

# Who's Who in the Nova Scotia Gambling Industry

## Gambling Awareness Nova Scotia

Gambling Awareness Nova Scotia (GANS) is a not-for-profit, arms-length government organization that encourages and supports an independent response to problem gambling in Nova Scotia. The purpose of the GANS is to receive, maintain, and disburse monies in support of research or education related to gambling, treatment, and/or the remediation of gambling harm.

In addition to funding community groups and researchers, GANS monitors local, national, and international gambling-related developments and utilizes multi-level communications strategies to inform and engage Nova Scotians in balanced dialogue about gambling issues.

Gambling Awareness Nova Scotia was established in 1998 as the Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation, pursuant to the *Gaming Control Act* and the *Provincial Finance Act*, and is publicly accountable through the Minister of the Department of Health and Wellness (formerly Health Promotion and Protection). A volunteer Board of Directors governs GANS.

## Nova Scotia Government

**Gaming Mission:** “The Province of Nova Scotia is involved in gaming for the purpose of protecting the public good and optimizing the benefits to Nova Scotians. This means providing effective regulation, generating socially responsible revenue, helping those who have problems, and focusing on prevention, treatment, and education. Government will ensure that all gaming-related agencies and departments work together toward this common goal.”\*

In April 2005, the Government of Nova Scotia introduced *A Better Balance: Nova Scotia's First Gaming Strategy*, a five-year plan designed to set a new course for gaming in the province. This overarching strategy called for alignment from industry stakeholders to balance the economic benefits of gaming with socially responsible research, education, and programming aimed at problem gambling.

In May 2010, the Government of Nova Scotia announced its intention to develop a new Responsible Gaming Strategy for the province of Nova Scotia for 2011-2016. Public input was sought from May 27 to July 31, and the strategy is expected to be released in 2011.

\*from *A Better Balance: Nova Scotia's First Gaming Strategy*, 2005.

## Alcohol and Gaming Division

The Nova Scotia Alcohol and Gaming Division regulates the gambling industry. Established as the Nova Scotia Alcohol and Gaming Authority under the *Gaming Control Act* in 1995, the purpose of the organization is “to regulate and control casinos and other lottery schemes, and to administer this Part [Part II of the *Gaming Control Act* titled, Gaming Control] in the public interest and in accordance with the principles of honesty and integrity.”\*

Now part of the Department of Labour and Workforce Development, the Alcohol and Gaming Division administers the “self-exclusion” casino ban procedure for individuals who wish to voluntarily bar themselves from gambling in Nova Scotia’s casinos.

\*from Section 42 of Part II of the *Gaming Control Act*.

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## Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation

The Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation (NSGC) is a crown corporation governed by the provincial *Gaming Control Act*. The NSGC manages the business of ticket lottery, video lottery, and casino gambling in Nova Scotia and is mandated to generate profits from gambling in a socially responsible manner. The NSGC oversees and manages the gaming operators who carry out the day-to-day business of gaming: Casino Nova Scotia and the Atlantic Lottery Corporation.

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## Atlantic Lottery Corporation

In 1976, the Atlantic Lottery Corporation (ALC) was incorporated to conduct and manage lotteries in Atlantic Canada; today, ALC operates the ticket and video lottery business on behalf of the province. VLT and lottery profits are distributed to Nova Scotia according to the operating agreement. Retailers retain a commission on sales.

The Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation holds one of four shares in ALC, along with each of the other three Atlantic Provinces.

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## Maritime Provinces Harness Racing Commission

The Maritime Provinces Harness Racing Commission oversees horse-racing operations within the Maritime Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. In addition to on-track racing, this agency provides a network of "simulcast teletheatres" for off-site betting.

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## Department of Health and Wellness

The Department of Health and Wellness (formerly Health Promotion and Protection) is responsible for promotion, prevention, and protection in an effort to create a healthier and safer Nova Scotia. Nine District Health Authorities (DHAs) serve the province of Nova Scotia under Health and Wellness. Health and Wellness also manages the Problem Gambling Help Line (888.347.8888).

## **Addiction Services**

The Addiction Services Division of the Department of Health and Wellness defines core services, develops and reviews standards and best practices for service delivery, develops provincial policy, monitors and audits programs, consults with service providers in the nine District Health Authorities (DHAs), and facilitates provincial program development and research.

Addiction programs and services are delivered to Nova Scotians through DHAs. Services include prevention, community education, early identification and referral, treatment, and rehabilitation.

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## **Nova Scotia Problem Gambling Help Line**

The Problem Gambling Help Line is a province-wide toll-free telephone service to help problem gamblers, their family, friends, and others who may be adversely affected by gambling. This free, confidential, and anonymous service is available to all Nova Scotians, 24 hours a day/7 days a week and is available in English and French. It is also accessible for the hearing impaired.

1.888.347.8888

1.888.347.3331 (TTY for hearing impaired)

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## **Responsible Gambling Resource Centre**

Responsible Gambling Resource Centres (RGRC) are designed to increase awareness of gambling harm and are located on-site at Casino Nova Scotia in Halifax and Sydney. The Centre does not provide counseling services, but does provide linkages to treatment and other resources for individuals who request it.