

# Newslink

Problem Gambling News & Information

A source of news, views and trends



Canadian Foundation On  
Compulsive Gambling  
(Ontario)

Fall Issue 1999

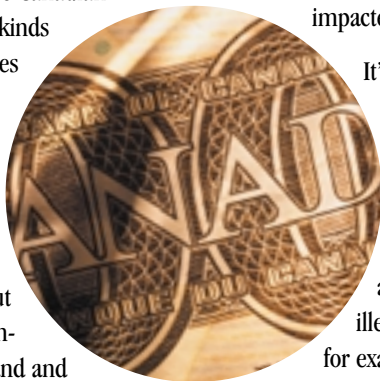
## Taking a Glance at Underground Gambling

### FEATURE ARTICLE

To some people, gambling is a vice. For many more it is enjoyable entertainment. Historically, gambling has been in and out of favour with governments and societies. They have alternatively embraced it or banned it depending on the attitudes of the day. These days, not only have Canadian governments legalized most kinds of gambling, but in most cases they own, operate and regulate this multi-billion dollar industry. There is the question, however, of illegal gambling.

In fact, many questions about illegal gambling remain unanswered. Why is there a demand and a need for it? Who gambles illegally? Who provides it? Is organized crime involved? Perhaps most importantly, how can we help the problem gamblers who gamble in illegal settings.

Canada has had both legal and illegal gambling for years. But changes to the Criminal Code in 1969 and 1985 enabled legalized gambling to reach its current level. The first amendment gave the federal and provincial governments the option to run lotteries and expand charity gambling practices. The 1985 change to the Criminal Code, handed exclu-



sive control of gambling to the provinces and allowed them to provide computer, video and slots gambling.

This proved to be very lucrative for government. Estimates are that last year, more than sixty billion dollars was wagered in legalized gambling facilities in Canada. But how has this massive increase in legalized gambling impacted illegal gambling?

It's hard to say. Law enforcement agencies have not kept proper records of charges related to illegal gambling. In many cases, the law is not clear about what is legal and illegal. Betting with a bookie, for example, is legal but it is illegal for a bookie to "keep a book" or to solicit bets. Illegal gambling has also not been a priority for police services across the country and therefore few cases have been prosecuted. But that's slowly changing. Toronto Police Detective Dave Harlock says, the Ontario Illegal Gaming Enforcement Unit was formed in November of 1996 to combat the problem, which is not an easy task.

CFCG also spoke with a gambler, who was prepared to discuss illegal gambling on the

**Continued page 3**

## Conference 2000

People like Mark Griffiths and Joanna Franklin will present at the CFCG's next conference in Niagara Falls on May 1 and 2, 2000. The theme is "Bridging the Gap". Will you be there too?

[More on page 8.](#)

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# InfoSource

## Responsible Gambling InfoSource

Need material for a presentation?

Got a question about statistics?

Want current information on government/  
community programs?

The CFCG(O) InfoSource program is here to help. We can provide information, research special issues, gather background material and deliver it to you in easy to use formats.

Help is as close as a phone call!

In the Toronto area at 499-9800 Ext. 41

Outside the Toronto area at 1-888-391-1111

e-mail: [infosource@cfcg.org](mailto:infosource@cfcg.org)

On the Web: [www.responsiblegambling.org](http://www.responsiblegambling.org)

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# Conference 2000

## Conference 2000 - An Event Fit for a New Millennium

Planning for the CFCG Conference 2000 is well underway. The committee will have details in your hands no later than the end of December 1999.

Next year's event will take place at the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel in Niagara Falls, Ontario, May 1-3. The committee is pleased to advise that such well-known speakers as Mark Griffiths (Nottingham-Trent University) and Joanna Franklin, just to name two presenters, have agreed to be with us to share their expertise in problem and responsible gambling.

One of the highlights of the event will be an Awards Evening honouring achievement in responsible and problem gambling. The evening will include a surprise guest of honour. Sorry, we can't tell you who it is. You just have to be there to find out.

# From the Executive Director

Since its inception in 1983 the Foundation has been a hub of information about many aspects of gambling - particularly problem gambling.

Information arrives on a daily basis from the press, the U.S. Councils, governments, counsellors and a wide variety of contacts. We, at CFCG(O) have used this information in our publications, community presentations and interviews. We have also provided information to a wide variety of inquirers who called the Foundation.

