

Being Responsible — Quick Facts (November 2006)

Being Responsible

In Alberta, we all have a role to play in being socially responsible. For the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC), this means being accountable and providing policies, regulations, and educational programs as well as tools to provide safe delivery of gaming and liquor activities for:

- the general public
- our industry partners

Customer care programs and industry training have been implemented as a part of this commitment. Programs include:

- Voluntary Self-exclusion Program for casinos and RECs
- Responsible Gaming Program for VLT retailers
- Deal Us In Program for casino and REC staff
- Responsible Gambling Information Centers in casinos
- Alberta Server Intervention Program for liquor licensees

Tips for Responsible Gambling

To help you manage gambling in the same manner as other entertainment choices, here are a few ideas:

- Remember, the house always has the advantage
- Before playing, educate yourself on how the game works
- Set a budget and stick to it
- Do not chase losses; accept them as a cost for the entertainment
- Take frequent breaks
- Use only money from your entertainment budget, do not borrow money
- Balance gambling with your other leisure choices
- Know the warning signs of problem gambling
- If you are concerned or want to talk with someone about your gambling, call the AADAC help-line

Warning Signs

Here are a few warning signs that gambling has become a problem:

- Spending longer periods of time gambling
- Placing larger more frequent bets
- Accumulating debt to support gambling activities
- Arguing about gambling with friends or family
- Pinning hope on the “big win”
- Feelings of guilt or remorse about gambling
- Participating in illegal activities to obtain money
- Missing work to gamble
- Hiding involvement in gambling activities

Cost of Play

Remember that gambling is entertainment. These games of chance are a form of entertainment, at a price to you, the player. Casino gaming should not be considered a way for you to make money. Consider these entertainment cost comparisons:

- 1 hour Roulette, inside typical bet* = about \$21
1 movie, 1 popcorn and 1 soda = about \$21
- *Inside typical refers to bets placed on numbers 1-36 on a roulette wheel
- 1 hour VLT, average bet = about \$60
1 dinner for two = about \$60
- 1 hour nickel slots, bet 45 = about \$108
2 hockey tickets, parking and 2 hot dogs = about \$108

Gambling Myths

Myth: Some machines are “due” to pay.

Fact: VLTs and slot machine games are designed and programmed to pay out randomly no matter how many wins or losses occurred in the past. A machine that has not paid out for some time has no greater chance of paying out in the future. The result of the last game played has no bearing on the result of the next game.

Myth: Players can control the outcome.

Fact: It is impossible to control the outcome of any spin. In fact the outcome is determined as soon as players hit the spin button.

Myth: Hitting the stop button at just the right moment will cause a winning combination.

Fact: Winning combinations are randomly selected by the computer chip within each machine; there is nothing a player can do to influence the outcome.

Myth: Electronic gaming machines tend to pay out higher amounts or more frequently at certain times.

Fact: All machines operate randomly. This means the next outcome on a machine is not predictable and is not linked to time of day or calendar.

Myth: Playing the same numbers every week gives me a greater chance at winning the Jackpots.

Fact: All numbers have the same chance of being selected for every draw; therefore your chances of winning are no better using the same numbers or using the quick pick method of selecting numbers.

Responsible Liquor Initiatives

The AGLC is committed to the responsible service and consumption of liquor products. To help liquor licensees and the public meet the social responsibility requirements set out in legislation, regulation and policy, the AGLC has developed a number of programs and tools.

The Alberta Server Intervention Program (ASIP) is an industry-led training program for staff involved in the sale and service of liquor in licensed premises. Managed by the AGLC, it is a mandatory training program for licensees.

Other responsible liquor initiatives include:

- Under 25 Initiative
- Roundtable on Violence In and Around Licensed Premises
- # TAXI

AADAC Partnership

AADAC and the AGLC are working together to increase awareness of treatment programs available to those experiencing problems related to gambling. AADAC's problem gambling prevention, education and treatment programs are funded by the Alberta Lottery Fund.

AADAC problem gambling toll-free help-line:

1-866-33AADAC
(1-866-332-2322)

