

Casinos in Saskatchewan

How many casinos are there in Saskatchewan?

There are five casinos run by the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA) and two casinos run by the Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation (SGC). SIGA is also developing a new casino in Swift Current.

Where are the SIGA casinos located?

There are five casinos operated by the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority:

- Gold Eagle opened February 1996 in North Battleford.
- Northern Lights opened March 1996 in Prince Albert.
- Bear Claw opened November 1996 on the White Bear First Nation.
- Painted Hand opened December 1996 in Yorkton.
- Dakota Dunes opened August 2007 on the Whitecap Dakota First Nation.

How are these casinos operated?

First Nations gaming in Saskatchewan is conducted through an agreement between the provincial government and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN). The FSIN formed SIGA to operate the casinos on its behalf.

How many people are employed at SIGA casinos?

As of March 31, 2007, SIGA casinos employed 1,148 people, 81 per cent of whom are of Aboriginal heritage.

How much revenue do SIGA casinos generate?

In 2006-07, SIGA recorded a net income of \$48.8 million.

Where do SIGA profits go?

Net profits from SIGA casinos are split, with 37.5 per cent of net income provided to the provincial government's General Revenue Fund and 37.5 per cent provided to the First Nations Trust. Because all five SIGA casinos are located on reserve land, the remaining 25 per cent is directed to Community Development Corporations (CDCs).

What are these funds?

The government's General Revenue Fund helps fund essential programs and services in areas such as highways, health care and education.

The First Nations Trust supports economic development, social development, justice, health, education, recreation, culture and other First Nations initiatives. (The Trust is administered by an independent board of trustees. Saskatchewan First Nations and Metis Relations is responsible for monitoring administration of the Trust).

Community Development Corporations (CDC) fund economic development, social development, justice, health, education, recreation, culture and other related initiatives among First Nations and non-First Nations charities in and around the communities where SIGA casinos are located. (CDCs are run by independent boards in each community and are comprised of representatives from Tribal Councils and representatives from the local community and surrounding area).

Where are SGC casinos located?

The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation (SGC), a Treasury Board Crown Corporation established in June 1994, operates two casinos:

- Casino Regina opened January 1996.
- Casino Moose Jaw opened September 2002.

How many people are employed at SGC casinos?

As of March 31, 2007, SGC casinos employed 1010 staff, approximately 50 per cent of whom are of Aboriginal heritage.

How much revenue do SGC casinos generate?

In 2006-07, SGC recorded a net income of \$34.9 million.

Where do SGC profits go?

Net profits from SGC are split, with 50 per cent of net income retained by the provincial government's General Revenue Fund, 25 per cent to the First Nations Trust and 25 per cent provided to the Community Initiatives Fund (CIF).

What is the Community Initiatives Fund?

The Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) distributes casino profits to many different community initiatives that benefit Saskatchewan people including exhibition associations and community groups for projects that enhance human development and community vitality. The fund is administered by an independent government appointed Board of Trustees and is accountable to government through Saskatchewan Culture, Youth and Recreation.

What is done to promote responsible gaming?

In 2007-08, a total of \$4.5 million will be allocated for problem gambling initiatives in Saskatchewan. (The government allocates \$2.5 million and, through the Gaming Agreement with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, an additional \$2 million is allocated for First Nations problem gambling initiatives).