

Apace of Change ANNUAL REPORT 2011-12

ALBERTA
GAMBLING
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE



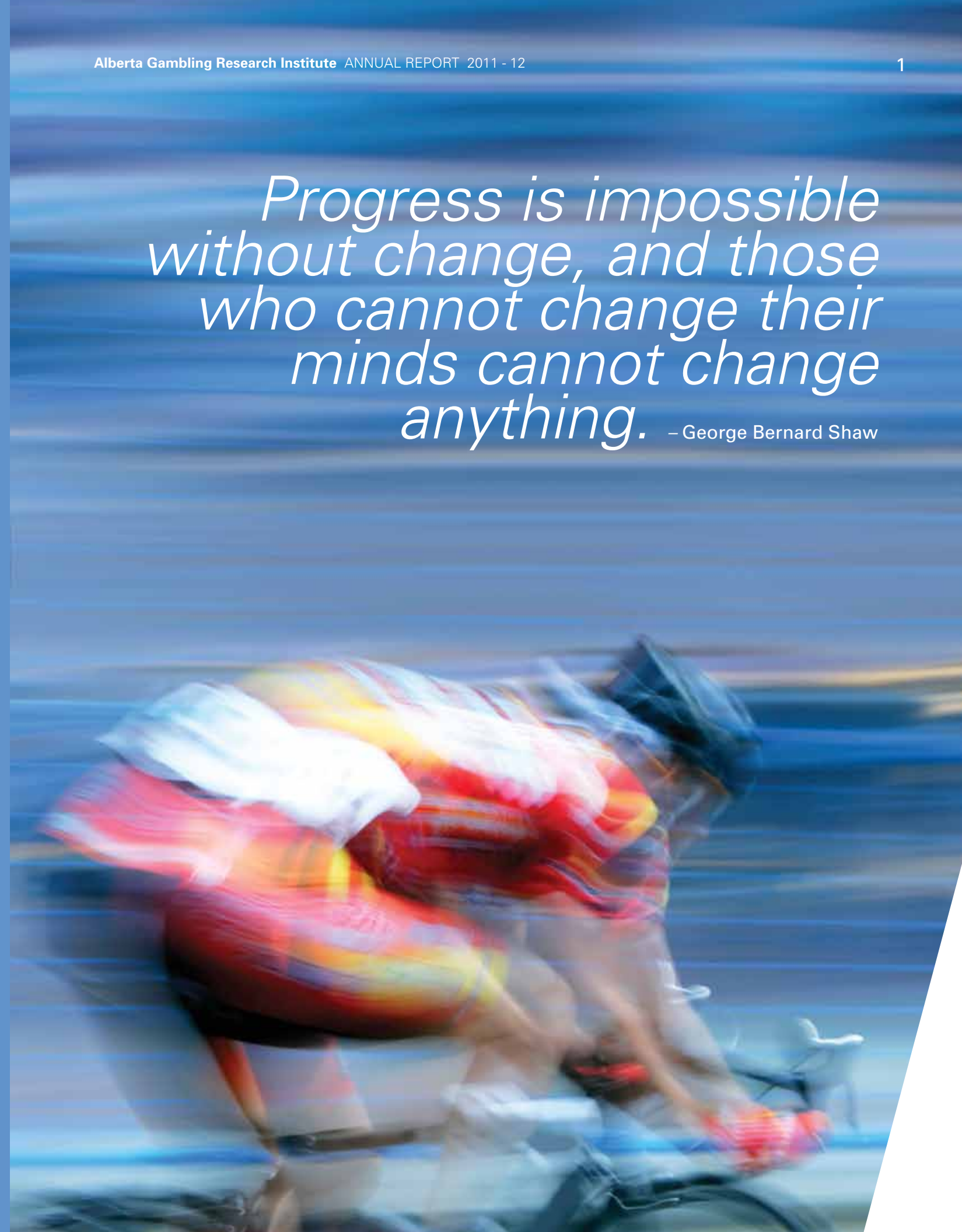
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Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything. – George Bernard Shaw

For additional information on research projects or other Institute initiatives or events, see <http://www.abgamblinginstitute.ualberta.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).



Message from the Board Chair



On behalf of the Board of Directors I am pleased to present the 12th Annual Report of the Alberta Gambling Research Institute for the period ending March 31, 2012. This report outlines the continuing progress of AGRI in making Alberta a powerhouse in gambling

research. Before the formation of AGRI, apart from important work of a few individual researchers, Alberta made relatively minor contributions to the world's understanding of gambling. Now, the continuing support of the Alberta government and the energetic participation of the Partner Universities have enabled academic researchers to use their skills and dedication to make fundamental contributions in this area. The signing of a new five-year agreement signaled a continuing commitment by the partners to this process.

The Board is reviewing and renovating its programs to accelerate gambling research in Alberta, to expand and deepen the pool of researchers, and to engage the best students in the relevant fields. We are also working to strengthen the processes by which the insights gained are made available to those formulating policy and implementing programs related to gambling in Alberta.

AGRI works closely with other leading agencies across Canada and internationally to ensure that the research is as effectively planned and executed as possible, and that the outcomes are made widely available. At the most recent AGRI summit, the benefits of this approach were evident as established and emerging scholars from around the world brought multinational insights to bear on challenging problems.

On behalf of the Board of AGRI I would like to recognize the many important contributions of my predecessor as Board Chair, Dr. Nady el-Guebaly. As an eminent researcher and clinician he brought an especially acute insight to the challenges of establishing AGRI and launching its programs successfully. A person sensitive to the nuances of human behavior, he negotiated skillfully among the many parties with strong interests to build trust and support for disinterested research. The partners and researchers who constitute AGRI are in his debt. Thank you, Nady.

Sincerely,

Seamus O'Shea

Message from the Executive Director

2011/12 was a year of progressive change for the Institute. Two important foundational agreements were redrafted and signed which have already had significant impact on the Institute and will continue to guide it. Perhaps one of the most evident changes in the agreement was renaming to the Alberta Gambling Research Institute, formerly the Alberta Gaming Research Institute. It was generally agreed that the new name better reflected the nature of the research supported and conducted under its auspices. A number of consequent changes resulted including updating of the Institute logo and working to communicate the changes to the general public and stakeholders. These were accomplished while ensuring continued confidence in the ever-growing research profile of AGRI (you will note that the acronym remains the same!).

I hope you will take time to become thoroughly acquainted with the contents of this document and become familiarized with the resultant 'shift in direction'. All of the modifications of direction aim to meet AGRI's commitment to:

- increase its focus on responsiveness to stakeholder identified research priorities;
- broaden interprovincial, national, and international affiliations; and
- maximize the influence of evidence-based knowledge on public policy formulation.



Although this is a report on the 2011-12 fiscal year, I think you will agree that it is very forward-looking and sets a sound context for the coming years.

