



To: General Purposes Committee

Date: March 9, 2005

From: Terry Crowe  
Manager, Policy Planning

File:

Re: INTERIM FUNDING: PROBLEM GAMBLING PREVENTION SERVICES

**Staff Recommendation**

That, as per the report from the Manager, Policy Planning, dated March 9, 2005:

1. \$91,950.00 be provided to Richmond Addiction Services for interim problem gambling prevention services for one year, until March 2006;
1. RAS be asked for an annual report of services provided; and
2. a decision regarding the request for support for the establishment of an independent B.C. problem gambling research institute be deferred.

Terry Crowe  
Manager, Policy Planning

Att. 4

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY					
<b>ROUTED TO:</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>			
Finance.....	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>				
Customer Service .....	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>REVIEWED BY TAG</b>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>REVIEWED BY CAO</b>	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

## Staff Report

### Origin

On December 13, 2004 Council endorsed the Draft Richmond Problem Gambling Prevention & Treatment Strategy and requested that:

*“staff report to Committee on:*

- (i) interim Richmond initiatives which could be taken with regard to addiction issues, and*
- (ii) the suggestions made by RAS.”*

### Findings Of Fact

#### 1. Provincial Update

A letter to the City from the Honourable Rich Coleman, Solicitor General (**Attachment 1**), was received on February 17, 2005 in reply to two letters from the City. The City letters addressed the following resolutions:

That:

- (1) the draft Richmond Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment Strategy be forwarded to the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch (GPEB) of the Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General (MPS&SG) and the British Columbia Lottery Corporation (BCLC) and that they be requested to:
  - (a) take a leadership role by finalizing the Strategy in collaboration with other stakeholders,*
  - (b) recognize the final Strategy as a five-year Provincial pilot strategy, and*
  - (c) fund the final Strategy.**

and

- (2) the Provincial Government be requested to address the issue of annual funding to RAS to better enable them to deliver gambling prevention and treatment services in Richmond.*

#### Reply to letter re: Draft Richmond Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment Strategy

The Minister replied that:

- the Province has a comprehensive problem gambling prevention and treatment service program that is province-wide,
- the Province has no intention of funding alternative programs,
- a provincial three-year action plan is being developed to address policy, research, education, treatment and prevention initiatives related to problem and responsible gambling, and
- Richmond will be informed regarding the Provincial Strategy.

The Provincial Strategy will be announced by the end of March, 2005.

#### Re: Annual Funding to RAS

The Minister replied that:

- Richmond Addiction Services (RAS) utilized 60 per cent of their contract funding last year,
- additional resources are available to meet demand, and
- should RAS submit a proposal for more staff or funding, the Ministry would review it.

## **2. City Update**

A City Problem Gambling Stakeholder Meeting was held on January 24, 2005 to discuss the Draft Richmond Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment Strategy (**Attachment 2**).

Richmond stakeholders will meet again to discuss next steps when the Provincial Strategy is known (by the end of March, 2005).

## **3. Richmond Addiction Services Update**

A letter dated February 17, 2005 from Richmond Addiction Services (RAS) identifies the following three initiatives that Richmond may consider undertaking as interim measures until the Provincial strategy is known and implemented (**Attachment 3**):

- (1) Problem Gambling Prevention Initiative - \$91,950.00,
- (2) Outreach Problem Gambling Counselling - \$76,700.00, and
- (3) Research - \$75,000.00.

Total Cost - \$243,650.00

## **4. Problem Gambling Research – Request for Endorsement**

A letter dated January 27, 2005 was received from a Coquitlam citizens group, “Citizens Examining the Social Impact of Gambling”, requesting endorsement for the establishment of an independent research institute to explore the social and economic impact of gambling in B.C., similar to the Gaming Research Institute in Alberta (**Attachment 4**).

## **Analysis**

### **1. RAS – Accessing Provincial Funding**

In 2004, RAS did not fully access available Provincial problem gambling funding because only one counsellor was approved to work on both problem gambling prevention and treatment contracts.

In 2005, RAS will explore the possibility of receiving full provincial problem gambling funding. It is unknown whether their proposal will be accepted or rejected.

