20 A Preliminary Analysis of Video Lottery Terminal Gambling in Alberta


 This project explores a controversial, widely practiced, but understudied gambling format: video lottery terminals (VLTs). The aim is to develop grounded theory related to luck-based gambling formats and gain an understanding of the social and economic impacts of VLT gambling, with a view to assisting public policy decision-making. *Dr. Garry J. Smith (PI), Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta; Dr. Harold J. Wynne (CI), Wynne Resources, Edmonton*

**Status (April 2003):** All data has been collected with the data analysis, and write-up is underway. It is anticipated that an article will be submitted to one of the leading gambling studies journals. As well, this study will be presented at international conferences and was discussed

during a visiting scholar tour in Australia in January 2003.


**Timeframe:** February 1, 2002 - May 31, 2003

## 19 Opportunistic Screening and Intervention Strategies For Problem Gamblers In The Emergency Department: An Exploratory Study

 This project developed, implement and evaluated strategies for screening, intervention and treatment of problem gamblers within an integrated health promotion framework, and enabled the research team to focus on the construction and testing of the survey instrument. *Prof. Donna L. Smith (PI), Faculty of Nursing; Dr. Sharon Ann Warren (PI), Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, University of Alberta; Dr. Garnett Cummings (CI), Royal Alexandra Hospital, Edmonton; Dr. Angus Thompson (CI), Departments of Public Health Sciences & Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Alberta*

**Status:** Complete. See the Institute's website for a summary of results prepared by the Principal Investigators [www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/Research/smith-warren.htm](http://www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/Research/smith-warren.htm)

## 18 High Quality Aging or Gambling with Health? The Lifestyles of Elders who Play Bingo: Supplementary Study

 A supplementary study (from the 2000/01 approved project-see No. 2 below) to increase the numbers in the target group to enable the exploration of the three main questions (1) who plays bingo after age 65? (2) what do elders believe they 'get' out of playing bingo? (3) what are the day-to-day patterns of a 'bingo lifestyle' and the implications? *Dr. Sandra O'Brien Cousins (PI), Faculty of Physical Education & Recreation, University of Alberta; Ms. Jennifer Hystad (CI), Dr. Judith Moodie (CI), Older Adult Research Unit, Alberta Centre For Active Living, Edmonton*

**Status:** Complete. "High Quality Aging or Gambling with Health? The Lifestyles of Elders Who Play Bingo: Final Summary Report" (2002, December) is posted on the Institute website [www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/documents/research/Cousins\\_bingo.pdf](http://www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/documents/research/Cousins_bingo.pdf)

## 17 Seniors and Gambling: Towards a Better Understanding

To gain a better understanding of the issue of seniors' gambling in Alberta, this study (1) assesses the validity of existing gambling screens for seniors, (2) explores seniors' experience of non-problem and problem gambling, including the positive and negative aspects of gaming for seniors, and (3) investigates how seniors recover from problem gambling, and any barriers that exist to effective treatment. *Dr. Gary Nixon (PI); Dr. Robert Williams (CI); Dr. Brad Hagen (CI), School of Health Sciences, University of Lethbridge*

**Status (April 2003):** Screening and interviewing of 20-25 seniors has taken place; transcribing completed; data analysis is underway. The research team has given several public lectures on the topic of seniors and gambling. The project has generated significant media interest and a working paper is in progress. Recruitment of seniors has, however, been difficult.

**Timeframe:** December 1, 2001 - November 30, 2003

## 16 Alberta Retirees who Gamble: Entertainment or Problem

This study included an initial systematic review of the literature and the development of a testable hypothesis that evaluates gambling among retired individuals. *Dr. Brenda Elizabeth Munro (PI), Department of Human Ecology; Dr. Marlene Cox-Bishop*

*(CI), Department of Human Ecology, Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics; Dr. Wayne McVey (CI), Department of Sociology, University of Alberta; Mr. Gordon Munro (CI), Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, Edmonton*

**Status:** Complete. Themes were identified, methodology was reviewed, an annotated bibliography was developed and future research needs were identified.