I would be happy to hear from you on any matters related to this report or the Institute more generally. Once again, I sincerely thank you for your support of the Institute's work and, in particular, participation in our conference and sponsored research functions.

Sincerely,

Vickii Williams

About the Institute

Vision

To maximize the benefits while minimizing the negative impacts of gambling.

Mission

To facilitate evidence-based broad research that informs gambling public policy and educates Albertans and the wider audience about the effects of gambling.

Values

- Independent and excellent multi-disciplinary research
- Scientific knowledge and information
- Collaboration
- Accountability and informing public policy

Core Purposes

The Institute will:

1. expand the breadth and depth of scientific knowledge into gambling;
2. promote or direct research in those priorities and areas identified as part of the stakeholder priority action plan;
3. develop research capacity in the Partner Universities;
4. sponsor research that is peer reviewed and of the highest academic quality;
5. facilitate the transfer of knowledge and information to stakeholders, which includes, among other activities, maintaining a library collection;
6. forge strong collaborative links with stakeholders that includes, but is not limited to, national and international scholars, organizations involved in gambling research and studies, policy-makers, government, gaming providers, and problem gambling treatment providers;
7. provide education about current knowledge through research publications, reporting of research results and knowledge translation strategies; and
8. identify and pursue other potential funding sources.

Core Businesses

1. Develop and promote gambling related research and disseminate results.
2. Develop and sustain gambling-related research infrastructure.
3. Establish and encourage national and international gambling-related research linkages.
4. Establish and efficiently conduct gambling-related research administration.



Institute Board

The Institute is governed and managed by an eight member Board consisting of two directors appointed by and from each Partner University, an external member appointed by the Minister of Finance, and an external Board Chair appointed by the Vice Presidents, Research, of the Partner Universities. The Executive Director serves in an advisory role on the Board.

Top Row (left to right)

Nady el-Guebaly, Douglas West, Robert Wood, Seamus O'Shea, Keith Dobson

Bottom Row (left to right)

Maxine Tedesco (Librarian), Vickii Williams, Lesley Brown, Linda Trimble, Colette Freitas, Sandy Dougall



Highlights of 2011-12

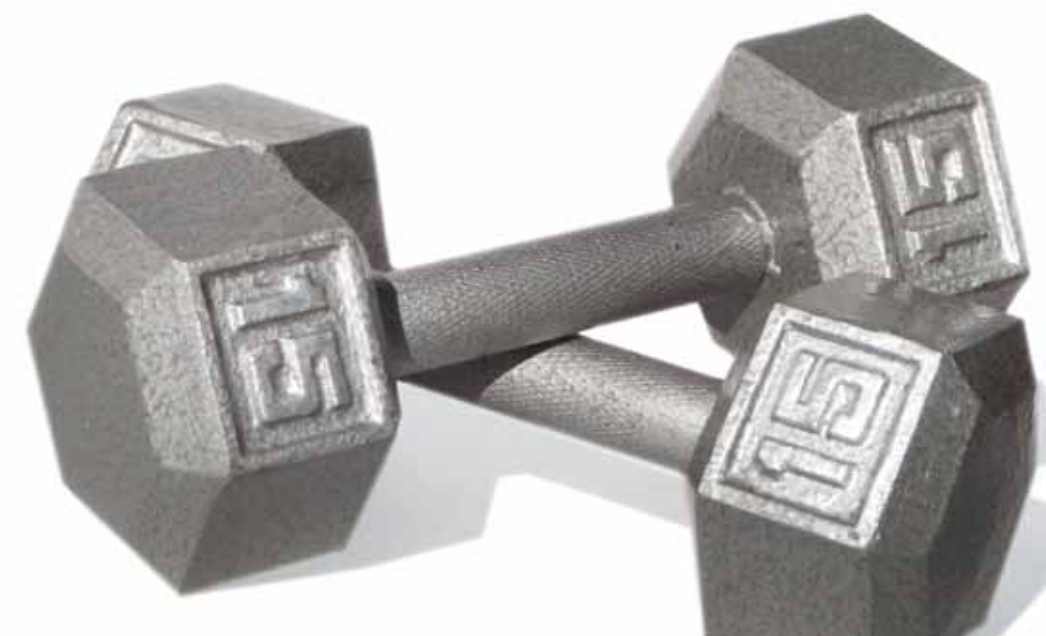
In addition to the Institute's name change to Alberta Gambling (formerly Gaming) Research Institute, two important documents were signed: firstly, among the Partner Universities (Memorandum of Agreement, May 30, 2011 to replace the Institute Organizing Agreement, November 26, 1999) and secondly, between the Partner Universities and Province of Alberta (2011-16 Government/Universities Funding Agreement, September 27, 2011 to continue the previous five-year agreement).

Some highlights of these Agreements:

- modification of the Board governance structure to include an external (to the Partner Universities) Board Chair
- appointment of an external public Board member by the Funder
- allowance for the establishment of a Research Director position/function by the Board
- commitment to make minimum annual allocations of \$250,000 for each of stakeholder identified and investigator initiated research projects for a total of \$500,000.

By March 31, 2012, a number of consequent changes were already undertaken:

- an external Board Chair was appointed in February 2012
- an external Board member was appointed in November 2011
- a Board retreat was planned (for April 11 & 12, 2012) to include an assessment of the leadership role of a Research Director position and/or the best means to accomplish the determined functions
- the 2012/13 scholarship awards and research allowances were increased to enhance the recruitment possibilities of attracting the most promising young scholars to gambling-related research
- additional knowledge transfer/translation (KT) opportunities were made available to researchers through the grant application process
- an Institute Board member was appointed to serve on the AGLC Responsible Gambling Advisory Committee
- the Executive Director of AGRI was elected Chair of the Canadian Consortium for Gambling Research, an interprovincial consortium for collaborative and jointly-funded project development, commissioning, and oversight
- a survey of Institute stakeholders was conducted in March 2012 to serve as background information for the April 2012 Stakeholder Meeting



Gambling Research at the Partner Universities

University of Alberta



– submitted by Dr. Garry Smith,
Gambling Research Specialist,
Faculty of Extension & AGRI Research
Coordinator

Highlights of activities in 2011-12 included:

- Organized and hosted the Institute's 10th Annual Conference on Gambling Research in Banff (April 8-9, 2011). Conference theme was "Engaging the Big Questions in Gambling Studies".
- Hosted visiting gambling scholars. Included Dr. Linda Hancock (Deakin U.), Dr. Rodney Paul (St. Bonaventure U.), Dr. Andrew Weinbach (Coastal Carolina U.), Dr. Robert Simmons (Lancaster U.), Dr. David Forrest (Salford U.), and Dr. Dennis Coates (U. Maryland).
- G. Smith, R. Williams and D. Hodgins produced an internal report (Review of AGLC's Proposed Player Services Program) for the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission.
- Ongoing scholarly initiatives including graduate student supervision, publication in academic journals and presentations at scholarly conferences.
- Member of the research team conducting the longitudinal study known as the Leisure, Lifecycle, Lifestyle Project (LLLLP).
- Dr. Brad Humphreys is the Chair in the Economics of Gambling at the University of Alberta.