### **2. Interim RAS Funding for Problem Gambling**

Option 1: Wait until the Provincial Strategy is known.

Description

- Richmond does not fund interim problem gambling services until the Provincial Strategy has been received and reviewed.
- Richmond stakeholders would meet again to review the Provincial Strategy.

- After May 2005, the City may negotiate with the Province to increase problem gambling services to Richmond, if the Provincial strategy is found to be inadequate.
- By late May 2005, a report would be submitted to Council regarding the provincial strategy, its impact on Richmond and any City funding for RAS problem gambling services.

Pros:

- City minimizes costs; and
- Avoids possible Provincial and City duplication of funding.

Cons:

- Additional problem gambling prevention and treatment services for Richmond residents would be delayed.

Option 2: Provide interim 2005 funding until March 2006 to RAS for problem gambling services (Recommended).

Description

- City provides funding on an interim basis to March 2006 – additional RAS services would be provided immediately for one year.
- Once the Provincial strategy has been implemented, the City would re-examine the need for any City funding of problem gambling prevention, treatment and research services.

Pros:

- Immediate additional RAS services would be provided to March 2006, the time when the City would determine its next community grant allocations.

Cons:

- City would be funding a Provincial responsibility.
- May be difficult for the City to withdraw from long-term funding.

**3. Type of Interim RAS Services**

RAS has indicated that the following problem gambling services are needed:

- (1) Problem Gambling Prevention Initiative - \$91,950.00
- (2) Outreach Problem Gambling Counselling - \$76,700.00
- (3) Research Project - \$75,000.00

Total Cost: \$243,650.00

At this point, the City has approximately \$100,000 left in the Community Grants Budget.

### **Option 1: Full Interim RAS Services**

#### Description

- The City would provide \$243,650.00 to RAS in 2005
- Source of City funds:
  - \$100,000.00 from the City's Community Grants budget
  - \$143,650.00 - not available from the City's Community Grants budget

#### Pros:

- Full interim RAS services

#### Cons:

- City funds not available.
- City would be funding a provincial responsibility.

### **Option 2: Partial RAS Services (Recommended)**

#### Description

- Provide \$91,950 to RAS for 2005 for interim problem gambling prevention services to March 2006.
- The full \$91,950 is recommended because it will ensure that the interim RAS problem gambling prevention services will be provided for a full year and until the City determines whether or not to provide RAS with any additional problem gambling prevention, treatment and research services in March 2006.

#### Pros:

- Prevention is more cost effective than treatment
- Provides some interim RAS service immediately
- Utilizes available City Community Grant funding.

#### Cons:

- Does not address all interim needs
- City would be funding a provincial responsibility.

### **4. Problem Gambling Research – Request for Endorsement**

A Coquitlam citizens group is seeking endorsement of a request for the establishment of an independent research institute to explore the social and economic impact of gambling in B.C.

Council may either:

- endorse the request now,
- defer a decision until the Provincial strategy is known, or
- not endorse the request.

Staff recommend delaying endorsement until the research component of the Provincial strategy is known.

### **Financial Impact**

1. \$91,950.00, for RAS to provide interim problem gambling prevention services for one year until March 2006, from the City Community Grants budget.

### **Conclusion**

Staff recommend that:

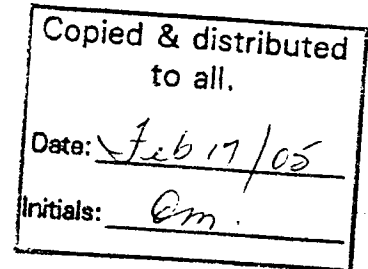
1. \$91,950.00 be provided to Richmond Addiction Services for interim problem gambling prevention services for one year, until March 2006;
2. RAS be asked for an annual report of services provided; and
3. a decision regarding the request for support for the establishment of an independent problem gambling research institute be deferred.