The report is posted on the Institute website [www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/Research/munro.htm](http://www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/Research/munro.htm)

## 15 Understanding How Gamblers Really Think: Psychological and Cultural Aspects that Motivate Gamblers

This research focuses on cognitive processes among problem gamblers. To date, extensive research has been conducted that highlights the use of cognitive distortions to rationalize continued gambling. The themes, archetypes, and mythic structures identified in this research will provide a starting point for culturally sensitive clinical applications as well as future prevention projects. *Dr. Virginia McGowan (PI); Dr. Gary Nixon (PI), School of Health Sciences; Ms. Lois Frank (CI), Department of Native Studies, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, University of Lethbridge*

**Status (April 2003):** Research assistants are actively recruiting participants; advertisements have appeared in local and regional newspapers. Interviewing started in January 2003 and is continuing. The investigators will be sharing aspects of this research project with Australian and New Zealand colleagues in June and July 2003. An article is also being prepared for the Canadian Journal of Native Studies.

**Timeframe:** December 1, 2001 - November 30, 2003

## 14 Effects of a Motivational Interview on Problem Gambling Behaviour

A brief motivational interview for problem gamblers is being developed and evaluated. A "motivational interview" is a non-confrontational interaction that allows an individual to discuss his or her concerns, express and explore ambivalent feelings about changing problem behaviour, and consider alternatives. The effects of a single motivational interview on subsequent gambling behaviour will be evaluated. *Dr. David Hodgins (PI); Ms. Katherine Diskin (CI), Department of Psychology, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Calgary*

**Status (April 2003):** Phase 1 is underway; it includes the development of a motivational interview script and adherence checklist. A graduate psychology assistant has been hired to assist in conducting the interviews. The two psychology students who will be conducting the interviews are currently being trained in delivering the intervention. Phase 2 of the study, the recruitment of

research participants, will begin in May 2003. A workshop on motivational interventions for problem gambling was conducted at the Association for the Advancement of Behavior Therapy in November 2002.

**Timeframe:** January 1, 2002 - December 31, 2003

## 13 Psychophysiological and Subjective Responses in Video Lottery Gamblers



Psychophysiological responses (heart rate and skin conductance) and subjective ratings of excitement and tension were measured while participants gambled on video lottery terminals in a casino and in a laboratory situation. The study investigated the relationship between indices of arousal and problem gambling criteria in a real world situation and compared responses in casino and laboratory situations. *Dr. David Hodgins (PI); Ms. Katherine Diskin (CI), Department of Psychology, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Calgary*

**Status:** Complete. The principal form of publication is anticipated to be in peer-reviewed journals. See an abstract of the results prepared by the research team at the Institute's website [www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/Research/hodgins2.htm](http://www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/Research/hodgins2.htm)

## 12 Casino Patrons, Travel Behaviour, Place Attachment And Motivations: A Study of Alberta Residents



What role does 'place' play in the travel decisions of Alberta residents who are casino gamblers? This study surveyed 1,200 Alberta residents to: (1) identify the travel patterns and trip characteristics of casino gamblers, (2) examine the importance of place attachment and mode of experience in relation to these travel decisions, and (3) examine the relationship between place attachment and the motivations of casino gamblers. *Dr. Tom Hinch (PI); Dr. Gordon Walker (CI), Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, University of Alberta*

**Status:** Complete. "Casino Patrons, Travel Behaviour, Place Attachment, and Motivations: A Study of Alberta Residents" (2003, February) is posted on the Institute website [www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/documents/research/Hinch\\_Casino\\_Patrons.pdf](http://www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/documents/research/Hinch_Casino_Patrons.pdf)

## 11 Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging of Pathological Gamblers



An evaluation of the differences in brain function between pathological gamblers and a normal 'control' group is the focus of this study.

The pilot project uses functional magnetic resonance imaging in order to understand the underlying neurobiologic basis of pathological gambling and potentially aid in its treatment. *Dr. David Crockford (PI), Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine; Dr. Bradley Goodyear (CI), Department of Clinical Neurosciences & Radiology; Dr. Hermano Tavares (CI), Department of Psychiatry, Sao Paulo Medical School; Dr. Nady el-Guebaly (CI), Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, Addiction Centre - Foothills Hospital; Dr. Richard Frayne (Consultant), Department of Clinical Neurosciences & Radiology, University of Calgary*

**Status (April 2003):** The project is now two-thirds complete. All subjects have been recruited and interviewed. Appropriate stimuli have been constructed for viewing/interaction in the fMRI. With the new stimulus, 2 control subjects and 8 pathological gamblers have been scanned. Preliminary findings have been presented at the Canadian Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting (November 2002) and the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry (December 2002).

