

ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN– 2005/06
Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

The Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch regulates all gaming in British Columbia, ensures the integrity of people and equipment involved in the gaming industry and investigates allegations of wrongdoing. This includes regulatory oversight of the British Columbia Lottery Corporation (which conducts and manages lotteries, casinos and commercial bingo halls), all gaming service providers, BC's horse racing industry, and licensed gaming events.

The Branch:

- Develops and manages gaming policy, legislation and standards;
- Regulates all aspects of the gaming industry;
- Licenses charitable gaming events and horse racing;
- Oversees horse racing events, determining the outcome of each race and adjudicating any related matters;
- Registers gaming service providers and gaming workers, and approves and certifies gaming equipment and lottery schemes;
- Conducts audits of charitable and commercial gaming activities to ensure compliance;
- Investigates all alleged contraventions of BC's Gaming Control Act and investigates, in cooperation with law enforcement, all alleged contraventions of relevant sections of Canada's Criminal Code;
- Manages the distribution of government's gaming proceeds, including grants to community organizations, local governments and the horse racing industry; and
- Manages the Province's Responsible Gambling Strategy and Problem Gambling Program, in order to minimize the harm from gambling and promote responsible gambling practices.

Objectives and Strategies

Ministry Goal 2: Public safety is enhanced...

Branch Objective 1: Reduced incidence of illegal gambling		
Strategies	1.1 1.2 1.3 1.4 1.5 1.6 1.7	Fully implement the Illegal Gambling Enforcement Strategy Fully operationalize the Integrated Illegal Gambling Enforcement Team, composed of RCMP and ministry investigators. Identify the extent of illegal gambling in the Province Work with the RCMP and other law enforcement agencies to better identify and prosecute offenders. Operationalize a decision-making framework for Branch investigations. Strengthen partnerships with Liquor Control and Licensing Branch to identify illegal gambling activities in liquor establishments. Public education information campaign re: types of permitted gaming, licence requirements and consequences.

Ministry Goal 3: Public interests are safeguarded...

Branch Objective 2: A comprehensive regulatory framework for gaming		
Strategies	2.1	Strengthen legal framework by amending the Gaming Control Act as required.
	2.2	Develop a policy framework for Internet gaming
	2.3	Monitor and review BCLC's e-gaming systems
	2.4	Continue to develop, implement and enforce public interest standards (specifically Security and Surveillance Standards and Responsible Gambling Standards).
	2.5	Develop framework for multi-faceted gaming facilities (i.e. horse racing and Community Gaming Centres) including revenue sharing arrangements.
	2.6	Review registration requirements for gaming service providers and gaming workers.
	2.7	Develop standards for certification of all forms of electronic gaming equipment (including internet gaming and slot machines)
	2.8	Fully implement an audit and compliance framework and deliver Compliance Enhancement Program.
	2.9	Develop and implement Class D licensing category fundraising events generating less than \$5,000.

Branch Objective 3: Responsible gambling practices are encouraged through the Responsible Gambling Strategy.		
Strategies	3.1	Launch 3-year plan and activities in support of Responsible Gambling Strategy
	3.2	Increase emphasis and efforts in prevention, research and evaluation, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Redefining service delivery of province-wide problem gambling prevention services; and• Developing and implementing comprehensive research agenda for responsible gambling.
	3.3	Fully develop the Partnership for Responsible Gambling by establishing responsibilities of local governments, service providers and other major stakeholders.
	3.4	Increase awareness of the responsible gambling initiatives and treatment services available to those with a gambling problem.

Ministry Goal 4: Human Resources and Information Technology

Branch Objective 4: Enhanced Human Resources programs		
Strategies	4.1	Participate in Learning and Leading Strategy
	4.2	Continue to lead and participate in communities of practice efforts.
	4.3	Review and enhance standards of conduct guidelines for all staff.
	4.4	Develop a comprehensive staff training program
	4.5	Continue to develop and improve employee recognition program.

Branch Objective 5: Improved Information Technology		
Strategies	5.1	Develop and implement integrated information system to meet overall business functions of the branch.
	5.2	Enhancing existing online web applications to enable the addition of Class D licence applications.
	5.3	Phase II of REGIS, enabling contactors to submit online expense claims.