Lesley Sherlock  
Social Planner  
(4220)  
LS:cas



pc-Councillors  
 - CAO  
 - GM, ud  
 - Mgr, Policy  
 Planning  
 - Social Planner



February 11, 2005

His Worship Malcolm D. Brodie  
 Mayor of the City of Richmond  
 6911 No. 3 Road  
 Richmond BC V6Y 2C1

Dear Mayor Brodie:

I am responding to your December 21, 2004 letter outlining your *Draft Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment Strategy* and your request for funding.

While we appreciate the municipality's efforts, the Province has a comprehensive problem gambling prevention and treatment services for all British Columbians. These services are part of a larger Responsible Gambling Strategy developed by the Province, in conjunction with the British Columbia Lottery Corporation. We are not considering funding alternative programs at this time.

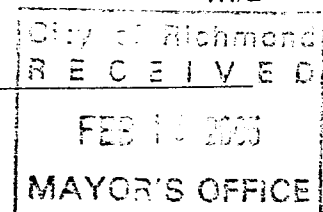
The Province's Responsible Gambling Strategy and related partnership ensures that gaming is delivered in a responsible manner to minimize risk to participants. A three-year action plan is being developed, addressing policy, research, education, treatment and prevention initiatives related to problem and responsible gambling. When the plan is completed, it will be shared with municipalities and other stakeholders, and I will ensure you receive a copy.

With regard to services currently offered in the City of Richmond and elsewhere in British Columbia, a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process was undertaken in 2003 to ensure that qualified counselors deliver problem gambling services on behalf of the Province. The province pays for these services on a fee for service basis.

Ministry of  
 Public Safety  
 and Solicitor General

Office of the Minister

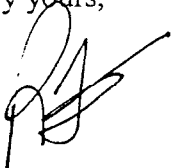
Mailing Address:  
 PO Box 9053  
 Stn Prov Govt  
 Victoria BC V8W 9E2



His Worship Malcolm D. Brodie  
Page 2

Richmond Addiction Services put forward one counsellor to be qualified in the RFQ process. Based on their reported caseload, only 60 per cent of their contract funding was utilized last year. Additional resources are available to meet demand. However, Richmond Addiction Services has not submitted a proposal for more staff or funding from the Problem Gambling Program. If the need is there, I would be pleased to review such a proposal.

Sincerely yours,



R.T. (Rich) Coleman  
Solicitor General

pc: Derek Sturko  
Vic Poleschuk  
Vince Batistelli





# City of RICHMOND

6911 No. 3 Road  
Richmond, B.C. V6Y 2C1  
Telephone: (604) 276-1123  
Fax No: (604) 276-4332

MALCOLM BRODIE  
MAYOR

December 21, 2004

The Honourable Rich Coleman  
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
PO Box 9053, STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Vic Poleschuk  
President  
British Columbia Lottery Corporation  
74 West Seymour Street  
Kamloops, BC V2C 1E2

Dear Minister Coleman and Mr. Poleschuk:

**Re: Draft Richmond Problem Gambling Prevention & Treatment Strategy**

On December 13, 2004, Council endorsed the Draft Richmond Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment Strategy. Please find the City staff report, Strategy and Council recommendations enclosed.

As indicated in the recommendations, Richmond City Council is requesting the Province, through the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the British Columbia Lottery Corporation, to:

- take a leadership role by finalizing the Strategy in collaboration with other stakeholders,
- recognize the final Strategy as a five-year Provincial pilot strategy, and
- fund the final Strategy.

The draft Strategy is also being forwarded to the other stakeholders identified, including the:

- BC Ministry of Education;
- Great Canadian Casino Corporation;
- Richmond Royal Canadian Mounted Police;
- Richmond School District Board #33; and
- Richmond Addiction Services

for their comments and support.

  
RICHMOND  
*Island City, by Nature*

To coordinate further work on the draft Strategy, I am inviting your respective representatives to a meeting of all stakeholders on January 24, 2005, from 1:30 – 4:00 p.m., in Room M.2.002 at Richmond City Hall, 6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond to discuss views and next steps.

Please RSVP to Lesley Sherlock, Social Planner (ph. 604-276-4220, fax 604-276-4052, or e-mail: [lsherlock@richmond.ca](mailto:lsherlock@richmond.ca)).

