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2017

Annual report 2016-17, Alberta Gambling Research Institute

Alberta Gambling Research Institute

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OPPORT- UNITIES

Alberta Gambling Research Institute
Annual Report 2016 -17

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The Alberta Gambling Research Institute provides grant funding to support peer-endorsed academic investigations into many aspects of gambling research. The contents, recommendations, and findings of the associated research reports represent the views of the researcher(s).

For additional information on research grants and other Institute initiatives, see

www.abgamblinginstitute.ca

“If opportunity doesn’t knock,
build a door.”

– Milton Berle

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

On behalf of the Board of Directors I am pleased to present the 17th Annual Report of the Alberta Gambling Research Institute for the period ending March 31, 2017.

This was the first year of AGRI's fourth 5-year contract with the Province of Alberta, and the Board's activities reflect our renewed commitment to providing evidence of and insight into gambling behaviours and their consequences for individuals and the community as a whole.

The level of activity has increased sharply in recent years with the arrival of new researchers at each of the partner universities and with the maturation of the graduate and post-doctoral fellow programs. An important consequence is that AGRI's resources are now somewhat stretched and there is growing pressure to find partners to share the cost of research. Although gambling is very widely available throughout Canada and the world at large, and most governments gain substantial cash flow from it, the number of potential partners is surprisingly limited. Nevertheless, AGRI's researchers continue to be widely engaged with those in other jurisdictions so as to understand generally applicable principles and those aspects specific to

Alberta. To those ends, AGRI will co-host the North American Think Tank on gambling in conjunction with the 2017/2018 meeting in Banff.

The Board has spent a considerable amount of time and effort discussing strategic directions with AGRI's researchers and continues to work on maximizing AGRI's contributions to knowledge in general and to the base of evidence available to support policy formation. This included a strategic retreat in October 2016 that provided the basis for the subsequent planning.

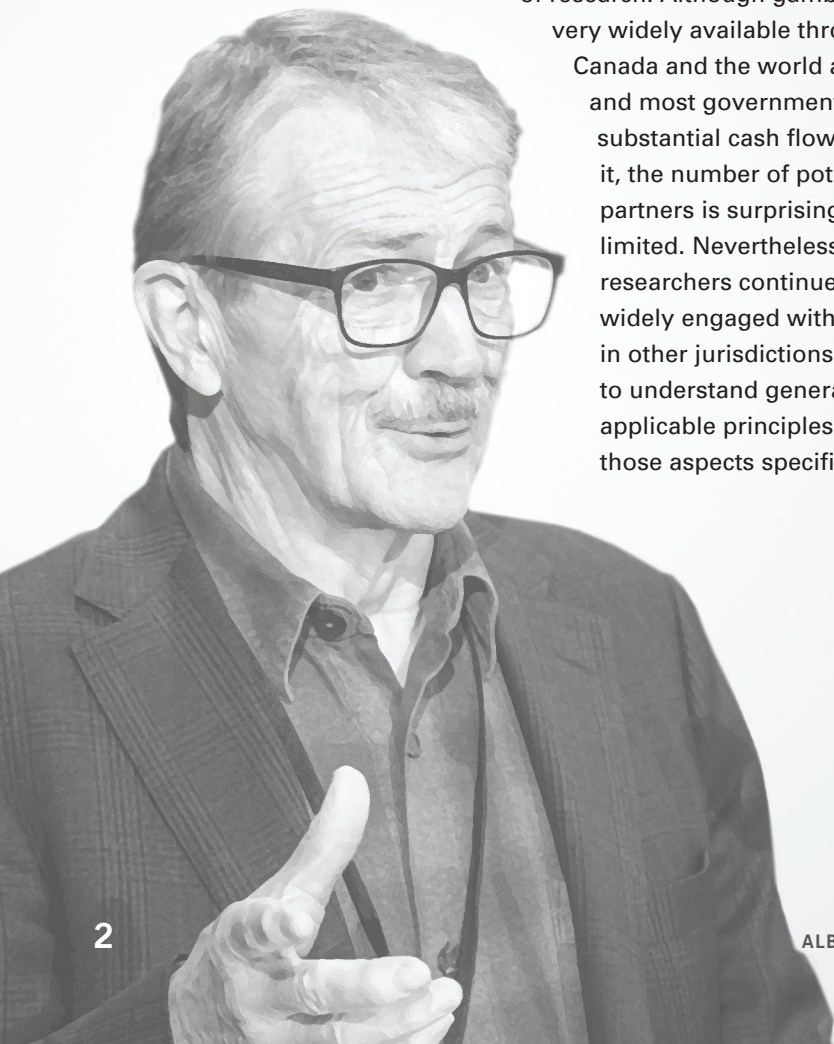
The year ahead offers excitement and challenge. Work continues on an integrated plan for a series of related studies, including a national statistical study of gambling prevalence done by Statistics Canada and funded by the Canadian Council on Gambling Research, of which AGRI is a founding member and to which AGRI is a major contributor. This study will be the first in more than a decade and a half, during which time the availability and the variety of modes of gambling have increased greatly. The other studies are designed to take advantage of the new datasets and to provide greater insight into problem gambling and its consequences.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the Board for their generous contributions of time and effort.

Sincerely,



Dr. Séamus O'Shea



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The theme of this year's annual report is 'opportunities', which is very fitting with a new Funding Agreement between the Government of Alberta, Treasury Board and Finance and the Institute. With the new five-year agreement, Treasury Board and Finance has provided the Institute the opportunity to continue its work in supporting and promoting research into gambling in Alberta.

