



The Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation

October 2010

Charting the Course

An update from the NSGF Board of Directors

Stepping Up to Problem Gambling

Now that fall is upon us, it is time to regroup, reflect, and plan for the months ahead. While many Boards were able to take a well-deserved hiatus over the summer, the **Board of Directors** and **staff** of the Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation (NSGF) remained hard at work. Highlights of our warm-weather accomplishments include the successful introduction and transition of four new members to the Board and the development and release of the NSGF's recommendations to the 2011-2016 Responsible Gaming Strategy.

The Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to welcome **Dr. Kerry Chambers** to the NSGF in the role of Public Issues and Stakeholder Relations Coordinator. As many of you are aware, Kerry has been involved in public issues surrounding gambling in the private, public, and academic sectors for 17 years. In 1993, Kerry acted as co-investigator for the first-ever gambling prevalence study in Nova Scotia and in 1996, helped spearhead the Inter-Provincial Task Force on Problem Gambling.

The Board would also like to welcome Sheila Kerry, a Mount Saint Vincent Public Relations co-op student who is completing her third and final work term with us as Communications Assistant.

At this time, the Board would also like to extend its sincere thanks to Julie-Ann Vincent for her contribution to the NSGF as past Public Issues and Stakeholder Relations Coordinator and to Devon Williams for her hard work on the development of the **CHB Gambling Awareness Toolkit**. Although both individuals were only with us for a short time, their impact was great.

Raising Awareness of Gambling as a Public Health Issue

Submission to the 2011- 2016 Gaming Strategy

In response to the Nova Scotia government's call for submissions to the **2011-2016 Responsible Gaming Strategy**, the NSGF prepared a submission titled "Moving Forward Together" which was submitted on July 15, 2010. This submission is based on the dual perspectives of consumer protection and harm reduction. The NSGF provided recommendations informed by our stakeholders on the following issues:



NSGF Vision

Individuals, families, and communities free from gambling harm

NSGF Mission

To make positive changes in the lives of individuals, families, and communities affected by problem gambling

Board of Directors

Jim MacCormack, Chair
Ben Eoin, N.S.

Paulette Anderson
Plymouth, N.S.

Jerome Aucoin
Sydney, N.S.

Shannon Doubleday
Kentville, N.S.

Janice Fraser
New Glasgow, N.S.

Gary C. Grant
Hammonds Plains, N.S.

William Kilfoil
Oyster Pond, N.S.

Jim Smith
Amherst, N.S.

Dave Whiting
Yarmouth, N.S.

- Governance and government structures
- Business of gambling
- Prevention and treatment research
- New and emerging technologies (including the video lottery card-based player management tool and internet gambling)

Gamble-Free Day raises awareness

On September 1, 2010, the NSGF hosted its first ever **Gamble-Free Day**. To mark the occasion, we ran a problem gambling awareness campaign on Eastlink Television. Gamble-Free Day, launched five years ago by the **Problem Gambling Foundation of New Zealand**, enables participants to demonstrate their concern for gambling harm. By choosing not to buy, play, or participate in gambling activities for the duration of an entire day, Gamble-Free Day supporters help raise awareness of gambling harm.

NSGF releases 2009-2010 Annual Report

An electronic copy of the 2009-2010 Annual Report, themed “Making a Difference,” was released on October 1, 2010, and is available on our website at the link below. Limited hard copies will be distributed in late October. www.nsgamingfoundation.org/annual-reports.aspx

Building Capacity to Make a Difference

Research Studentships become Gambling Research Fellowships

In the last issue of *Charting the Course*, we announced the three recipients of 2009-2010 Research Studentships. Since this announcement, we have changed the name of this funding program to NSGF **Gambling Research Fellowships**; however, the program’s structure remains the same.

Gambling Research Fellowships give Masters and PhD students the opportunity to conduct intensive research projects related to problem gambling and links them to the rapidly growing field of problem gambling studies. By assisting in the development of multidisciplinary research, NSGF Research Fellowships lay the foundation for innovative and advanced research in the area of problem gambling.