**Timeframe:** March 1, 2002 - January 31, 2004

## 10 Impact of Statistical Knowledge on Gambling Attitudes and Behaviour of University Students



This study examines the impact that an introductory statistics class studying gambling probabilities has on actual gambling knowledge, attitudes and behaviour of first year university students. *Dr. Dennis Connolly (PI), Dept of Mathematics & Computer Science (PI); Dr. Robert Williams (PI), School of Health Sciences; Dr. Joy Morris (CI), Department of Mathematics & Computer Science, University of Lethbridge*

**Status (April 2003):** An Introductory Statistics course was taught at the University of Lethbridge that included a significant gambling component. A classroom survey was incorporated and data is being gathered and analyzed. Several papers will be produced as a result of this investigation. Preliminary findings have been included in conference presentations.

**Timeframe:** March 1, 2002 - May 31, 2003



## RESEARCH PROJECTS APPROVED IN 2000/01

### 9 Prevention of Pathological Gambling



This project undertook to develop, implement, and evaluate evidence based gambling prevention program to high school students at 2 sites: students in the Calgary Catholic system and Aboriginal students in tribal-operated high schools on the Blood and Peigan reserves. *Dr. Robert J. Williams (PI); Dr. Virginia McGowan (PI), School of Health Sciences, University of Lethbridge*

**Status:** Complete. "Prevention of Problem Gambling: A School-Based Intervention" (December 2002) is posted on the Institute website [www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/documents/research/Williams\\_prevention.pdf](http://www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/documents/research/Williams_prevention.pdf)

### 8 Measuring Gambling and Problem Gambling in Alberta Using the Canadian Problem Gambling Index



The focus of this project was the evaluation of the newly developed Canadian Problem Gambling Index in Alberta. CPGI items were imbedded in a telephone survey of a random sample of adult Albertans. The results provided a baseline status of problem gambling in Alberta communities. *Dr. Garry J. Smith (PI), Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta; Dr. Harold J. Wynne (CI), Wynne Resources, Edmonton*

**Status:** Complete. "Measuring Gambling and Problem Gambling in Alberta Using the Canadian Problem Gambling Index (CPGI): Final Report" (February 2002) is posted on the Institute website [www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/documents/research/gambling\\_alberta\\_cpgi.pdf](http://www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/documents/research/gambling_alberta_cpgi.pdf)

### 7 Association Between Pathological Gambling and Suicide Attempt/Ideation



Diagnostic interview schedule data on 25,017 Edmonton residents and five US urban centres analyzed to determine whether a lifetime history of DSM-III pathological gambling is associated with suicide attempt/ideation. *Dr. Stephen C. Newman (PI), Department of Psychiatry; Dr. Angus Thompson (CI), Departments of Psychiatry and Public Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Alberta*

**Status:** Complete. Three series of studies, eight experiments in total were completed; one series focused on illusory control mechanisms in gambling, the second focused on counterfactual thinking; two studies were submitted, separately, and accepted for publication in peer reviewed journals; two more experiments were completed and the manuscript submitted to a scholarly journal for publication.

*Newman, S. C., & Thompson, A. H. (2003). "A Population-Based Study of the Association Between Pathological Gambling and Attempted Suicide. Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior," 33(1), 80-87.*

### 6 A Social History of Gambling in Alberta to 1970

This history of gambling in Alberta and its role in Alberta's diverse popular cultures will identify the province's gambling traditions, as well as attempts by agencies and government to either suppress or regulate gambling, and the persistence of gambling as part of Alberta's culture. *Dr. Christopher Hosgood (PI), Department of History, Faculty of Arts and Science, University of Lethbridge*

**Status (April 2003):** Recovering, examining and interpreting archival material throughout the province was conducted in summer 2001 and a typology of gambling in Alberta was developed. Additional materials from the National Archives in Ottawa were examined over summer 2002. Work has commenced on the detailed narrative of Alberta's gambling history. A scholarly paper was presented at the Western Social Sciences Annual Conference in Las Vegas and a keynote presentation will be delivered in May 2003 at the Alberta Undergraduate History Student's Conference.