University of Calgary



– submitted by Dr. David Hodgins,
Professor and Chair, Department
of Psychology & AGRI Research
Coordinator

Notable activities in 2011-12 included:

- An active program of research in the area of gambling treatment, including 4 current doctoral students, 2 MSc. students and one undergraduate honour's student.

- Member of the research team conducting the longitudinal study known as the Leisure, Lifecycle, Lifestyle Project (LLLLP). Hosted the administrative project office for LLLP.
- Ongoing scholarly initiatives included: presentation of research findings at local, national, and international conferences; membership on organizational committee for the Fourth Annual Addictions Day for the Calgary community; editor for gambling research journals (e.g., Journal of Gambling Studies); grant reviewer for external organizations (e.g., OPGRC, Manitoba Gambling Research), and; interviewee for print and broadcast media requests.

University of Lethbridge

– submitted by Dr. Rob Williams,
Professor, Faculty of Health
Sciences & AGRI Research
Coordinator



Selected activities in 2011-12 included:

- Presented findings from completed Institute-funded report "Gambling in Alberta: History, current status, and socioeconomic impacts" (2011, April) to the Alberta Gambling Commission board (April 27), AGLC Staff (April 27), the Deputy Ministers of Alberta (May 10), and Alberta gambling stakeholders (Oct 26).
- Continued monthly meetings of the Gambling Research Group at the U. of Lethbridge. Faculty and graduate students presented and discussed findings from their gambling-related research.
- Dr. Rob Williams, Dr. Robert Wood and Jonathan Parke edited the Routledge International Handbook of Internet Gambling (2012). This work consolidated an emerging body of literature into a single reference volume of 20 chapters.
- Member of the research team conducting the longitudinal study known as the Leisure, Lifecycle, Lifestyle Project (LLLLP).

Major and Small Grant Projects

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 proposals from researchers to address 'investigator identified' areas in need of research. The submissions are subjected to a rigorous peer review process which involves the critical review of proposals by external experts in related fields of research. This type of review process provides the most reliable means of ensuring that only the highest quality research submissions receive Institute funding.

In 2011-12, two new major proposals were approved:

- Risk seeking for gains: a potential new psychological mechanism for gambling (Dr. Marcia Spetch, #58)
- A Mixed methods study to assess urban aboriginal gambling in Canada's prairie provinces (Dr. Yale Belanger, #59)

During the same period, the following major projects were completed:

- Acculturation and gambling: The case of mainland Chinese immigrants to Calgary, Alberta (Dr. Gordon Walker, #47)
- Trauma and female problem gambling: A qualitative grounded theory study (Dr. Ruth Grant Kalischuk, #50)
- The Determinants of problem and recreational gambling and the effect of gambling on health (Dr. Jane Ruseski, #52)

Other major projects that were ongoing in 2011-12 included:

- Evaluating the psychometric performance of the four Es scale: A cross-cultural comparison of factors related to gambling behavior and mental health in Canadian and American college students (Dr. Garry Smith, #51)
- Motivations for and constraints to casino gambling in Alberta (Dr. Gordon Walker, #54)
- Gambling, health outcomes and health care utilization in Alberta (Dr. Jane Ruseski, #55)
- Toward understanding the comorbidity between ADHD and problem gambling (Dr. Matthew Tata, #56)
- Cross-cultural validation of problem gambling and its epidemiology (Dr. Robert Williams, #57)

As a means of encouraging new investigators to undertake gambling-related research, the Institute awards 'small grants' to a maximum of \$10,000 to be completed within one year. These awards support foundational efforts (examples include: pilot projects, literature reviews, and small surveys) to prepare investigators to engage more fully in future gambling-related research programs.

In 2011-12, one new small grant was approved:

- Individual Differences in Reward-based Memory Enhancement (Dr. Esther Fujiwara, #S27)

During the same period, the following small grants were completed:

- Development of web-based self-directed treatment for pathological gambling (Dr. David Hodgins, #S21)
- Calling their bluff: Investigating the accuracy of skill assessment among poker players (Terri-Lynn MacKay, #S23)
- Neural and Behavioural Mechanisms of Risk Sensitivity in Gambling (Dr. Marcia Spetch, #S24)
- Recovery from problem gambling as a couples' project: A literature review (Dr. Tom Strong, #S25)
- Assessment of Cognitive Distortion among Problem Gamblers: Knowledge Transfer Project (Dr. David Hodgins, #S26)

Strategic and Collaborative Projects

Another type of funding program is related to high-priority research investigations. These large-scale strategic initiatives are identified by the Board in consultation with Institute stakeholders.

Gambling Participation Instrument - Canadian Consortium for Gambling Research (CCGR)

Project Approved 2011-12

As a member of the CCGR, the Institute Board approved participation in a jointly-funded research undertaking to develop a validated instrument that measures gambling participation for use in general population surveys.

Many quantitative gambling research studies hinge on measures of gambling participation, correlating a variety of gambling attitudes and outcome measures to individual respondents' intensity of gambling involvement. However, these studies do not use an agreed-upon methodology for measuring participation, or even define participation in the same way. Some studies measure participation in terms of the amount of time spent gambling, others in terms of the frequency of gambling sessions, and yet others in terms of the amount of money spent gambling. Many instruments, including the Canadian Problem Gambling Index, include questions to capture participation using more than one of these metrics.

It is difficult, if not unfair, to compare results based on different measures of gambling participation. Moreover, current participation measures are based on certain underlying assumptions that give good reason to question their reliability and validity; namely, that respondents interpret the questions being asked of them in the same way as the researchers intended, and that respondents are willing and able to divulge accurate information about stigmatized behaviours such as gambling. Cognitive distortions, faulty memories and repression of losses may combine to lead to response errors, and issues of survey design may further impede accurate reporting of past behaviour.

As described, the two phases are:

- Conduct an extensive literature review of how participation is measured across a range of activities. Based on the review, develop a draft gambling participation scale based on best practices that emerge from the literature.
- Validate and fine-tune the scale developed.

Status: As at March 31, 2012, a Request for Proposal was being developed.