Earlier this year we initiated the InfoSource program - a service intended to make our information resources much more accessible. To do this we enhanced our information gathering capability making it more systematic and more comprehensive. More importantly, the Foundation opened up new channels for counsellors, the press, professionals and the public to get useful, customized information on problem gambling topics.

As of November 1, the InfoSource service has a dedicated staff person - Angela Shulman. As the primary InfoSource contact person, Angela will be available to help callers clarify

their information needs, find the materials, documents or sources they need and, if necessary, search out new information.

Those of you who have visited the CFCG(O) website over the last few weeks will have seen that our website is undergoing major reconstruction. This overhaul is intended to enable people to get much more information. In addition, our site will serve a gateway function connecting inquirers directly to other information sources.



InfoSource is more than a service improvement. It also represents a greater emphasis on supporting the work of other professionals and connecting inquirers with other experts in the field.

A decade ago CFCG(O) was virtually the only source of expertise on problem and compulsive gambling in Ontario. That picture has now changed dramatically. Many organizations and individuals have developed expertise on a variety of problem gambling topics. CFCG(O) will play an active role in connecting the experts with those who need advice and information.

# A L E R T

## New Construction on the Responsible Gambling highway!

CFCG(O) is reconstructing its website.

Watch for the exciting new site at our new location -  
[www.responsiblegambling.org](http://www.responsiblegambling.org)



condition that he remain anonymous and he reports that illegal gambling operations are housed in legitimate businesses or social clubs, such as restaurants, bars, coffeehouses, pool halls, corner grocery stores and arcades, to name a few. Virtually all employ restrictive membership policies. He says, a stranger can't walk in off the street and join the club. You must be invited by a member. Moreover, individuals seek them because of all the advantages, the most common of which is poker, sports betting, and mah jong. Illegal gamblers also seek them because these operations often offer longer hours, better odds, lines of credit, special customer services and familiar surroundings.

So who is going to these facilities? Detective Harlock says, just about anyone. People who gamble are all ages, from poor to the very rich and from all different ethnic backgrounds. But our gambling source says, most of the individuals he has seen in his social clubs are middle-aged men.

But why are they going to gamble illegally? Well, the picture is quiet clear. "Why would a person want to go to, let's say, a legal casino, where there are tons of machines, very few poker tables and a room full of strangers, when they could walk down the street, meet up with some good friends, have dinner, play a few hours of poker, place a bet on a hockey game, put his picks in on the football pool and potentially walk away with roughly three hundred dollars?" In the view of our source, it seems obvious why some people prefer to gamble illegally. It can be comfortable, convenient, friendly and fun. Plus, some places could give you a line of credit if you were in a jam. And getting into a jam is not very difficult. Our source has seen illegal gamblers lose forty thousand dollars in one year. That, he believes, is a lot of money for a little bit of friendly fun. Many illegal gamblers try to make up for lost dollars, and that gets



dangerous. Most illegal gamblers choose not to gamble every night, but he says, if you wanted to, facilities would always welcome new people prepared to win or lose money, as long as you had a buddy in the gambling loop.

Detective Harlock says, many gamblers believe the odds are better gambling illegally. But that, he says, is a misconception. The truth is that illegal gambling is "shrouded in misconception, mythology and misinformation." (Rosencrance, 1998, p.88.)

A recently released study by the Canada West Foundation sheds some light on the subject. The study examined the extent to which illegal gambling, gambling-related crime and crimes by problem gamblers impacted communities in Western Canada. Far from hard facts, they present findings that contrast with common assumptions. For example: organized crime plays a major role in illegal gambling; there is an undercurrent of violence, corruption of public officials and cheating associated with illegal gambling; expanded legal gambling offerings will reduce the incidence of illegal gambling; illegal gambling can be and is effectively controlled.

The study revealed that there is no evidence that organized crime dominates the illegal gambling markets. They may be involved in the business of illegal gambling, but their focus is on drug dealing and the sex trade. Regarding the corruption of public officials, very little evidence indicated that political corruption is a factor. It seems clear that expanded gambling coupled with the presence of police may actually stabilize crime and violence. Also, while illegal gambling is not pervasive in western Canada, it is so in the four largest cities.

Detective Harlock says, this is probably true of Ontario too, with Toronto, Hamilton, Niagara Falls, Windsor and Ottawa being the main hubs in illegal gambling. The study also found that most illegal gambling is done with bookies, in card clubs, unlicensed VLT's and off-shore lottery sales.