Through their research projects, Gambling Research Fellowship recipients help to increase the potential for collaboration between Nova Scotia researchers.

Applications for 2010-2011 Gambling Research Fellowships are due October 29, 2010.

For more information on Gambling Research Fellowships, please visit us online:

www.nsgamingfoundation.org/pages/Funding-Research-Studentships.aspx

Professional Development Grants

To help build the capacity of Nova Scotians to address problem gambling in their communities, the NSGF is pleased to offer individual and team level **Professional Development Grants**. Grants are awarded on an ongoing basis throughout the year, so there is no specific deadline to apply; applications will be reviewed on an on-going basis.

Individual Grants

To date in 2010-2011, the NSGF has sponsored ten individuals to enroll in Fundamental Concepts of Problem Gambling, an online course available through **ProblemGambling.ca**. This five-week course provides students with a practical understanding of gambling and problem gambling.

Team Grants

Team grants are intended to build the capacity of service providers to address problem gambling in Nova Scotian communities; therefore, activities must be designed to meet this goal.

- Half-day workshops may be funded up to \$500.00.
- Full-day workshops may be funded up to \$1000.00

For more information on Professional Development Grants, please visit us online:

www.nsgamingfoundation.org/pages/Funding-Professional-Development-Grants.aspx

Video: how slot machines work

The NSGF has partnered with the **Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre** to reproduce an animated

educational DVD about how slot machines work. Once production is complete, we will distribute copies to stakeholders and upload it to our website.

Mitigating and Reducing the Undesirable effects of Gambling

Community Projects

In 2010-2011, the Board is pleased to support five NSGF **Community Projects** aimed at addressing problem gambling in Nova Scotian communities. This year the following projects will get underway:

Community Links - *A Hidden Problem? Seniors and Gambling*

Community Links will build on a previous NSGF funded project by developing and presenting gambling-related educational material to seniors' groups, members of Community Links, and (potentially) to members of pre-retirement programs.

Dartmouth Learning Network - *An Assessment of Awareness of Problem Gambling Among Adult Learners*

Dartmouth Learning Network will offer workshops and focus groups for adults in programs at HRM literacy organizations to determine their level of awareness about gambling.

OUT! Alive - *Gambling in the Rainbow Community: A Needs Assessment*

OUT! Alive will investigate gambling habits and attitudes in the Rainbow community across Nova Scotia through an online and written needs assessment.

Association of Black Social Workers (ABSW) - *Increasing Awareness on Problem Gambling in African Nova Scotian Communities: A Key to Quality Improvement of Problem Gambling Services*

The Nova Scotia Chapter of the Association of Black Social Workers will build on a previous NSGF project to deliver three workshops on gambling harm to eight African Nova Scotian seniors' groups. The Association will also deliver a workshop to Addiction Prevention & Treatment Service providers to increase their knowledge of African Nova Scotians seniors.

Nova Scotia Sea School - *Sea Change 2010: Leisure Alternatives through Community Arts for At-Risk or Problem Gamblers in the HRM*

The Nova Scotia Sea School will build on a previous NSGF funded project and will partner with clinical therapists from the problem-gambling services at **Addiction Prevention Treatment Services in Capital Health** to deliver a series of modulated art sessions to at-risk and problem gamblers. The aim of the project is to help mitigate gambling harm through alternative, healthy forms of entertainment/engagement.

My-Play Research Panel

In 2009-2010, the NSGF commissioned **Focal Research Consultants Ltd**, an independent Nova Scotia research firm, to conduct Phase One of a research project to examine the impacts of the My-Play system (formerly the Informed Player Choice System) for high-risk and problem gamblers. Phase One involved the recruitment of video lottery terminal (VLT) players to take part in a confidential Video Lottery Player Research Panel, to help establish a baseline pre-measure of behaviours, opinions, and attitudes of regular VLT players. Beginning in late February 2010, trained staff from Focal Research visited VLT retail sites throughout the province to offer VLT players the opportunity to join the Research Panel. Over 1000 people volunteered to join the confidential Research Panel to share their experiences and opinions about the VLT program and play. 500 players participated in the baseline survey, and results will be released in late Fall 2010.