Leisure, Lifestyle, Lifecycle Project (LLLP)

Factors Influencing the Development of Responsible Gambling: A Prospective Study

Project Approved 2003-04

Research team/Steering Committee: Dr. Nady el-Guebaly, Head, Addiction Centre, Foothills Medical Centre & Professor, Dept. of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, U of Calgary; Dr. David Hodgins, Professor, Dept. of Psychology, Faculty of Social Sciences, U of Calgary; Dr. Garry Smith, Gambling Research Specialist, Government Studies, Faculty of Extension & Professor Emeritus, U of Alberta; Dr. Rob Williams, Professor, Addictions Counselling Program, Faculty of Health Sciences, U of Lethbridge; Dr. Rob Wood, Associate Professor, Dept. of Sociology, Faculty of Arts, U of Lethbridge; Dr. Don Schopflocher, Associate Professor, Faculty of Nursing, U of Alberta

Organizational affiliates: Alberta Gambling Research Institute (lead agency); other provincial/researcher participation under negotiation

Gambling is a normative activity in the Alberta population, with 82% of the adult population having gambled in the past year. Although the large majority of Albertans gamble responsibly, there is a small percentage that experience significant problems. The design of effective educational and legislative strategies to minimize the harm caused by gambling hinges on understanding the factors that promote responsible gambling and/or make people susceptible to problem gambling.

Longitudinal studies are the optimal methodology for investigating such questions. This methodology has been used extensively and successfully in the fields of health, mental health, sociology and addiction. Unfortunately, there is a dearth of longitudinal studies of gambling. Two unpublished studies followed adults. It is this important gap in the research literature that provided the impetus to assemble a cross-disciplinary and cross-university Alberta research team to develop the present proposal.

The present project is following 1808 Albertans prospectively over a five-year period from 2005 to 2011. There were five age cohorts at Wave 1 of the study: 13-15 year olds; 18-20 year olds; 23-25 year olds; 43-45 year olds; and 63-65 year olds. Part of the sample was derived from the general population and the other portion was derived from a 'high risk' sample of individuals who are at elevated risk for developing gambling problems, in the short-term or long-term, because of their greater expenditure and frequency of gambling. The sample was selected by means of random digit dialing stratified by region (Edmonton, Calgary, and rural Alberta). The initial interview was conducted face-to-face and comprehensively assesses individual and societal variables potentially relevant to gambling behavior. There will be a total of four data collections over five years, with interviews spaced every 12-18 months.

The development of a comprehensive model of gambling behavior will elucidate several questions: What are the normal patterns of continuity and discontinuity in gambling behavior? What bio-psychosocial variables and behavior patterns are most predictive of current and future responsible gambling and problem gambling? What is the impact of gambling availability, legislative initiatives, and prevention programs on the development of problem and responsible gambling? And, how do all of these things vary as a function of age and gender? These are all questions whose answers will inform effective educational and public policy initiatives to maximize the benefits of gambling and minimize the harm. Finally, it is anticipated that the richness of the resulting database will also serve as a valuable resource for many other non-gambling investigations by other research groups.

Status (April 2012)

The focus for this project during the period October 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012 was preliminary analysis of Wave 4 data and dissemination of preliminary findings. Two part-time Data Analysts were hired and have completed quality-checking of the data. The two data analysts, the research assistant and the principle investigators have completed some data analysis as well as developed plans for further data analysis.

11 scholarly articles (see Research Publications in this report) and 21 conference papers/posters have resulted from this study as of March 31, 2012.

Scholarship and Research Allowance Awards

In an effort to foster young researcher involvement in gambling-related research, a two-tiered (doctoral and graduate level) scholarship and research allowance program was adopted to promote gambling-related research to promising new scholars.

Five AGRI scholarships were awarded for Fall 2011/Winter 2012:

- The effect of casinos on property values in Alberta using "Hedonic Price Model", **Arezoo Banihashem**, doctoral level scholarship, Economics, University of Alberta
- The differences and similarities in the experiences of those concerned about gambling versus other excessive behaviours, **Tanya Mudry**, doctoral level scholarship, Educational Studies in Psychology, University of Calgary (*see photo on page 10*)
- The role played by near misses on the perceived risk associated with electronic gambling machines, **Scott Oberg**, graduate level scholarship, Neuroscience, University of Lethbridge
- Examination of risky financial decision making, **Victoria Suen**, graduate level scholarship, Psychiatry, University of Alberta
- The functional relationship between cognitive fallacies and gambling behaviour, **Igor Yakovenko**, graduate level scholarship, Psychology, University of Calgary



Tanya Mudry - Ph.D. Student, Counselling Psychology, University of Calgary



Communicating Gambling Research

CONFERENCE 2011: 10th Annual Conference on Gambling Research



Presenters tackle "Big Questions" at Institute Conference 2011

The Institute's tenth annual gambling research conference was held at The Banff Centre in Banff, Alberta on April 8th and 9th, 2011. Conference program organizers Dr. Garry Smith and Dr. Brad Humphreys assembled a diverse and well-known group of speakers to address the conference theme of "Engaging the Big Questions in Gambling Studies."

Big questions that were discussed related to a wide variety of topics. Examples included: issues related to national gambling oversight; understanding and preventing gambling-related scandals; evaluation of studies of the socioeconomic impacts of gambling; national and international standards for responsible gambling; coming to grips with research methodology uncertainties, and; resolving dilemmas in treatment and prevention of problem gambling.

This event proved a valuable forum for researchers, graduate students, clinicians, gambling providers, government regulators and other stakeholders to meet and discuss issues of critical importance to those involved with the field.

Best Oral Research Poster Presentation: Dr. Mike J. Dixon, University of Waterloo

Dr. Dixon was awarded best oral presentation for "Psycho-physiological Psychological Responses to Wins, Losses and Near-misses in Slot Machine Play." Dixon and research collaborators assessed the psycho-physiological responses of 65 participants to wins, losses, and near misses while playing a realistic

slot machine simulator. Their research results suggest that near misses foster continued play via frustration-induced arousal.

Best Research Poster: Candice Jensen, University of Waterloo

Graduate student Candice Jensen was awarded best research poster for "Miscategorizing Losses as Wins in Multi-Line Video Slot Machine Games." In multi-line slot machine games, small "wins" often amount to less than the spin wager, resulting in a loss of credits to the gambler. These outcomes have been termed losses disguised as wins (LDWs). Jensen's research findings indicate that the presence of LDWs in multi-line slot machine games may distort participants' memory of win frequency during a gambling session and may contribute to the allure of these games.

Institute-funded researchers present findings at CCGR Workshop 2011

The Canadian Consortium for Gambling Research (CCGR) hosted a one-day workshop on April 5, 2011 in Ottawa that was entitled "Beyond psychometric properties: Developments in the population assessment of gambling and problem gambling". Event participants discussed possible improvements to widely-used instruments and approaches to assessing gambling, risk, and problem gambling.

Two Alberta-based researchers were invited to share their research findings at this event. Dr. Shawn Currie discussed "Validity of PGSI cut-off scores and weighting of PGSI items (Currie, Hodgins, & Casey)" and Dr. Robert Williams presented "A new instrument for clinical and general population samples".