Toronto Detective Dave Harlock says, there will always be illegal gambling and it is growing. Statistics Canada reported that in 1998 there were 443 incidences reported to police of illegal betting and gaming in Canada. How many of those actually resulted in charges, is unknown. Law enforcement officials are finding that many operators are setting up shop close to legal gambling facilities. This trend began when charity casinos were operational and has continued. These places are popular because the odds are perceived to be better, the games are more varied and lines of credit are available. However our source says, poker is not a matter of odds being better. You just have to be good at the game, he says. And our source does agree with Detective Harlock, that there tends to be a greater comraderie and well developed relationships with the operators and bookies.

For those concerned about reducing problem gambling, illegal gambling presents a real conundrum. In a legal site like a casino or race track, there is a variety of responsible gambling programs like posters, the Helpline information, self exclusion forms, security, staff training and so on. In illegal settings these safeguards are non-existent. Yet the risk of problem or compulsive gambling will be at least as great, if not greater, in illegal venues.

In some ways illegal gambling presents the same dilemma for problem gambling counselors as Internet gambling. It is practically impossible to access the venue with awareness and prevention materials. Moreover the issues of enforcement are not likely to be resolved soon.



For the foreseeable future it seems that the most effective way to reach illegal gamblers and their families is through prevention/awareness programs aimed at the general public, including the gamblers.

Organizations such as the Foundation have begun to look at the issue from a prevention of problem-gambling point of view.

# CFCG(O) Welcomes New Faces to the Board of Directors

At its Annual General Meeting last summer, the Foundation membership elected four new Board members. CFCG(O) is very pleased to welcome:

Tim Hurson is a writer, marketing strategist and creative director with over 20 years experience in communications. Tim was a founding partner of Manifest



Communications serving as its President until 1996. He now works with public and private sector organizations on a wide variety of innovation and problem solving topics.

Tim is also an author of several articles on improving creativity in the workplace. He is a volunteer with other organizations like the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, Opera Ontario, the YMCA Employment and Community Services Advisory Committee and several others.

John Millson is the President and CEO of Windsor Raceway. He served as a Member of Windsor City Council and then as Mayor from 1982 through



1991. John has been a Director and Task Force Member of numerous Municipal Boards, Commissions and racing industry organizations including the Ontario Horse Racing Industry Association (OHRIA), Racetracks of Canada, the Windsor Police Commission and Harness Tracks of America. He has been a leading proponent of responsible gambling.

Pamela Fralick is President and CEO of the Collegium of Work and Learning, a non-profit organization that champions the need to prepare youth for lifelong transitions between work and learning. She has worked on issues of public concern for over 20 years including addictions treatment, research, education, policy and program development. Pamela is also active with many other community organizations including the YMCA, and Triathlon Canada. After many years with the Federal government Pamela served as Deputy Director of the Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse. She is currently on the Board of Directors of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. If this were not enough Pamela is also an active triathlete and dance writer.



David Steinbrecher is a financial analyst and the President of David Steinbrecher Associates - a firm specializing in independent market analysis services for private clients. David served over twenty years with the public service in Ontario as a senior policy and research advisor. After training in experimental psychology he became a Research Fellow with the United State Public Health Service at the University of California (Santa Barbara) and later conducted the in-flight "pilot factors" program with the United States Air Force Flight Dynamics Laboratory. Prior to coming to Canada, David was Director of the rehabilitation centre at the University of Texas Medical School - a program providing services to drug dependent adolescents.



## LIST OF DIRECTORS IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

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## Out of the gates...

On September 11, 1999, the Fort Erie Racetrack officially opened its new multi million dollar gaming floor (1,200 slots) and upgraded track facilities. This is the fourth of eighteen Ontario horse racing tracks set to

receive a total of 8,412 slots. Other race tracks that have already begun operating slots are: Windsor Raceway (712 slots last December), Hiawatha Horse Park (450 slots May 1999), and Mohawk Raceway (750 slots August 1999). Fraserville's Kawartha Downs (375 slots), London's Western Fair (300 slots) and Sudbury Downs (325 slots) are scheduled to open soon. Toronto's Woodbine

Racetrack (1,700 slots), Ottawa's Rideau-Carleton Raceway (1,200 slots) and Flamboro Downs in Dundas (750 slots) are scheduled to open this winter. The remaining eight tracks (Clinton, Hanover, Woodstock, Dresden, Barrie, Elmira, Picov Downs and Quinte ) have not yet announced when they will begin operating slots at their facilities.