**Timeframe:** January 1, 2001 - December 31, 2003

### 5 Preventing Relapse in Former Gamblers

This is a low cost, easily accessed relapse prevention approach for problem gamblers who have recently quit gambling. A minimal degree of intervention involving repeated mailings of relapse prevention materials to participants is required. *Dr. David Hodgins (PI), Department of Psychology; Dr. Shawn Currie (CI), Dept of Psychiatry; Ms. Katherine Diskin (CI), Department of Psychology; Dr. Nady el-Guebaly (CI), Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, Addiction Centre, Foothills Hospital, University of Calgary*

**Status (April 2003):** The project is in two phases: development of relapse prevention materials and evaluation of two approaches. The first phase is complete: eight relapse prevention booklets have been written. The target sample of 169 participants was successfully recruited, with 80% of participants residing in Alberta. To date, 156 participants have completed the 6-week follow-up interview, yielding a 93% follow-up rate, 145 participants have completed the 6-month assessment (86% follow-up rate), and 136 participants the 12-month interview (80% of those eligible to date). A number of associated provincial, national and international conference presentations, and media interviews have been conducted.

**Timeframe:** January 1, 2001 - July 31, 2003

## 4 How Near Wins and Near Losses Affect Gamblers' Self-Perceptions, Risk Estimations, and Future Gambling Behaviour

Identifying the effects of near wins and near losses on gaming decisions is the focus of this study. Theory suggests that these experiences may significantly affect a gambler's self-perceptions, risk estimations and future gambling behaviour. *Dr. Michael Enzle (PI); Mr. Michael Jeremy Adam Wohl (CI); Dr. Donald C. Heth (CI), Department of Psychology, University of Alberta*

**Status (April 2003):** Three series of studies, eight experiments in total, have been completed; one series focused on illusory control mechanisms in gambling, the second focused on counterfactual thinking. Two papers presenting multiple experiments have been accepted for publication in peer-reviewed journals in the field of social psychology. One has appeared in print and the other is still in press. A manuscript for publication reporting the final two experiments is in first draft form and has been submitted for presentation at the Annual Convention of the Canadian Psychological Association.

**Publications:** Wohl, M. J. A., & Enzle, M. E. (2002). "The deployment of personal luck: Illusory control in games of pure chance." *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 28, 1388-1397.

Wohl, M. J. A., & Enzle, M. E. (2003). "The effects of near wins and losses on self-perceived personal luck and subsequent gambling behavior." *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 39, 184-191.

## 3 Gambling Craving and Its Relation to Addiction and Personality

This project explored whether gambling craving



among pathological gamblers is similar or different from alcohol craving among alcohol-dependent individuals, and what is the relation of craving to personality structure. *Dr. Nady el-Guebaly (PI), Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Calgary; Dr. Hermano Tavares (CI), Department of Psychiatry, Sao Paulo Medical School, Addiction Centre/University of Calgary; Dr. David Hodgins (CI), Department of Psychology, University of Calgary*

**Status:** Complete. See a summary of the study's results prepared by the Principal Investigator at the Institute's website  
[www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/Research/el-guebaly.htm](http://www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/Research/el-guebaly.htm)

## 2 High Quality Aging or Gambling with Health? The Lifestyles of Elders who Play Bingo



This project studied three questions: (1) who plays bingo after age 65? (2) what do elders believe they "get" out of playing bingo? (3) what are the day to day patterns of a "bingo lifestyle" and the implications for health and well-being? *Dr. Sandy O'Brien Cousins (PI); Mr. Chad Witcher, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, University of Alberta*

**Status:** Complete. "High Quality Aging or Gambling with Health? The Lifestyles of Elders Who Play Bingo: Final Summary Report" (December 2002) is posted on the Institute website  
[www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/documents/research/Cousins\\_bingo.pdf](http://www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/documents/research/Cousins_bingo.pdf)

## 1 A Consumer Model for the Regulation of Gaming

This project will attempt to place the focus of gaming activity into the perspective of a consumer transaction, so that researchers may apply the standard model of "consumer protection legal regulation" to gamblers. The objective is to determine if the model can be extended to gaming activity. *Dr Peter Bowal, Faculty of Management, University of Calgary*

**Status (April 2003):** Background work on the project is complete and data is being analyzed. Two University of Calgary law students have been hired to assist with the project. A paper was presented at the Pacific Northwest regional meeting of the Academy of Legal Studies in Business in Portland, Oregon in April 2003.