Library Services

The three Institute-affiliated university libraries (U. of Lethbridge, U. of Calgary, and U. of Alberta) are responsible for selecting, ordering and acquiring gambling research materials that complement and enhance their existing research collections. Typical examples of items purchased include books, e-books, online research databases and gambling-related journal title subscriptions. These acquisitions are funded by the Institute and administered by the Institute Librarian & Information Specialist.

In addition to the funding and development of electronic and print research collections, the Institute Librarian & Information Specialist enhanced research capacity by offering a variety of other library services to Institute stakeholders. Examples included in-depth assistance with reference requests, creation of detailed literature reviews, digitization and e-archiving of historically-significant publications, web site maintenance, newsletter creation, and knowledge transfer/translation services.



Maxine Tedesco

For much of 2011-12, Interim Librarian & Information Specialist Maxine Tedesco was responsible for Library and web site-related initiatives while Rhys Stevens was on leave. These services continued to be based at the University of Lethbridge Library and provided research support for Institute-affiliated researchers, students and the public at-large.



Rhys Stevens

Website

The website is the primary point of access to obtain information about the Institute and its ongoing research activities. Main sections within the site include 'About the Institute', 'Research', 'Institute News', 'Institute Events', 'Library Resources', 'Newsletter', and 'Links'. As the site is often the initial point of contact for inquiries from researchers, the media and other interested parties, it is critical to ensure the continued development and maintenance of this resource.

Several recognizable changes that occurred over the past year were:

- The re-direction of the Institute web address to [www.abgamblinginstitute.ualberta.ca]. The new URL reflects the name change of the Institute from "gaming" to "gambling".

- The overall re-design of website elements to incorporate the Institute's recently developed visual identity standards. These standards serve to ensure a consistent visual presence across all of the Institute's communication mediums. Website modifications have involved the use of a standardized color palette, typefaces, and integration of the Institute's newly revised logo.
- A re-designed home page to refresh the site's appearance. Subtle improvements were also made to the site's organizational hierarchy.

There was also one significant "behind-the-scenes" change to the Institute web that occurred during 2012. This included:

- A migration to a new software tool called Sitecore that runs the Institute website. Sitecore is the content management system which hosts a majority of websites originating from the University of Alberta. It has been beneficial for administration of the Institute site as it provides flexibility in the creation, management and integration of web content.

Research Publications

An important aspect of research is the communication of peer-reviewed research findings through publication in authoritative, well-recognized sources. Following is a list of the April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012, Institute-funded researcher publications:

- Aleksandrova, L. R., Souza, R. P., Bagby, M. R., Casey, D. M., Hodgins, D. C., Smith, G. J., Williams, R. J., Schopflocher, D. P., Wood, R. T., el-Guebaly, N., Lobo, D. S. S., & Kennedy, J. L. (2012). Genetic underpinnings of neuroticism: A replication study. *Journal of Addiction Research & Therapy*, 3(1). doi: 10.4172/2155-6105.1000119
- Belanger, Y. D. (2012). Internet gambling and the Kahnawà:ke First Nation. In R. J. Williams, R. T. Wood & J. Parke (Eds.), *Routledge international handbook of Internet gambling* (pp. 316-330). Routledge: London.
- Belanger, Y. D., & Williams, R. J. (2012). Urban Aboriginal and First Nations perspectives on casinos and the First Nations gaming industry in Alberta, Canada. *International Gambling Studies*, 12(1), 129-144. doi: 10.1080/14459795.2011.643908
- Belanger, Y. D., & Williams, R. J. (2011). Neoliberalism as colonial embrace: Evaluating Alberta's regulation of First Nations gaming, 1993-2010. *Business and Politics*, 13(4). doi: 10.2202/1469-3569.1371

- Belanger, Y. D., Williams, R. J., & Arthur, J. N. (2012). Assessing the impact of the introduction of casinos in two northern Alberta First Nation communities. *American Review of Canadian Studies*, 42(1), 1-19. doi: 10.1080/02722011.2012.649924
- Belanger, Y. D., Williams, R. J., & Arthur, J. N. (2011). Casinos and economic well-being: Evaluating the Alberta First Nations' experience. *Journal of Gambling Business and Economics*, 5(1), 23-46.
- Casey, D. M., Williams, R. J., Mossiere, A. M., el-Guebaly, N., Hodgins, D. C., Smith, G. J., & Wood, R. T. (2011). The role of family, religiosity, and behavior in adolescent gambling. *Journal of Adolescence*, 34(5), 841-851. doi: 10.1016/j.adolescence.2011.02.002
- Currie, C. L., Wild, T. C., Schopflocher, D. P., Laing, L., Veugelers, P., & Parlee, B. (2012). Racial discrimination, post traumatic stress, and gambling problems among urban aboriginal adults in Canada. *Journal of Gambling Studies*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1007/s10899-012-9323-z
- Currie, S. R., Hodgins, D. C., & Casey, D. M. (2012). Validity of the Problem Gambling Severity Index interpretive categories. *Journal of Gambling Studies*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1007/s10899-012-9300-6
- Currie, S. R., Hodgins, D. C., Casey, D. M., el-Guebaly, N., Smith, G. J., Williams, R. J., Schopflocher, D. P., & Wood, R. T. (2012). Examining the predictive validity of low-risk gambling limits with longitudinal data. *Addiction*, 107(2), 400-406. doi: 10.1111/j.1360-0443.2011.03622.x
- Dhillon, J., Horsch, J. & Hodgins, D. C. (2011). Cultural influences on stigmatization of problem gambling: East Asian and Caucasian Canadians. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 27(4), 633-647. DOI 10.1007/s10899-010-9233-x
- Dwyer, S. C., Piquette-Tomei, N., Buckle, J. L., & McCaslin, E. (2011). Journaling... explored as an effective counseling tool with women gamblers. *Paradigm*, 16(1), 4-5.
- Hodgins, D. C., Stea, J., & Grant, J. (2011). Gambling disorders. *The Lancet*, 378, 1874-84. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(10)62185-X
- Hodgins, D. C., Schopflocher, D. P., Martin, C. R., el-Guebaly, N., Casey, D. M., Currie, S. R., Smith, G. J., & Williams, R. J. (2012). Disordered gambling among higher-frequency gamblers: Who is at risk? *Psychological Medicine*. Advance online publication. doi:10.1017/S0033291712000724
- Humphreys, B. R. (2011). Online sports betting and international relations. *SAIS Review*, 31(1), 103-115. doi: 10.1353/sais.2011.0009