In preparation for this meeting, please consider what role your department and organization might play in finalizing, funding and implementing the Strategy.

For clarification, please contact Terry Crowe, Manager of Policy Planning, at 604-276-4139.

Yours truly,



Malcolm D. Brodie  
*Mayor*

pc: Joe Erceg, MCIP, General Manager, Urban Development  
Terry Crowe, Manager, Policy Planning  
Lesley Sherlock, Social Planner



**City of Richmond**  
Urban Development Division

## Memorandum

**To:** See Distribution List **Date:** January 25, 2005  
**From:** Terry Crowe **File:**  
 Manager, Policy Planning  
**Re:** Update: Problem Gambling Stakeholders' Meeting

### Purpose of Meeting

On January 24, 2005, a stakeholders' meeting was held to discuss the Draft Richmond Problem Gambling Prevention & Treatment Strategy, as per item (6) in the Council resolution of December 13, 2004 (attached).

The purpose of the meeting was to initiate discussion re: what roles stakeholders might play in finalizing and implementing the Draft Strategy.

### Participation

In attendance were:

- Derek Sturko, Executive Director, Gaming Policy Secretariat, Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
- Gail White, Director of Corporate Social Responsibility, British Columbia Lottery Corporation
- Barry Pritchard, General Manager, River Rock Casino
- Carl Bolton, Director of Compliance, Great Canadian Casino
- Cpl. Steve Goss, Economic and Computer Crime, RCMP, Richmond Detachment
- Tony Mahon, Operations Support Officer, RCMP, Richmond Detachment
- Chak Au, Mental Health Program Leader, Richmond Health Department
- Annie McKittrick, Trustee, Richmond School Board
- Bruce Beairsto, Superintendent, Richmond School District
- Christine Kline, Director, Richmond Addiction Services
- Vince Battistelli, Executive Director, Richmond Addiction Services
- Clarence Chan, Gambling Counsellor, Richmond Addiction Services
- Terry Crowe, Manager, Policy Planning
- Lesley Sherlock, Social Planner

### Provincial Problem Gambling Strategy

The Province (Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch & British Columbia Lottery Corporation) indicated that a provincial strategy would be announced in approximately one month. The strategy:

- will be province-wide, rather than tailor-made to specific municipalities
- will identify possible roles for municipalities
- includes many similarities to the draft Richmond strategy, e.g.,

- River Rock Casino in Richmond will be one of two sites chosen for a three-year pilot project whereby a staffed "Information Centre" will be located within the Casino to educate patrons re: gambling (e.g., odds of winning), identify problem gambling behaviours, support staff in addressing problem behaviours, and provide information re: prevention and treatment services,
- includes responsible gambling standards for the gaming industry,
- has a research component (e.g., prevalence, socio-economic impact), and
- addresses public information and awareness.

**Other Stakeholders**

- Existing policies/activities re: problem gambling were identified.
- Support for the draft Richmond strategy was conveyed.
- Stakeholders expressed interest in further discussion about Richmond initiatives and collaboration once the provincial strategy has been announced.

**Next Steps**

Re: Strategy:

- When announced, information regarding the provincial strategy will be conveyed to Council.
- Following the announcement, Richmond stakeholders will meet again to explore strategies.
- Council will be informed regarding the outcome of future stakeholder meetings.
- A progress report will be presented to Council before April 30, 2005.

Re: Council Referral:

- Staff were asked to report to Committee on interim Richmond initiatives which could be taken with regard to addiction issues. A report is expected to be put forward in late February, 2005.

For clarification, please contact me at 604-276-4139.