**Timeframe:** January 1, 2001 - June 30, 2003

# ALBERTA GAMING RESEARCH INSTITUTE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2003

<b>22</b>	Auditor's Report
<b>23</b>	Statement of Financial Position
<b>24</b>	Statement of Operations
<b>25</b>	Statement of Cash Flows
<b>26</b>	Notes to the Financial Statements
<b>30</b>	Schedule of Expenses

## AUDITOR'S REPORT

### To the Board of the Alberta Gaming Research Institute

I have audited the statement of financial position of the Alberta Gaming Research Institute as at March 31, 2003 and the statements of operations and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the management of the Institute. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Institute as at March 31, 2003 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

*Original Signed by  
Fred J. Dunn, FCA*

Auditor General

Edmonton, Alberta  
May 30, 2003

**Note: The official version of this Report of the Auditor General, and the information the Report covers, is in printed form.**

# ALBERTA GAMING RESEARCH INSTITUTE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT MARCH 31, 2003

	2003	2002
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash (Note 4)	\$ 3,184,066	\$ 409,095
Accounts receivable (Note 5)	18,156	2,533,532
Prepaid expenses	2,083	1,433
Capital Assets (Note 6)	1,567	4,874
	<b>\$ 3,205,872</b>	<b>\$ 2,948,934</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 12,062	\$ 1,299
Deferred contributions (Note 7)	-	2,500,000
	12,062	2,501,299
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Net assets at beginning of year	447,635	463,969
Net operating results	2,746,175	(16,334)
Net assets at end of year	3,193,810	447,635
	<b>\$ 3,205,872</b>	<b>\$ 2,948,934</b>

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

On Behalf of the Board:

*Original signed by R. Szostak*

Signature

*Audit Committee Chair*

Position

*July 4, 2003*

Date

*Original signed by E. LeSage*

Signature

*Board Member*

Position

*July 7, 2003*

Date



# ALBERTA GAMING RESEARCH INSTITUTE STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2003

	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	2002 Actual
<b>Revenues</b>			
Contributions from the Department of Gaming (Note 7)	\$ 1,490,000	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 500,000
Interest Revenue	-	17,110	-
	1,490,000	4,017,110	500,000
<b>Expenses (Schedule 1)</b>			
Research	1,055,000	809,638	335,771
Infrastructure and Library	230,000	240,690	6,536
Research Linkages	35,000	37,036	18,062
Research Administration	170,000	183,571	155,965
<b>Total Expenses</b>	1,490,000	1,270,935	516,334
<b>Net Operating Results</b>	\$ -	\$ 2,746,175	\$ (16,334)

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

## ALBERTA GAMING RESEARCH INSTITUTE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2003

	2003	2002
<b>Operating Transactions</b>		
Net Operating Results	\$ 2,746,175	\$ (16,334)
Non-cash items:		
Amortization	3,307	3,307
Decrease (Increase) in Accounts receivable	2,515,376	(1,032,441)
Increase in Prepaid expenses	(650)	(590)
Increase (Decrease) in Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	10,763	(4,532)
Increase (Decrease) in Deferred contributions	(2,500,000)	1,000,000
<b>Net Cash Provided (Used)</b>	<b>2,774,971</b>	<b>(50,590)</b>
<b>Cash, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>409,095</b>	<b>459,685</b>
<b>Cash, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 3,184,066</b>	<b>\$ 409,095</b>

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

# ALBERTA GAMING RESEARCH INSTITUTE NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2003

## Note 1 Authority and Reporting Entity

The Alberta Gaming 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 Institute universities). Relations between the Institute and the Government of Alberta are defined in an Agreement between the Institute universities and the Alberta Government dated November 26, 2002.

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 Department of Gaming. The Institute 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;
- provide education about current knowledge through research publications and reporting of research results;
- provide research related to emergent gaming activities;
- act as a clearinghouse for literature related to gambling research; and,
- forge strong collaborative links with national and international scholars and organizations involved in gaming/gambling research and studies.

## Note 3 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Reporting Practices

### Revenue

The Institute follows the deferral method of accounting. Unrestricted contributions are recognized when received or receivable if the amount can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Restricted contributions and interest earned thereon are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred.

### 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

Capital assets are recorded at historical cost less accumulated amortization. Capital assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives at the following annual rates:

Furniture and equipment	20%
Computer equipment	33%

### Liabilities

Liabilities represent all financial claims payable by the Institute at the fiscal year end.

### Net Assets

Net assets represent the difference between the value of assets held by the Institute and its liabilities.

