

Gaming in Alberta — Quick Facts (November 2006)

Who participates?

- 82% of adult Albertans (18 years and older).*
- Most Albertans participate in gaming activities as a form of entertainment.
- The most common gaming activities are purchasing lottery and scratch and win tickets, and participating in raffles and fundraising draws.
- 71% of Albertans are satisfied with the conduct of Alberta's gaming industry. *Source: Ministry of Gaming Performance Measure Survey (2005-2006)*

Types of legal gaming in Alberta

- Charitable gaming
 - bingo, casinos, raffles, pull tickets
- Provincial lotteries
 - VLTs, slot machines and ticket lotteries
- Pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing

Gaming revenue *(Excludes horse racing)*

- The Alberta government's share of net proceeds from VLTs, slot machines and ticket lotteries is placed in the Alberta Lottery Fund.
- In 2005/2006, over \$1.2 billion was placed in the Alberta Lottery Fund.
- Licensed charitable groups earn proceeds from charitable gaming activities.
- In 2005/2006, \$254 million was raised by charitable and religious groups conducting gaming events.
- Other than licensing fees, the government receives no revenue from the charitable gaming activities it regulates (bingo, casino table games, raffles, pull tickets), or from horse racing.

Charitable gaming revenue *(fiscal 2005-2006 actual)*

- Charities earned the following net revenue from licensed gaming activities:

➢ bingo	\$ 40 million
➢ casinos	\$ 172 million
➢ pull tickets	\$ 7 million
➢ raffles	\$ 35 million
TOTAL	\$ 254 million

Alberta Lottery Fund revenue *(2006-2007 estimates)*

- The government's portion of net proceeds from VLTs, slot machines and ticket lotteries goes into the Alberta Lottery Fund.
- The Alberta Lottery Fund supports thousands of charitable, not-for-profit, public and community-based initiatives annually.

Alberta Lottery Fund sources:

➢ VLTs	\$ 609.5 million
➢ Slot machines	\$ 680.5 million
➢ Ticket lotteries	\$ 187.5 million
➢ Lottery fund interest	\$ 6.0 million
➢ Subtotal	\$ 1.483 billion
➢ Operating expenses	\$ 177.3 million
TOTAL	\$ 1.306 billion

Eligible charitable groups in Alberta

- There are over 9,300 groups eligible to conduct charitable gaming activities (bingos, casino events, pull-tickets and raffles) in the province of Alberta.

Gaming venues *(as of November 17, 2006)*

- Bingo association halls – 45
 - 27 halls have DIGI bingo (with over 1,595 DIGI units)
- Charitable casino facilities – 19 (with 9,319 slot machines)
- Ticket lottery centres – 2,299
- VLT locations – 1,065 – (including VGGERS), the maximum number of VLTs in province limited to 6,000
- Horserace tracks – 5
- Racing entertainment centres – 3 (with 761 slot machines)

Gaming research

- The Alberta Gaming Research Institute was created in response to a recommendation of the Alberta Lotteries and Gaming Summit '98 that more government resources be dedicated to gaming research.
- The Institute, a consortium of the Universities of Alberta, Calgary and Lethbridge, came into effect in September 2001.
- The Institute sponsors research into gaming-related topics such as the social and economic costs and benefits of gaming, aboriginal gaming issues, and gaming trends.
- A budget of \$1.5 million a year has been allocated to the Institute from the Alberta Lottery Fund.

Problem gambling

- An estimated 5.2% of Albertans have a gambling problem.
 - An estimated 3.9% of adult Albertans are moderate risk gamblers and 1.3% are problem gamblers.*
- The Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission's (AADAC's) problem gambling prevention, education and treatment programs are funded by the Alberta Lottery Fund through Alberta Health and Wellness.
 - Initiatives include TV advertisements, an interprovincial think tank on youth and gambling, and a problem gambling program for industry staff to raise awareness and train senior staff to discretely refer individuals to AADAC programs and services.
- Total funding to AADAC through the Alberta Lottery Fund is \$83 million in 2006-2007.

AADAC problem gambling toll-free help line:

1-866-33AADAC

(1-866-332-2322)

**Source: Canadian Problem Gambling Index Survey (2002)*