Community Health Boards

Developed to provide Community Health Boards (CHBs) with project and application/funding support, the **Gambling Awareness Tool Kit** was officially launched on October 5, 2010. It is available online at the following address: www.nsgamingfoundation.org/pages/CHB-Gambling-Awareness-Toolkit1.aspx

Sections of the toolkit include CHB Project Ideas, CHB Application Support, Tools for Raising Awareness, Resources for Media Coverage, Research and Best Practices, Other Resources Related to Problem Gambling in Nova Scotia, and Ressources en Français.

The Board would like to extend its sincere thanks to members of the Stakeholder Working Group, who provided helpful insight and recommendations. We hope the Toolkit will serve as a valuable tool for CHBs in their effort to address problem gambling in their communities.

Informing Balanced Dialogue on Gambling Problems

2010 Student Scholarship Essay Contest

This past spring, we launched the **2010 Student Scholarship Essay Contest**, a student scholarship program that challenged graduating grade twelve students in Nova Scotia to think critically about problem gambling as an issue relevant to Canadian youth. The contest invited students to submit a 1200-word essay about how youth's relationship to computers and technology might increase their risk of developing problems with internet gambling.

Three scholarships were awarded:

- 1st place** Joshua Goodwin, Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School
2nd place William Lin, Halifax Grammar School
3rd place Kathleen Hazen, Dartmouth High

Both Joshua and William are attending Dalhousie University in the 2010-2011 academic year; Kathleen is attending the University of King's College.

Our Strategic Priorities

Building Capacity to
Make a Difference

Informing Balanced
Dialogue on
Gambling Problems

Mitigating or Reducing
the Undesirable
Effects of Gambling

Raising Awareness of
Gambling as a Public
Health Issue

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www.nsgamingfoundation.org



Bi-monthly highlight of what's new at www.nsgamingfoundation.org

NSGF Informal Online Poll

Do you support the Government's recent decision to not expand into online gambling at this time?

[...take the poll](#)

News Articles & Announcements

140 gambling-related news articles and announcements were added to the online Resource Library since mid-August, 2010.

Online gambling no-go for PEI

From The Guardian on October 23, 2010

Why online bets are off

From The Telegram on October 20, 2010

Licence-plate readers spot problem gamblers before they enter casinos

From The Vancouver Sun on October 19, 2010

What responsible gambling should really look like

From The Chronicle Herald on October 6, 2010

N.S. stays out of online gaming

From The Chronicle Herald on October 15, 2010

Scientists identify 4 kinds of compulsive gamblers

From the Responsible Gambling Council on October 14, 2010

[...more News Articles & Announcements](#)

Research Articles & Reports

Many new and archived gambling-related research articles and reports were added to the online Resource Library in recent months.

Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation 2009-2010 Annual Report

The 2009-2010 Annual Report from the Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation: *Making a Difference...*

Children at risk of developing problem gambling

This Australian research focuses on risk factors for the development of gambling problems in children who have a family member experiencing gambling harm...

[...more Research Articles and Reports](#)

Upcoming Events

National (U.S.) Centre for Responsible Gaming's 11th Annual Conference on Gambling and Addiction

November 11-12, 2010

U.K.'s Society for the Study of Addiction Annual Symposium

November 11-21, 2010

Capital Health Addiction Prevention and Treatment Services' Coffee House & Film Series: *Let's Talk about Gambling*

November 16, 2010

National (Australia) Association for Gambling Studies 20th Annual Conference

December 1-3, 2010

[...more Upcoming Events](#)

