

# News Release

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**For Immediate Release:**

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## **Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation Cautions Parents against Games-of-Chance Stocking Stuffers**

The Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation is cautioning parents to think twice before buying scratch tickets and other lottery items as stocking stuffers for their children under 18.

“It’s not uncommon for parents to buy lottery tickets and scratch and win tickets for their children as stocking stuffers,” says Celeste Gotell, Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation. “This is what we refer to as ‘soft gambling’ and it is fast becoming a widely-accepted activity. What parents might not know is that, according to the International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviours, the average problem gambler often reports gambling activity beginning as early as the age of 10. Games-of-chance given as stocking stuffers can seem like an innocent holiday tradition, but for some at-risk youth this could potentially have long-term consequences,” reminded Gotell.

The Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation joins the Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation and the Atlantic Lottery Corporation in reminding parents and other adults that the sale of lottery tickets to minors is prohibited. “That is a good indicator in itself that lottery and scratch tickets make questionable stocking stuffers,” said Gotell. A similar message is now being displayed on digital signage at ticket retail locations throughout the province and an accompanying message has been printed on all lottery tickets.

The recently-released *Nova Scotia Student Drug Use 2007* report indicated, “about 3% of students met the definition of at-risk gambling and 2% met the definition of problem gambling.” The report also stated that “more males than females played cards for money, played lotteries, bet on sports activities, played VLTs, and played on internet gambling sites for money,” while “males and females were equally likely to have played scratch tabs, break opens and bingo.”

The Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation is committed to making positive changes in the lives of individuals, families and communities affected by problem gambling. Founded in 1998 as a nonprofit, arms-length government organization, the NSGF has directed millions of dollars in community and research grants to support problem gambling prevention, education, treatment, remedial intervention and the building of the problem gambling knowledge base across the province.

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