

# News Release

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**For Immediate Release: March 28, 2008**

## **Nationally-recognized Author, Radio Talk-Show Host among speakers at Problem Gambling Day**

Ottawa-based author, Doug Little and Montreal-based radio talk-show host, Sol Boxenbaum will headline the program at a problem gambling workshop on Monday, March 31, 2008. Local family physician Dr Genevieve Campbell will give the opening keynote address. Awaiting their talks are more than 120 representatives from 70 provincial organizations who will gather at the day-long professional development session called *Better Together: A Collaborative Approach to Addressing Problem Gambling in Nova Scotia Communities*. The event will be hosted by the Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation in partnership with the Department of Community Services (Family and Youth Services Division) and will run from 8:30am until 4:30 pm at the Holiday Inn Harbourview in Dartmouth.

The “Better Together” program will begin with a presentation on *The Nature of Gambling Addiction* by Dr. Genevieve Campbell of the Woodlawn Medical Clinic and Metro Drug Dependency Centre. Dr. Campbell will review the genetics of addiction, paying specific attention to what is known and theorized about gambling addiction. She will draw links between genetic predisposition and behaviour, as well as implications for treatment. "Though gambling addiction is infrequent in the population compared to the other addictions, once it reaches that level of disease, it can progress rapidly to ruin and death. An understanding of its nature as in great part a genetically predisposed disorder and not "willful badness" can help family, friends and caregivers to remain the course, and continue to work with and support the individual toward recovery. Research shows that such support is vital to recovery," said Dr. Campbell

Mid-morning, author and former journalist Doug Little will share the harrowing experience of his two-year binge as a compulsive gambler – a fall from grace that made national front-page headlines, destroyed his life and, in his words, brought him to the “very gates of prison, insanity, and death.” Doug’s first-hand experience is chronicled in his book *Losing Mariposa: The Memoir of a Compulsive Gambler*. “I am looking forward to sharing what I learned from my journey into the hell of compulsive gambling and to speaking of the hope my subsequent recovery can offer to others who are experiencing difficulties with problem and compulsive gambling,” said Mr. Little. Signed copies of Mr. Little’s book will be available throughout the day.

The final keynote address of the day will be given by well-known Canadian problem gambling spokesperson, Sol Boxenbaum, CEO, President and Co-Founder of Viva Consulting Family Life Inc. Mr. Boxenbaum’s name and voice have become an anticipated feature of almost every national media article (broadcast and print) when the issue is gambling. He is the host of *Last Call with Sol*, Montreal’s only live local program aired weekdays from 3am to 5am on CJAD am radio. “This is my fifth conference in Nova Scotia as a presenter and the advances that are taking place in Nova Scotia towards curbing problem gambling ought to be an example for the rest of Canada. I look forward to renewing old acquaintances and making new friends,” said Mr. Boxenbaum. His afternoon presentation will include some insights about when problem gambling begins and the ripple effect it creates.

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