Terry Crowe  
Manager, Policy Planning

TTC:ls

pc Joe Erceg, MCIP, General Manager, Urban Development  
Lesley Sherlock, Social Planner

Mayor Malcolm Brodie	Councillor Rob Howard
Councillor Linda Barnes	Councillor Kiichi Kumagai
Councillor Derek Dang	Councillor Bill McNulty
Councillor Evelina Halsey-Brandt	Councillor Harold Steves
Councillor Sue Halsey-Brandt	

19. **DRAFT RICHMOND PROBLEM GAMBLING PREVENTION & TREATMENT STRATEGY**

(Report: Nov. 30/04, File No.: 08-4040-04-01/2004-Vol 01) (REDMS No. 1362982, 1362983, 1366686)

R04/22-18

It was moved and seconded

***That:***

- (1) ***The draft Richmond Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment Strategy (Attachment 1) to the report dated November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004 from the Manager, Policy Planning) be endorsed;***
- (2) ***The draft Richmond Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment Strategy be forwarded to the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch (GPEB) of the Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General (MPS&SG), and the British Columbia Lottery Corporation (BCLC) and that they be requested to:***
  - (a) ***take a leadership role by finalizing the Strategy in collaboration with other stakeholders,***
  - (b) ***recognize the final Strategy as a five-year Provincial pilot strategy, and***
  - (c) ***fund the final Strategy;***
- (3) ***The draft Richmond Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment Strategy be forwarded to the:***
  - (a) ***BC Ministry of Education;***
  - (b) ***Great Canadian Casino Corporation;***
  - (c) ***Richmond Royal Canadian Mounted Police;***
  - (d) ***Richmond School District Board #38, and***
  - (e) ***Richmond Addiction Services (RAS),******for their comments and support;***
- (4) ***Richmond Addiction Services (RAS) be thanked for their valuable service and that their continued collaboration be requested in finalizing the Strategy.***
- (5) ***City staff host a meeting of all stakeholders in early 2005, to encourage them to finalize the Strategy and implement it.***
- (6) ***City staff report progress to Council through the General Purposes Committee, before April 30, 2005.***
- (7) ***the Provincial Government be requested to address the issue of annual funding to RAS to better enable them to deliver gambling prevention and treatment services in Richmond.***
- (8) ***staff report to Committee on (i) interim Richmond initiatives which could be taken with regard to addiction issues, and (ii) the suggestions made by RAS.***

**CARRIED**

Richmond City Council Minutes, December 13, 2004

March 2, 2005

Terry Crowe  
Manager  
Policy Planning Department  
City of Richmond  
6911 N0. 3 Road  
Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

Dear Terry:

In response to your request I am pleased to submit an outline of the interim steps Richmond could take to address problem gambling prior to the possible implementation of the provincial pilot project.

In submitting this for your consideration it is important for me to note that Richmond Addiction Services does not wish to have consideration of funding these steps to in any way jeopardize or be viewed in lieu of our original request for a grant from the City.

The funding that we are seeking by way of the City's grant process is crucial to our ability to maintain our existing prevention initiatives in the school and community. Although we believe additional funding for problem gambling is important for this community our first priority is our prevention and community outreach initiative.

I trust that this information will be of assistance to you in considering how the City of Richmond will proceed with addressing problem gambling. If you require further information please let me know.

Sincerely,



Vince Battistelli

## Interim Problem Gambling Initiatives for the City of Richmond

In response to a request from the staff of the Social Planning of the City of Richmond, Richmond Addictions Services submits the following proposal.

The proposal sets out interim steps Richmond could be taking to address problem gambling prior to the possible implementation of the Provincial Pilot Project.

There are three initiatives that we propose.

### 1. Problem Gambling Prevention Initiative

This initiative will focus on the development and implementation of prevention programs and strategies targeted at children and youth, teachers and counselors, parents and seniors. Although some of the focus will be on the general adult population, the majority of the focus will be on the other targeted populations.

The intent of the prevention initiative is to:

- a) help children and youth acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for making appropriate choices re gambling
- b) Help teachers and counselors acquire the knowledge and resources to assist them in developing and delivering classroom sessions about gambling and making appropriate choices regarding gambling
- c) Help parents learn about gambling and its consequences so that they can support preventative gambling initiatives conducted in the schools

### 2. Outreach Problem Gambling Counselling

This initiative would, as a result of an agreement with the Casino management, have a Problem Gambling Counsellor provide counseling services within the casino to persons referred by staff or self identifying as having gambling problems.

Implementation of this strategy will involve employment of a full time Problem Gambling Addictions Counsellor.

### 3. Research

There is currently little data specific to Richmond regarding gambling and the potential impact of the River Rock Casino on this community.