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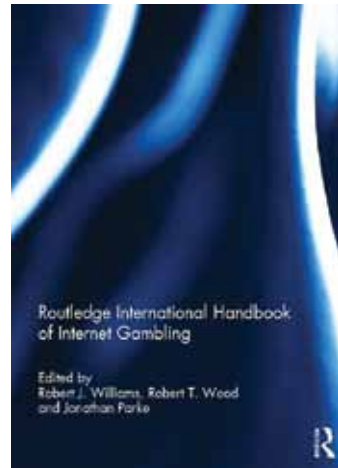
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Newsletter

Following is a list of the contents of the Institute newsletter, 'Gambling Research Reveals – an Update on Gambling Research in Alberta' published between April 1, 2011 and March 31, 2012:

Issue 5, Volume 10 – June / July 2011

Socioeconomic impacts assessed in University of Alberta SEIGA report

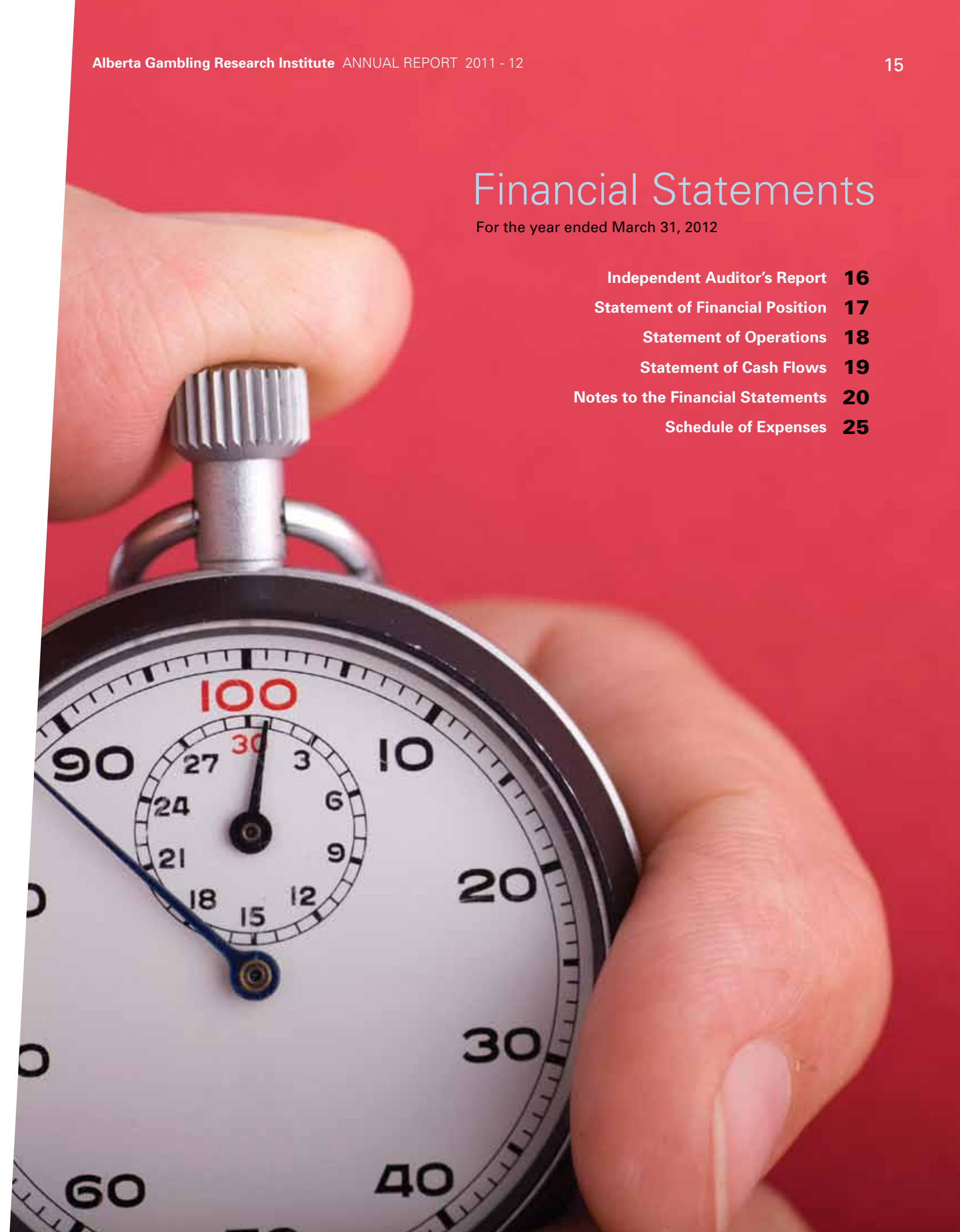
Issue 4, Volume 10 – April / May 2011

Presenters tackle "Big Questions" at Institute Conference 2011 / Conference 2011 Award Winners / 2012 Conference Announcement

Financial Statements

For the year ended March 31, 2012

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Independent Auditor's Report



TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ALBERTA GAMBLING RESEARCH INSTITUTE

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Alberta Gambling Research Institute, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2012 and the statements of operations and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

OPINION

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Alberta Gambling Research Institute as at March 31, 2012, 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 Merwan N. Saher, FCA]

Auditor General

August 23, 2012

Edmonton, Alberta

Statement of Financial Position

AS AT MARCH 31

	2012	2011
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 4)	\$ 3,172,530	\$ 2,608,719
Accounts receivable (Note 5)	209,536	-
Prepaid expenses	11,099	4,122
	<u>\$ 3,393,165</u>	<u>\$ 2,612,841</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and deferred contributions	\$ 19,041	\$ 4,665
NET ASSETS		
Net assets at beginning of year	2,608,176	2,494,704
Net operating results	765,948	113,472
Net assets at end of year	<u>3,374,124</u>	<u>2,608,176</u>
	<u>\$ 3,393,165</u>	<u>\$ 2,612,841</u>

The accompanying notes and schedule are part of these financial statements.
Approved by the board:

<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Signature	Position	Date
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Signature	Position	Date

Statement of Operations

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

	2012 BUDGET (Note 10)	2012 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL (Note 11)
REVENUES			
Contributions from the Ministry of Finance (Note1)	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000
Other Revenue (Note 6)	-	686,723	-
Total Revenues	<u>1,500,000</u>	<u>2,186,723</u>	<u>1,500,000</u>
EXPENSES (Schedule 1)			
Research	1,435,000	985,199	922,450
Infrastructure and Library	140,000	140,000	145,053
Research Linkages	90,000	55,858	49,862
Research Administration	265,000	239,718	269,163
Total Expenses	<u>1,930,000</u>	<u>1,420,775</u>	<u>1,386,528</u>
NET OPERATING RESULTS	<u>\$ (430,000)</u>	<u>\$ 765,948</u>	<u>\$ 113,472</u>