# Chasing Lightning - Gambling in Canada

By Veronique Perrier Mandal and Chris Vander Doelen

United Church Publishing House, 1999

Review by: Heidi Stanley

The first two things that come to mind after reading Chasing Lightning - Gambling in Canada are that the book is informative and very user friendly. These are two important qualities necessary if the authors want to access a large audience in the market place.

And that is exactly what Perrier Mandal and Vander Doelen want to do. They have taken years of newspaper reporting, research and interviews and compiled ten chapters on this timely yet complicated subject. Chasing Lightning is an excellent overview of the world of problem gambling.

Though they do not profess to be experts in the field, the authors have managed to go out and find them. The reader will be

delighted to see familiar names of peers and other professionals who have presented at conferences, work in the casinos, treatment field and related government agencies, all willing to share their stories. Personal anecdotes in a section called "Into the Pit: Personal stories of Gambling Survivors" range from the sublime to the ridiculous, all inevitably putting a real face to the tragic side of the gaming business.

And what a business it is. The text provides clear examples and supportive documentation that presents both sides of the economic postulations and social costs. Though a bibliography would have been helpful, the end notes would certainly lead the reader to further resources.

The text is relatively well balanced with both the treatment and business sides fairly presented, without judgment. No lessons on morality here, unless you count the section on "The View from the Pulpits". And, though the authors acknowledge that the world of gambling is changing on a daily basis, with only one or two exceptions, the information is extremely current. Almost everything is covered, from gambling's quiet beginnings

with the gaming stick around 3500 BCE to the current controversies over VLT's and craps; it is all here.

The book is, quite simply, enlightening and easy to read. Even the sections mired in statistics manage to be sectioned carefully in an effort to allow the reader to move through the material with relative ease. And though the authors do jump around a bit from topic to topic, they have a lot to tell us.

And it's Canadian, Canadian from start to finish. This in itself makes it a valuable text and resource for practitioners, learners, members of the government and the public at large.

Finally, a textbook I might even be able to use!

Heidi Stanley is the Coordinator of the Addictions: Treatment and Prevention Postgraduate Diploma Program at Georgian College in Orillia. She teaches a course called "The Nature of Problem and Compulsive Gambling" and is delighted to have found a textbook that may prove to the students that she is not making it all up.

**The book is available from the publisher. ISBN # 1-55134-097-6**

# Diary of a Powerful Addiction

By Alexandra King

Crown Publishing, 1999  
Manitoba.

Review by: Nanci Harris

Reading this book reminds one in some ways of watching a movie you have seen before: you know how it turns out but are still compelled to watch spellbound until the bitter end.

Diary of a Powerful Addiction is written in a creative style that is easy to read and encourages you to follow Alexandra King's journey as she finds herself enmeshed in an ongoing nightmare of loss and self deception. Ms. King's use of itemizing her financial losses through listing her bank withdrawals is a stark and effective way of helping the reader experience the impact of the addiction on her life. She is not afraid to be brutally honest in documenting the way in which the V.L.T.s began to consume her and be her substitute for all that she wasn't able to deal with in her life.

Especially useful from my perspective as a treatment service provider was her candid observations about the main triggers for

her growing dependence on the machines; the job loss and enormous effect on her self esteem and feelings of self worth; and the deteriorating relationship with her second husband and her daughters. What I would have also found useful was a deeper examination of her second husband's own growing addiction to the machines as this was an aspect of her story that felt less deeply examined.

Ms. King also does a useful critique of what treatment approaches she found helpful and not helpful. However, I did find her analysis of the gambling cycle and the evolution of V.L.T. use to be complicated and less engaging. The fact she discusses these in separate

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# Georgian graduates share their insights in the “real world”.

By Heidi Stanley

**G**eorgian College has graduated its second cohort of students from the Addictions: Treatment and Prevention Program. This post-graduate diploma program is unique in Canada because it offers training in the treatment of problem gambling. After more than 100 hours of gambling-specific training, the students completed a 512 hour internship with an agency of their choice. Many selected a setting with a gambling focus. We asked some of these recent grads to give us their observations about the real world of agency living.

## Classroom vs. reality

Overall, the students felt that they were prepared for the real world of problem gambling. They felt validated by the CFCG(O) conference in Ottawa and other professional development opportunities. They were pleased to discover that their learning was both relevant and current. When they entered a treatment facility, students found that the information and approaches they had learned equipped them well to support problem gamblers.

