

## VLTs in Saskatchewan

### **When was the VLT program started?**

The VLT program was initiated in 1993 at the request of the hospitality industry. The industry was concerned that local businesses, especially in rural Saskatchewan, were being hurt by Saskatchewan people going to play VLTs in neighboring jurisdictions. Introduction of the VLT program supported the rural communities by providing an additional form of entertainment for liquor permitted hotels and lounges.

### **What's the difference between VLTs and slot machines?**

VLTs and slot machines are both considered electronic gaming devices. In Saskatchewan, VLTs are located in licensed establishments. Revenues from VLTs go to the the government's General Revenue Fund and the site contractors.

Slot machines are located at the province's five SIGA casinos as well as Casinos Moose Jaw and Regina. Revenues from slot machines go to Saskatchewan First Nations, the government's General Revenue Fund and to help support charitable causes.

### **How many VLTs are there in Saskatchewan?**

As of March 31, 2007, there were 3,929 VLTs in 669 sites located in 312 communities. The cap for VLTs in Saskatchewan is 4,000 machines.

### **What is the annual profit from VLTs?**

Provincial net income from VLTs was \$175.0 million for 2006-07. Site contractor revenues were \$36.6 million.

### **How are VLT profits spent?**

The government's net income from the VLT program helps fund essential programs and services provided to all communities in Saskatchewan, including healthcare, highways and education.

### **Where can VLTs be located?**

VLTs can only be located in age-restricted liquor permitted establishments. There must be a minimum seating capacity of 30 seats in the age-restricted area to be eligible for VLTs.

### **Is there a minimum/maximum number of VLTs per site?**

Participating sites have a minimum of three and maximum of 12 VLTs.

(continued on reverse)

### **What is the payout percentage for VLTs?**

On average, the payout rate for VLTs in Saskatchewan is 92.5 per cent of money wagered. Payout is determined by the frequency and prize value of the winning combinations. *(Payout percentages are based on millions of plays. Individual play experience will vary).*

### **What does SLGA do to promote responsible use of VLTs?**

The government promotes the responsible use of VLTs by restricting access to those 19 years of age and older and by placing responsible use messages on the VLTs. Government also provides training to hospitality industry staff in developing socially responsible business practices, recognizing signs of problem gambling and being aware of provincial and community services available to assist those who have a problem. SLGA has committed to help fund various problem gambling activities, including operation of the toll-free problem gambling help line and the Saskatchewan Responsible Gaming Association (SRGA). SRGA has a diverse membership which is committed to the ongoing development of programs and services to further the concept and actions of responsible gaming.

### **What type of responsible gaming software is installed on Saskatchewan VLTs?**

As part of the government's commitment to responsible gaming, all VLTs feature responsible gaming software:

- The amount wagered is shown in dollars, rather than credits, to make players more aware of winnings or losses in actual dollars;
- A clock which shows the actual time of day to enhance player awareness of the time of day and offset the 'loss of time' phenomenon noted by problem gamblers;
- A 'pop up' reminder interrupts the player every 30 minutes, stating the amount of time the VLT has been played since the last cash-out or zero balance and requiring a response in order to continue playing; and
- An enhanced banner display that allows a variety of responsible gaming messages to raise player awareness of options such as the problem gambling help line.