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

Statement of Cash Flows

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

	2012	2011 (Note 11)
Operating Transactions		
Contributions from the Ministry of Finance	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000
Research Expenditures	(519,838)	(922,450)
Infrastructure and Library Expenditures	(114,174)	(150,000)
Research Linkages Expenditures	(63,855)	(44,734)
Research Administration Expenditures	(238,322)	(269,148)
Cash Provided by Operating Transactions	<u>563,811</u>	<u>113,668</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents, Beginning of the Year	<u>\$ 2,608,719</u>	<u>\$ 2,495,051</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents, Beginning of the Year	<u>\$ 3,172,530</u>	<u>\$ 2,608,719</u>

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

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

Note 1 Authority and Reporting Entity

The Alberta Gambling Research Institute (the Institute) is an unincorporated organization. It is a research consortium comprised of the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, and the University of Lethbridge (the Partner Universities). Relations between the Institute and the Government of Alberta are defined in an Agreement between the Institute Universities and the Alberta Government dated April 1, 2011 (signed September 27, 2011). The Institute is directed by a Board comprised of eight members including two appointees (senior administrators and researchers) from each of the three Institute Universities in addition to a representative who is appointed by the Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security 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 Department of Solicitor General and Public Security. Due to government restructuring, effective October 12, 2011, funding responsibilities were reassigned to the Ministry of 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

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

REVENUE

All revenues are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. Cash received for

which goods or services have not been provided by year end is recorded as deferred revenue and included in accounts payable.

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 1/3%
Leasehold improvements	Over lease term (2 years)

LIABILITIES

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

NET ASSETS

Net assets represent the difference between the book 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. Due to their short-term nature, the fair values of cash, accounts receivable 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 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.

FUTURE ACCOUNTING CHANGES

The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants has issued a new accounting framework applicable to Canadian not-for-profit organizations. Effective for the annual reporting period that commences on or after January 1, 2012, not-for-profit organizations will have to choose between International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") and Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations, whichever accounting framework suits them best. The Institute is evaluating the options and has not decided on the framework to be applied. The Institute is also evaluating the applicability of the Canadian Public Sector Accounting Board framework of financial reporting for government not-for-profit organizations which will be adopted by the partner universities.

Note 4 Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are held in trust by the University of Alberta and consist of short-term investments comprised primarily of certificates of deposit, guaranteed investment certificates, government treasury bills and commercial paper with a maturity between 90 days and one year. Interest earned on the Institute's cash balance is credited to the Institute. Interest of 3% or less is retained by the University of Alberta for administration of the account. For the fiscal year ending March 31, 2012, the average effective yield was 3% (2011: 0%). Due to the short-term nature of the investments, the carrying value approximates fair value.

Note 5 Accounts Receivable

	2012	2011
University of Alberta credit balance refund	\$ 209,536	\$ -

Note 6 Grants to Institute Universities

Certain grants are provided to the Partner Universities for capacity building, research development, library collections, and research node administration for gambling-related operations. These particular Grants have a provision that any unspent funds are to be returned to the Institute and during this fiscal year the unspent balance at March 31, 2011 of \$686,723 was returned, either by a cash payment or offset against the current year's Grant Allocation. The following table provides an accounting for the grants allocated and the amounts spent by the Partner Universities.

	2012				2011
	University of Alberta	University of Calgary	University of Lethbridge	Total	Total (Note 11)
Balance recoverable at April 1	\$ 359,536	\$ 262,977	\$ 64,211	\$ 686,723	\$ 665,998
New funds provided	-	-	225,789	225,789	585,000
Current year expenditures	(150,000)	(146,777)	(290,000)	(586,777)	(564,275)
Recoverable	(209,536)	-	-	(209,536)	-
Recovered	-	(112,977)	-	(112,977)	-
Unexpended Funds at March 31	\$ -	\$ 3,223	-	\$ 3,223	\$ 686,723
Grants allocated					
Capacity building allocations	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 435,000
Unexpended Funds	-	-	140,000	140,000	150,000
	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 290,000	\$ 590,000	\$ 585,000

Note 7 Commitments

The Institute has the following commitments:

Year	Research Grants ^(a)	Lease ^(b)	Economics position ^(c)	Total
2013	\$ 282,220	\$ 13,843	\$ 85,000	\$ 381,063
2014	25,040	13,843	85,000	123,883
2015+	-	29,736	21,250	50,986
Total	\$ 307,260	\$ 57,422	\$ 191,250	\$ 555,932

(a) Research Grants

The Institute has three types of granting programs. In response to an annual call for proposals for major grants (maximum of \$80,000/annum for up to three years to total of \$160,000) and open application period for small (developmental) grants (maximum of \$10,000 for up to one year), the Board approves researcher identified initiatives.

Upon approval of a major or small research grant and receipt of confirmation of any necessary ethics or other approvals from the host Institute University's Research Services Office, the Institute authorizes payment of 80% of the first year approved award. The remaining 20% is withheld pending satisfactory interim reporting by the principal investigator/researcher. For these types of awards extending beyond one year, authorization of subsequent period amounts is subject to satisfactory reporting and funding availability. Commitments for these awards include the balance of the approved grant awards, 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 Alberta for the period July 1, 2003 to March 31, 2006. To increase accessibility and accommodate the increased business activity of the Institute, effective April 1, 2004, the lease was transferred (with no penalty) to a new campus location. The Letter of Understanding regarding this move was signed on January 22, 2004 and necessary space improvements and computer technical changes were contracted. The Institute renewed the lease for the period of April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2016 (with a renewal option).

(c) Economics Chair

Subject to specific conditions being met, on March 24, 2004, the Board approved a total of \$595,000 payable at the rate of \$85,000/annum for seven years to support the establishment of a research position in the Department of Economics at the University of Alberta. An appointment was made on July 1, 2007. Subject to the provision that annual reporting for the supported position confirms compliance with the grant conditions, unexpended balances may be retained for use consistent with the purposes it was originally awarded.

Note 8 Economic Dependence

The Institute receives its principal funding from the Ministry of Finance. The five year agreement between the Alberta Government and the Institute which expires March 31, 2016 provides funding of \$1,500,000 per annum. The Institute's ability to maintain viable operations is dependent upon the continued support from the Alberta Government.

Note 9 Related Party Transactions

During the year, there were no related party transactions.

Note 10 Budget

The revised 2011/12 budget was approved by the Institute's Board of Directors on September 23, 2011.

Note 11 Comparative Figures

Certain 2011 figures have been reclassified to conform to the 2012 presentation.

