

News Release

For Immediate Release:

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Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation Receives Input into Prioritized Research Agenda

Close to 50 researchers and community representatives gathered in Halifax on Friday, December 7th to participate in a provincial gambling research think tank. Hosted by the Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation in partnership with the Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation, the day-long event resulted in a list of 16 recommendations that will go before the Gaming Foundation's Board of Directors as they begin deliberations on a prioritized research agenda for the province.

Preliminary discussions of the day included an overview of past and current gambling research in Nova Scotia. An explanation was also given of the five different kinds of research: descriptive, explanatory, predictive, prevention, and treatment. Think Tank participants were then assigned to small groups under these headings to discuss and frame their top research questions. The results were scored, examined, revised, and rescored to create the final list of recommendations. According to the feedback from think tank participants, some of the research questions that will require answers in the near future include:

- How do psychological, biological, social, and environmental factors contribute to the onset and maintenance of problem gambling?
- How effective are Nova Scotia's current treatment options (who are they working for and who aren't they working for)?
- Why do some problem gamblers seek help while others do not?
- What are some of the most effective ways to disseminate the results of predictive research to end users?

"The Foundation plans to take these recommendations under advisement," said Celeste Gotell, Executive Director for the Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation. "This list will help us to develop a prioritized research agenda and to establish a more strategic research plan for the Foundation in the coming years."

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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