This initiative involves conducting a research program to monitor and analyze the impact of the casino on the gambling behaviour of the people of Richmond, attitudes toward gambling, social costs, the gambling related demographics of the community, incidence of gambling related crime, health costs, etc. The project would establish base line data for these areas of interest and provide data for the development of recommendations for the refinement or amendment of Richmond's Problem Gambling strategy.

**Proposal to City of Richmond  
Interim Richmond Initiatives Regarding Problem Gambling**

Budget for each initiative

Prevention:

Salary & Benefits (1 FTE prevention worker):	\$64,000.00
Travel	\$ 1,200.00
Phone	\$ 600.00
Program Expenses	\$ 2,000.00
Office equipment (desk, computer, printer, etc)	\$ 4,000.00
Office supplies	\$ 400.00
Postage	\$ 300.00
Rent	\$ 6,000.00
Marketing & promotion	\$ 6,000.00
Administrative/management Support	<u>\$ 8,500.00</u>
Total:	\$91,950.00

Problem Gambling Counsellor:

Salary & Benefits (1 FTE):	\$64,000.00
Travel	\$ 400.00
Phone	\$ 600.00
Office equipment	\$ 4,000.00
Office supplies	\$ 200.00
Rent	\$-----
Promotional materials	\$ 500.00
Clinical Supervision	\$ 3,000.00
Administrative/Management support	<u>\$ 4,000.00</u>
Total:	\$76,700.00

Research Project

Contract with research firm to conduct research	\$70,000.00
Direction, Liaison and Oversight by RAS	<u>5,000.00</u>
Total:	\$75,000.00

Total for all initiatives \$243,650.00



& DISTRIBUTED

DATE: Feb 11/05 B.S.

To: Manager, Policy Planning  
for info.  
cc: GM-UD

		INT
JFM		
DW	DW	
KY		
AS		
DB		
WB		

ACTING CITY CLERK

To staff

4070-07

January 27, 2005

Greetings

This letter is to inform you of our recent actions since the community consultation on **Identifying and Minimizing the Social Costs of Gambling** held on October 27, 2004 sponsored by the City of Coquitlam.

A number of citizens continued to meet to explore next steps. A decision was made to focus our resources on the establishment of an independent research institute to explore the social and economic impact of gambling in B.C. This research institute would be similar to the Gaming Research Institute in Alberta,

A motion supporting this initiative was unanimously endorsed by the City of Coquitlam in February 2004 and by the Union of BC Municipalities in September 2004. Recently the City of Vancouver passed a similar motion calling for an independent research institute. Attached is brief statement summarizing the rationale for an Independent Research Institute in B.C.

If you or an organization you represent support this initiative we invite you to contact your Member of the Legislative Assembly with your endorsement. We also request that you complete and return to us the enclosed form or contact us at the numbers below so that we may add your name to our list of supporters. We welcome any suggestions or actions to move this initiative forward.

Please send your endorsement for the establishment of an independent research institute to:

Citizens Examining the Social Impact of Gambling  
c/o Ross Bremner  
email: [drbremner@shaw.ca](mailto:drbremner@shaw.ca)  
phone: 604-444-2114 or  
Fax: 604 936-9624  
Mail: 825 St. Laurence St., Coquitlam, BC V3J 6G7

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Anderson, Dave Barker, Brenda Beck, Ross Bremner, Fin Donnelly, Ted Kuntz, Diane Thorne,  
Kathleen Wallace-Deering, Maxine Wilson



To: "Citizens Examining the Social Impact of Gambling."

I/We have read carefully your document entitled:  
"Call for An Independent Gambling Research Institute"  
and dated January 2005

I/We wish to register my/our support for such an institute to be established here in British Columbia and I am/We are happy for you to add my/our name/s to your list of supporting citizens/ community organizations.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please complete and return to:*  
*Citizens Examining the Social Impact of Gambling,*  
*c/o 825 St. Laurence St., Coquitlam, BC V3J 6G7*

*OR by fax to: (604) 936-9624*

*Or by e-mail to: drbremner@shaw.ca*