## What problem gamblers really look like

Many students realized that they had underestimated the far-reaching effects of the problem gamblers' actions, particularly with family members. Students seemed somewhat surprised at the extent of the isolation experienced by the problem gambler. They saw ruined lives and suicide attempts and quickly came to appreciate the strain gamblers experienced trying to keep their addictions hidden. Perhaps more surprising was the physical toll of the problem gambler. One student commented that her client often looked drained, pale and physically stressed. They found that clients struggled with their own self-esteem, seldom linking the low level of esteem to gambling.

The participants noted the relationship between drugs and alcohol and problem gambling. Yet, they also saw gamblers reporting other issues such as drug and alcohol dependencies while refusing to acknowledge their problem gambling. In the mind of at least one student observer, the gambling

client and substance abuse client were similar, only the “drug of choice” was different.

Putting faces to the learning was both painful and disconcerting. Still, students saw growth and change in clients as a result of their clinical approaches - like brief, solution- focused therapy. For many this was very rewarding.

Students were also surprised to find that, though the treatment providers understood the extent and seriousness of the problem, the general public was unaware of the risks and signs of problem gambling. This was underscored when students participated in community meetings and presentations. “The public apathy was palpable”, one commented. Students clearly saw that the public had little understanding of the potential harm of youth gambling activities. There was little appreciation that games like scratch tickets and gifts of lottery tickets, could lead to future problems.

All in all, the students felt that the internship better prepared them to work in the field. Many have been interviewed and hired as gambling therapists. This speaks to the value of the program and the quality of the internship experience.

*...the public had little understanding of the potential harm of youth gambling activities.*

Continued from page 5

## Diary of a Powerful Addiction

chapters at the end of the book does however allow the reader to choose whether or not to avail themselves of this information.

I especially liked that Ms. King spent time looking at the gender implications of V.L.T. use and the contextual factors that impact on why someone would become addicted. Her description of the help she received at the Women's Health Clinic, Counselling Services was very enlightening.

All in all, I found this an engaging, readable book that is not afraid to take an uncompromising look at this newest form of addiction. Ms. King has written this book in a style anyone can read and could benefit from whether they are a detached observer on the V.L.T. issue or as someone who is caught in the same nightmare.

Nanci Harris is the Program Director of the Jean Tweed Centre in Toronto.

The book is available at Chapters for \$22.95 plus 7% GST or through the publishers at [www.crownpublishing.mb.ca](http://www.crownpublishing.mb.ca)



# National Gambling Impact Study Commission

**A Summary by Joanna Franklin, MS, NCGC**

Director of Network Development and Training Trimeridian Inc. Indianapolis, Indiana

This past summer, with great fanfare, press coverage, speeches and TV cameras the NGISC, after two years and at a cost of about five million dollars, came to an end.

The NGISC set about collecting their data in over a dozen different cities and by listening for hours and hours to experts and public witnesses. Its report contains important recommendations that have the potential to make a big difference both in the gambling industry and the problem gambling field. Another interesting result has been the development of a new problem gambling survey tool.

## New Survey Tool

The NGISC conducted a new national prevalence study to determine, among other things, the number of problem and pathological gamblers in the U.S. today. The researchers developed a new survey tool called the NODS (National Opinion research center DSM-IV Screen for Gambling Problems). The NODS takes the science of prevalence studies to a new level. It measures lifetime and current gambling patterns, and for the first time ever quantifies several of the DSM-IV criteria. The NODS has effectively raised the bar for classification of problem and pathological gamblers, making it harder to qualify for either category.

## Some of the recommendations

### People and Places

Credit card cash advance machines, and other devices activated by debit or credit cards be banned from the immediate area where gambling takes place. This is because the easy availability of such machines encourages some gamblers to gamble more than they intended.

Gambling establishments implement policies to help ensure the safety of children on their premises and to prevent underage gambling. Such policies could include the following: Post local curfews and laws in public areas and inform guests traveling with minors of these laws; Train employees working in appropriate areas to handle situations involving unattended children; underage gambling; and alcohol and tobacco consumption or purchase.

### Problem and Pathological Gambling

Regulatory agencies require as a condition of licensure that each applicant adhere to the following: Adopt a clear mission statement as to applicant's policy on problem and pathological gambling; Appoint an executive of high rank to execute and provide



ongoing oversight of this corporate mission statement; Contract with a state-recognized gambling treatment professional to train management and staff to develop strategies for recognizing and addressing customers whose gambling behavior may strongly suggest they may be experiencing serious to severe difficulties; Under a state 'hold harmless statute', refuse service to any customers whose gambling behavior convincingly exhibits indications of problem or pathological gambling. Also, provide

the customer (described above) with written information that includes a state-approved list of professional gambling treatment programs and state recognized self-help groups.