Schedule of Expenses

Schedule 1

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

	2012 Budget	2012 Actual	2011 Actual
Research			
Grant competition/strategic research (1)	\$ 800,000	\$ 430,319	\$ 389,889
Capacity building (2)	535,000	535,000	520,000
Governance, research direction (3)	100,000	19,880	12,561
	<u>1,435,000</u>	<u>985,199</u>	<u>922,450</u>
Infrastructure and Library			
Library and collections (4)	140,000	140,000	145,053
	<u>140,000</u>	<u>140,000</u>	<u>145,053</u>
Research Linkages			
Events, colloquia (5)	40,000	21,696	26,013
Communications, exchanges (6)	50,000	34,162	23,849
	<u>90,000</u>	<u>55,585</u>	<u>49,862</u>
Research Administration			
Personnel costs (7)	220,000	162,125	188,330
Contract services (8)	10,000	-	13,116
Administrative hub (9)	35,000	77,593	67,717
	<u>265,000</u>	<u>239,718</u>	<u>269,163</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 1,930,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,420,775</u>	<u>\$ 1,386,528</u>

Note 1 Includes annual research grant competition, small grants, scholarships, and Board identified areas of strategic, interjurisdictional, and interorganizational collaborative research.

Note 2 Grants to Partner Universities (\$150,000/university/year) to attract research scholars and (\$85,000 held centrally) for targeted position (economics).

Note 3 Allocation to support appointment (honoraria and expenses) of external Board Chair (effective February 1, 2012) and recruitment of Scientific/Research Director position (not appointed as at March 31, 2012). Includes business and board members meeting travel.

Note 4 Grant to the University of Lethbridge to build and maintain a special collection of gambling publications at the consortium universities. The grant also provides funding for specialized information services to interested parties on gambling research matters, development and maintenance of the Institute website, and funding for a junior grade professional librarian.

Note 5 Supports program of formative and summative learning events and forums. Includes cost of an annual conference bringing together Institute associates, topical experts, and other interested persons.

Note 6 Includes print materials and promotional broadcasts, annual report development, writing, and production costs, and conference attendance by Institute representatives to facilitate information dissemination and support for Alberta scholars and experts to travel to other locales to investigate gambling-related matters as well as the travel of national and foreign scholars and experts to Alberta to assist with Institute research.

Note 7 Salary and benefits compensation (Executive Director and salaried administrative support).

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

Note 9 Includes business and hub operational requirements.

Board of Directors 2011-12

Brown, Dr. Lesley

Lesley Brown is the Associate Vice President (Research) and a Professor in the Department of Kinesiology at the University of Lethbridge. She conducts research in the area of fall prevention in older adults as well as among people living with Parkinson's disease. Dr. Brown has been a Board member since June 2010.

Dobson, Dr. Keith

Keith Dobson is a Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Calgary. His research interests are primarily in the area of cognition and various psychopathological states; notably depression. Recent areas of interest include the promotion of evidence-based practice, cross-cultural research, and studying stigma processes and stigma reduction in mental health. He has served on the Institute's Board since September 1, 2011.

Dougall, Alexander (Sandy)

Sandy Dougall started his banking career in Scotland and after moving to Canada he worked for a major bank, holding a variety of senior management positions in retail and business banking. Following a long career in banking Sandy has been involved in many activities in the community. He sat on the Calgary Health Region Board until 2008 and on the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission for 9 years up until September 2011. He has been on the Institute Board as an external member since November 1, 2011 and currently is Vice Chair as well as Chair of the Audit Committee.

el-Guebaly, Dr. Nady

Nady el-Guebaly is Professor and Head, Addictions Division, Department of Psychiatry at the University of Calgary. He is past founding Medical Director of the Addictions Program, Calgary Health Region. His introduction to mental health and addiction medicine dates back to 1969. Currently, he is Chair, Addiction Psychiatry Section of the World Psychiatric Association; and Executive Medical Director and Past-Founding President of the International Society of Addiction Medicine. He served on the Institute's Board since its establishment in 1999 and as Board Chair from July 2002 to June 30, 2011.

Gibbs van Brunschot, Dr. Erin

Erin Gibbs van Brunschot is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and Vice Dean in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Calgary. Her research interests include crime and deviance, with a particular interest in the study of security and risk at both the individual and institutional levels. She served on the Institute Board from August 2007 to August 31, 2011.

Hosgood, Dr. Christopher (Chris)

Chris Hosgood is Dean of the School of Health Sciences at the University of Lethbridge and a member of the Department of History. His research has focused on consumerism and popular culture in Victorian Britain and, more recently in Canada, the social history of gambling in Alberta. He served on the Institute Board from December 2001 to February 29, 2012 and as interim Board Chair from July 1, 2011 to January 31, 2012.

O'Shea, Dr. Seamus

Seamus O'Shea retired from his position of Vice President (Academic) and Provost, Associate Vice President (Academic) and Professor of Chemistry with the University of Lethbridge. As an advocate for increasing university participation increasing student success, he has been an active promoter of university transfer programs, post-diploma degrees, and student-focused programming. He has been active in planning and implementing advanced infrastructure for research and development, particularly high performance networks and computing systems. Dr. O'Shea's research interests include intermolecular forces; thermodynamic, structural and phase behavior of systems based on model potentials; computer simulation using Monte Carlo and Molecular Dynamics methods. He is past Chair, Board of Directors, iCORE (informatics Circle of Research Excellence) (2005 – 2009), and is currently the Chair, Board of Directors, Cybera (Cyber-infrastructure) (2007 – present). Dr. O'Shea was also appointed as Chair of the Institute's Board on February 1, 2012.

Trimble, Dr. Linda

Linda Trimble is a professor in, and former Chair of, the Department of Political Science at the University

of Alberta, where she has been teaching Canadian politics and gender politics since 1989. Her research explores media reportage of Canadian elections and of women politicians, especially political leaders. Dr. Trimble's most recent book, co-edited with Shannon Sampert, is titled *Mediating Canadian Politics* and she is currently writing a book about press coverage of female prime ministers in Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Her newest SSHRC-funded project analyzes television and newspaper coverage of Canadian national party leadership contests. Dr. Trimble joined the Institute Board in May 2010.

West, Dr. Doug

Douglas West is Professor of Economics and Chair of the Department of Economics at the University of Alberta, where he has been teaching economics since 1981. His fields of research and teaching include industrial organization, competition policy, spatial competition analysis, and urban economics, and he has published widely in these areas. His current research interests include brand proliferation in beer markets, and competition in liquor store and shopping centre markets. He joined the Institute Board in July 2009, and currently also serves on the Board of the Institute of Health Economics and the Van Horne Institute.

Williams, Ms. Vickii

Vickii Williams has served as the Executive Director of the Alberta Gaming Research Institute since its inception (2000) and serves in an ex officio advisory capacity on the Institute Board. She represents the Institute on a number of inter-organizational and inter-jurisdictional planning bodies for collaborative research initiatives.

Wood, Dr. Robert

Robert Wood is Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Lethbridge. He teaches courses in the sociology of crime and deviance, and his research focuses on Canadian social problems and the sociology of youth. More recently, his research interests have included Internet gambling, with particular interest in the ways that Internet gamblers systematically differ from their land-based counterparts. He joined the Institute Board on March 1, 2012.



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