## Fair Value

Fair value is the amount of consideration agreed upon in an arm's length transaction between knowledgeable, willing parties who are under no compulsion to act. The fair values of accounts receivable, prepaid expenses and accounts payable and accrued liabilities are estimated to approximate their book values.

## 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 Institute 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 Institute universities are entitled to freely use and copy, other than for commercial purposes, any intellectual property so created.

## Note 4 Cash

Cash is held in trust by the University of Alberta. Interest earned on the Institute's cash balance is credited to the Institute and is reflected in these statements.

## Note 5 Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable are unsecured and non-interest bearing.

	2003	2002
Department of Gaming	\$ 682	\$ 2,500,399
Other	17,474	33,133
	<u>\$ 18,156</u>	<u>\$ 2,533,532</u>

## Note 6 Capital Assets

	2003			2002
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	Net Book Value
Furniture and equipment	\$ 1,222	\$ 591	\$ 631	\$ 876
Computer equipment	9,188	8,252	936	3,998
Total	<u>\$ 10,410</u>	<u>\$ 8,843</u>	<u>\$ 1,567</u>	<u>\$ 4,874</u>

## Note 7 Deferred Contributions

Deferred contributions represent funding received and receivable from Alberta Gaming, which the institute was not permitted to spend until the Institute provided the approved budgets and the audited

financial statements to Alberta Gaming. In the current year, the Institute submitted the budget for year ended March 31, 2004 and audited financial statements for year ended March 31, 2002 and prior years. Changes in the deferred contributions balance are as follows:

	2003	2002
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 1,500,000
Contributions received during the year	1,500,000	1,500,000
Amount recognized as revenue in the year	(4,000,000)	(500,000)
Balance, end of year	\$ -	\$ 2,500,000

## Note 8 Grants to Institute Universities

Grants are provided to the Institute universities for capacity building, nodal research development, library and collections, and research node administration for gaming related operations.

The following table provides an accounting for the grant funds received, and amounts spent by the Institute universities, to the year-end. Any unspent funds held by an Institute university at the conclusion of these programs or activities will be returned to the Institute for distribution according to its usual practices.

	2003			2002	
	University of Alberta	University of Calgary	University of Lethbridge	Total	Total
Opening balance	\$ 32,920	\$ 52,494	\$ 35,603	\$ 121,017	\$ 486,144
Funding					
Capacity building	100,000	100,000	100,000	300,000	-
Nodal research development	30,000	60,000	30,000	120,000	-
Library and collections	-	-	165,579	165,579	-
Research Node Administration	15,000	15,000	15,000	45,000	-
Cohort study (a)	(2,831)	(1,893)	-	(4,724)	15,000
	142,169	173,107	310,579	625,855	15,000
Total Funding Available	175,089	225,601	346,182	746,872	501,144
Actual Expenditures	70,379	151,042	288,628	510,049	380,127
Unexpended Funds	\$ 104,710	\$ 74,559	\$ 57,554	\$ 236,823	\$ 121,017

(a) The Board approved an amount of \$30,000 (October 11, 2001) to develop a longitudinal cohort study proposal. A portion of the amount was distributed to the universities (\$5,000/university) for research assistance. The unexpended balances were returned to the Institute to support other aspects of the proposal development.



## Note 9 Commitments

The Institute has the following commitments:

Year	Research Grants (a)	Lease (b)	Computer Maintenance (b)	Total
2004	\$ 337,863	\$ 2,980	\$ 375	\$ 341,218
2005	46,106	3,973	500	50,579
2006	-	3,973	500	4,473
Total	\$ 383,969	\$ 10,926	\$ 1,375	\$ 396,270

### (a) Research Grants

At the time a research proposal is approved, the Institute authorizes payment of 80% of the grant request. The remaining 20% is withheld pending satisfactory interim reporting by the researcher. For research proposals extending beyond one year, authorization of subsequent period amounts is subject to funding availability. Commitments consist of the 20% of grant requests withheld, subsequent period amounts,

and any other approved grant requests for which the researcher has not yet met all the eligibility criteria.

### (b) Lease

The Institute has a lease with the University of Alberta for the period July 1, 2003 to March 31, 2006 (\$3,973/annum). The University of Alberta is providing computer technical support (\$500/annum) for the same period.

