

FACT SHEET

RESPONSIBLE • PROGRESSIVE • ACCOUNTABLE

July 2009

Responsible Gambling Programs

BetStopper

- In May 2009, NSGC launched the world's first content-blocking software that parents/caregivers can install on their home computers in order to help prevent their underage children from visiting gambling websites.
- NSGC funded the development of the product in response to the ever-increasing popularity of online gambling. It is designed as a prevention tool to help keep young people safe and is free to all Nova Scotia families.

Youth Gambling Awareness Program

- NSGC is providing funding to the YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth to conduct a three-year pilot of a Youth Gambling Awareness Program (YGAP) in Halifax and Sydney, based on the YMCA program model that has proven to be successful in Ontario. The pilot began in fall 2007.
- The three-year YGAP pilot will deliver prevention and education initiatives for youth in schools and community organizations in Halifax Regional Municipality and Sydney.
- The program is aimed at youth between the ages of 8 and 24 and is designed to address attitudes and behaviours about youth gambling, to prevent youth gambling related problems, while helping youth gain skills such as informed decision-making.

Video Lottery Informed Player Choice System

- The world-first Video Lottery *Informed Player Choice System (IPCS)* is a prevention tool that uses software and hardware to provide real time information and tools to video lottery players.
- The goal is to empower players to use these tools in order to make informed play choices, which will facilitate and maintain responsible gaming behaviours.
- The IPCS will be accessible through all of the Province's VLTs including First Nations and is currently being field tested in the Sydney area.

Don't Bet On It

- *Don't Bet On It* is a classroom-based problem gambling prevention program developed for high school students by the Responsible Gambling Council. The program was pilot-tested in March and April 2007 with more than 500 students in Nova Scotia high schools.

Caught in the Game / House of Cards

- *Caught in the Game* is a drama created by the RGC and performed for high-school students to convey messages about the risks of gambling as well as information about problem gambling. It has been performed at 23 high schools across the Province in front of 6,105 students.
- In 2008 and again in 2009, NSGC sponsored RGC's high school drama *House of Cards*. It has been performed at 30 high schools across the Province and for 7,985 students.

Mobile Access to Responsible Gambling Information

- The *Mobile Access to Responsible Gambling Information (MARGI)*, developed by the Responsible Gambling Council of Canada and first piloted in Nova Scotia, is a stand-alone kiosk that provides players with interactive tools and information intended to assist them in making informed gaming decisions.
- *MARGI* is located in both the Halifax and Sydney Casino Nova Scotia locations.

Know the Score

- *Know the Score* is an interactive, peer-led program that is offered on community college and university campuses, through an interactive booth model located in a high-traffic area of the campus. It is designed to give people between the ages of 19 and 24 the facts about games of chance and to provide them with information on local resources to help them prevent or address gambling problems.
- Developed by the Responsible Gambling Council (RGC), and sponsored by NSGC, *Know the Score* was piloted in Nova Scotia in 2004. Since then, more than 29,746 people have been reached.

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Interactive Community Education Display

- The *Interactive Community Education Display (ICED)* is a portable display that includes interactive educational components and is used to raise awareness about the risks of gambling and ways to gamble responsibly.
- These displays are used across the Province throughout the year.

Responsible Gambling Awareness Week

- In 2002, Nova Scotia became the first jurisdiction in North America to launch a *Responsible Gambling Awareness Week (RGAW)*. *RGAW* is one of the largest of NSGC's responsible gambling initiatives that works to foster responsible gambling behaviour across the Province and includes the delivery of numerous community events and programs.
- The hallmark event of the Week is a two-day Responsible Gambling Conference, which features world-renowned guest speakers and focuses on responsible gambling and social responsibility within the gaming industry.

Responsible Gambling Information Program

- In 2008-09, a new Responsible Gambling Information Program was developed to replace Play by Play. The program consists of five brochures, all of which are available at Casino Nova Scotia locations, and three are distributed to video lottery sites in NS. The brochures are intended to dispel myths, provide factual information and offer tools and tips to facilitate responsible gambling choices.

Responsible Gambling Resource Centre

- The Province's first on-site Responsible Gambling Resource Centre (RGRC) opened at the Halifax Casino in October 2005. The RGRC is a commitment contained in the Province of Nova Scotia's Gaming Strategy and NSGC's Responsible Gambling Strategy. The Sydney RGRC opened in June 2006.
- The purpose of the centre is to provide relevant and useful information about responsible gambling and problem gambling, as well as links to treatment and services in the community. It is staffed by professionals trained in addiction counseling.

Ticket Lottery Retailer Training Program

- More than 1,200 small businesses offer ticket lottery products. In order to ensure that the concept of gambling responsibly reaches this segment of the gaming industry, a program is currently in development to help retailers and their employees understand what it means for their customers to play games responsibly. This education program will teach retailers to support players in making informed decisions when playing games of chance.

Video Lottery Retailer Training Program

- The VLT Retailer Responsible Gambling Program was launched in October 1999 and updated in 2008. It educates VLT retailers and their staff about problem gambling issues and responsible gambling. The program is delivered through video vignettes about problem gambling situations designed to encourage discussion.
- This program has been delivered to 3001 retailers and staff in Nova Scotia.

Responsible Gambling Resource Website

- In 2008, NSGC launched a responsible gambling website dedicated to providing the public and players with important information to make informed decisions, and help prevent problems before they start. The detailed informational and educational content was developed by independent experts.
- The website can be viewed through www.nsgc.ca.

GamTalk

- NSGC is proud to sponsor GamTalk, the first national online peer based support service in Canada for those who gamble.
- Since GamTalk launched in 2008, membership has grown to over 300, with approximately 2 new members joining every day.
- GamTalk was developed by Dr. Richard Wood and is supported by a team of moderators and technical experts. It is a free forum operated as an independent non-profit organization within Canada.