Sufficient funding to address the following goals: Biennial prevalence research on adults, youth, women, elderly and minority group gamblers as well as a survey of gambling patrons from each form of gambling; Initiate public awareness, education and prevention programs aimed at vulnerable populations; Identify and maintain a list of gambling treatment services available from licensed or state-recognized professional providers and self-help groups; and Develop a treatment outcome mechanism that will compile data on the efficacy of varying treatment methods and services offered and determine if sufficient professional treatment is available to meet the demands of the person in need.

Each gambling facility implements procedures to allow for voluntary self-exclusion, enabling gamblers to ban themselves from a gambling establishment for a specific period of time.

Each state run or approved gambling operation be required to conspicuously post or disseminate the telephone numbers of at least two state-approved providers of problem gambling information, treatment and referral support services.

In Canada provinces provide treatment to those in need, ongoing research into the effectiveness of treatment, the demographics of clients seeking care, public awareness and education programs for a spectrum of citizens, groups and agencies. Clearly this sense of social responsibility in caring for citizens with gambling problems is a model for the U.S. Still, Canada can benefit from many of the ground breaking recommendations of this commission.

# New Staff Appointments:

## Canadian Foundation on Compulsive Gambling (Ontario)

In August, the Canadian Foundation on Compulsive Gambling (Ontario) was very pleased to welcome two new members.

### Geoff Noonan

Geoff Noonan joined the Foundation as Prevention Coordinator with lead responsibility for the CFCG awareness and prevention programs. He comes to us with a considerable background in problem gambling including several years with the Donwood Institute and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

Originally a Montrealler, Geoff has lived in Toronto since the early 90's. He has varied experience in educational programming, research, analysis, writing and editing. In addition, he has researched, written and pre-

sented papers on several aspects of problem gambling. His most recent work has been the continuing research (with Nigel Turner and John Macdonald) on prevention in adolescent gambling.

Geoff has recently designed and launched the Great Responsible Gambling Playwright Project. This project offers all Ontario grade 11, 12 and OAC students the opportunity to write a half hour play about responsible gambling.

### Laurie Bell

Laurie Bell came to the Foundation in August with extensive experience in professional development. As a matter of priority, Laurie is working with members of the gaming industry to redesign CFCG's gaming industry staff training program. She is also working with individuals and agencies in the problem gambling sector on other professional development projects.

## Stakeholders can rest easy.

Dutybound to report Y2K readiness, CFCG can assure all that its equipment, systems and services will remain uninterrupted at the Year 2000 changeover.

Laurie most recently worked as Training Coordinator with the Scarborough Distress Centre. She has considerable expertise in workshop design and delivery including such topics as suicide prevention, anger management and crisis intervention.

Laurie's educational background is also in psychology. She has had several years experience in the private sector prior to moving to the non-profit field.

Along with Anne Counter (Ontario Problem Gambling Helpline), Laurie organized the November 17 meeting of gambling counsellors from across the province.

## CFCG Launches the Great Responsible Gambling Playwright Project

We need teenagers to stand up and take notice. How can we begin to build awareness about problem and responsible gambling? Can we even compete when young people are bombarded with information everyday?

These are questions that all marketing companies wrestle with constantly. So, the Foundation started asking educators, gambling counsellors and students how best to get responsible gambling messages to students. We got some excellent ideas. Several people suggested contests to get teenagers to notice us. Geoff Noonan took these ideas and fashioned the Great Responsible Gambling Playwright Project.

The project will give students in grades 11 to OAC the opportunity to test their script-writing skills and learn about problem gambling at the same time. Participants will write a play

with a prevention and educational message, emphasizing the risks of problem gambling. Counsellors from across the province have generously agreed to act as expert advisors to plays being developed in their communities.

Six regional winners will be selected and recognized for their achievements. The best playwright will be awarded with tuition and the cost of books for one year at an Ontario post-secondary institution. The winner will receive the award at the reception planned as part of the Foundation's conference next May in Niagara.

The judging panel will consist of an educator, a playwright, a Ministry of Health and Long Term Care representative, a student as well as a CFCG representative.

It's not too late to enter. For more details you can contact Geoff Noonan.

CFCG gratefully thanks our sponsors:  
**The Ontario Substance Abuse Bureau (Ministry of Health and Long Time Care), Casino Niagara, Casino Rama and Casino Windsor.**

### Newslink

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