## Note 10 Economic Dependence

The Institute receives its funding from the Department of Gaming. The three-year agreement between the Alberta Government and the Institute,

which expires March 31, 2005, provides funding of \$1,500,000 annually. The Institute's ability to maintain viable operations is dependent upon continued support from the Alberta Government.

## Note 11 Related Party Transactions

During the year, the Institute authorized payments to two Institute Board members, in capacity as principal researchers, for research grants totalling \$50,702.

Commitments also include \$9,738 for further research grants to two Board members (one continuing and one new award).

## Note 12 Budget

The Revised 2002-03 budget was approved by the Institute's Board of Directors on December 16, 2002.

# ALBERTA GAMING RESEARCH INSTITUTE SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES

SCHEDULE 1

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2003

	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	2002 Actual
<b>Research</b>			
Grant competition (1)	\$ 575,000	\$ 389,638	\$ 335,771
Research support funding (2)	90,000	30,000	-
Position funding (3)	300,000	300,000	-
Nodal research development (4)	90,000	90,000	-
	<u>1,055,000</u>	<u>809,638</u>	<u>335,771</u>
<b>Infrastructure and Library</b>			
Website maintenance (5)	-	-	250
Library and collections (6)	170,000	186,244	180
Events, colloquia (7)	15,000	9,446	6,106
Research nodes (8)	45,000	45,000	-
	<u>230,000</u>	<u>240,690</u>	<u>6,536</u>
<b>Research Linkages</b>			
Communications (9)	15,000	23,374	7,583
Exchange (10)	20,000	13,662	10,479
	<u>35,000</u>	<u>37,036</u>	<u>18,062</u>
<b>Research Administration</b>			
Personnel costs (11)	143,000	147,023	128,238
Contract services (12)	-	-	2,775
Administrative hub (13)	27,000	36,547	24,952
	<u>170,000</u>	<u>183,571</u>	<u>155,965</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,490,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,270,935</b>	<b>\$ 516,334</b>

Note 1 Includes research grants and cohort study research assistance.

Note 2 One-time researcher start-up (\$30,000/university) to University of Alberta.

Note 3 Grants to consortium universities (\$100,000/university/year) to attract research scholars.

Note 4 Grants to consortium universities (\$30,000/university/year) to develop internal research expertise.

Note 5 Includes development and maintenance of the Institute's home and library websites included in 'Library collections & clearinghouse' budget.

Note 6 Grant to the University of Lethbridge to build and maintain a special collection of gambling publications for use by the consortium universities. The grant also provides funding for specialized information services to interested parties on gambling and gaming matters, and includes funding for a junior grade professional librarian.

Note 7 Supports program of formative and summative learning events and forums. Includes cost of an annual conference bringing together all Institute associates and fellows and other interested persons, specifically, *Conference 2003: Prevention of Problem Gambling, March 27 & 28, 2003* at University of Lethbridge.

Note 8 Costs associated with administering node operations including local/rotating board meetings, internal and administrative support

Note 9 Includes print materials and promotional broadcasts, annual report, and conference attendance to facilitate information dissemination.

Note 10 Includes support for Alberta scholars to travel to other locales to investigate gambling-related matters as well as the travel of national and foreign scholars to Alberta to assist with Institute research.

Note 11 Salary and benefits compensation (Executive Director and administrative support).

Note 12 Special project consulting (e.g. document drafting, graphic design work).

Note 13 Includes business and board members meeting travel, hub operational requirements.



Standing, left to right:

*Dr. Rick Szostak, University of Alberta; Sheila Murphy, Alberta Gaming Research Council; Dr. Nady el-Guebaly (Chair), University of Calgary; Vickii Williams, Executive Director; Dr. Edd LeSage, University of Alberta; Catherine Anley, Administrative Assistant; Dr. Dennis Fitzpatrick, University of Lethbridge; Dr. Pam Sokol, University of Calgary Centre; Dr. Chris Hosgood, University of Lethbridge*

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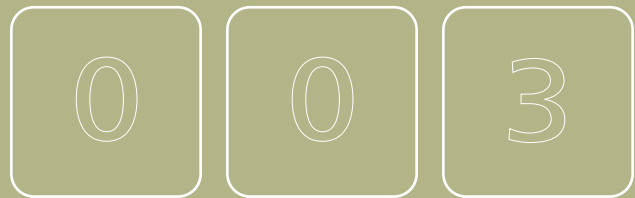
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