This annual report provides an abstract (appropriate term in the research world!) of the activities of the Institute for 2016/2017. The high quality of gambling research resulting from Institute funded projects from the Institute's researchers, post-doctoral fellows, and scholarship recipients continues and their work is described in this annual report. Also included are summaries from AGRI's Research Director, Research Coordinators, and Gambling Chairs; notes about our scholarship recipients, library and website, research publications and collaborations; and the Institute's audited financial reports. I hope that readers will find the contents informative, interesting, and insightful.

On a more personal note, I have had the opportunity to meet, network, and establish relationships with Institute stakeholders, Partner Universities, and provincial, national, and international gambling-related researchers, which have all been greatly beneficial in my role as Executive Director. As well, the opportunity to have the Institute at the University of Calgary under the Office of the Vice President (Research) is greatly appreciated. These relationships and support afford the opportunity for me to deliver the resources I strive to provide.

The past fiscal year has continued to offer a wonderful learning experience for me as the Executive Director of the Institute.

I have now completed a full cycle of the Institute's activities, and I want to thank the Institute's Board, Research Director, Research Coordinators, Gambling Chairs, and Librarian for their support. Karen Buttner, AGRI Administrative Assistant, and I have established the administrative office's processes and procedures, and I would also like to thank Karen for her hard work and support. Although there will always be the opportunity to learn and become more efficient and effective, I look forward to now being able to provide resources and support to those who provided the same for me.

The new Institute agreement will mean that funding opportunities will go on well past 2016/2017, which is an exciting prospect. I truly believe these opportunities will lead to the continued success of the Institute.

Regards,



Glenda Wong



ABOUT THE ALBERTA GAMBLING RESEARCH INSTITUTE (AGRI)

VISION

To maximize the benefits while minimizing the negative impacts of gambling.

MISSION

To facilitate evidence-based broad research that informs gambling public policy and educates Albertans and the wider audience about the effects of gambling.

VALUES

- Independent and excellent multi-disciplinary research
- Scientific knowledge and information
- Collaboration
- Accountability and informing public policy

CORE PURPOSES

The Institute will:

1. expand the breadth and depth of scientific knowledge into gambling;
2. promote or direct research in those priorities and areas identified as part of the stakeholder priority action plan;
3. develop research capacity in the Partner Universities;

4. sponsor research that is peer reviewed and of the highest academic quality;
5. facilitate the transfer of knowledge and information to stakeholders, which includes, among other activities, maintaining a library collection;
6. forge strong collaborative links with stakeholders that include, but are not limited to, national and international scholars, organizations involved in gambling research and studies, policy-makers, government, gaming providers, and problem gambling treatment providers;
7. provide education about current knowledge through research publications, reporting of research results, and knowledge translation strategies; and
8. identify and pursue other potential funding sources.

CORE BUSINESSES

1. Develop and promote gambling-related research and disseminate results.
2. Develop and sustain gambling-related research infrastructure.
3. Establish and encourage national and international gambling-related research linkages.
4. Establish and efficiently conduct gambling-related research administration.

The Institute is governed and managed by an eight-member Board consisting of two directors appointed by and from each Partner University, an external member appointed by the Minister of Finance, and an external Board Chair appointed by the Vice Presidents, Research, of the Partner Universities. The Research and Executive Directors serve in advisory roles on the Board. [For biographical information, see 'Board of Directors', page 34]

Back row:

Nady el-Guebaly, Séamus O'Shea,
Cam Wild, Sandy Dougall, Claudia Malacrida

Front row:

Rhys Stevens, Constance Smith, Glenda Wong,
Tom Strong, Helen Kelley, Erin Gibbs Van Brunschot



RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITIES

REFLECTING ON A YEAR OF OPPORTUNITIES

Dr. Nady el-Guebaly, Research Director

In April 2016, confirmation of the renewal of the funding grant by the Government of Alberta resulted in a feverish planning process. Mindful of current economic constraints, the ultimate goal was to optimize precious resources towards the maintenance and enhancement of gambling research in our province.

A combined consultation process involving our researchers and stakeholders, within the province and nationally, led to a Board strategy meeting in October 2016, where the following strategic priorities were made based on an assessment of scientific impact and social relevance of our activities.

> A RECOMMITMENT TO OUR GRADUATE STUDENTS

This was the second year in a row in which we received twice the number of high quality scholarship applications than we could possibly fund. While wishing to accommodate most applicants based on their scientific potential, the Board recommitted to an allocation of approximately 50% of the total available research funds to scholarships at the Master's, Ph.D., and post-graduate levels across the three partner universities.

> THE SEARCH FOR A HIGH IMPACT PROJECT

Based on our successful experience with the Leisure, Lifestyle, and Lifecycle Project (LLLP)¹, Dr. Rob Williams led an exercise in which our Research Coordinators and Chairs were invited to synergize their expertise in building the proposed project. The proposed three-part project will consist of: (i) a national gambling prevalence survey; (ii), an interprovincial policy strategy review detailing the impacts of responsible gambling activities, and; (iii) corroborative projects sponsored by our researchers. Funding sponsorships are being sought out.

> MAINTENANCE OF OUR RESEARCH WORKFORCE CAPACITY

With the arrival of Dr. Fiona Nicoll at the U. of Alberta, the process of recruitment of sustainability positions across the three universities was completed. A glance at the next few years shows a need to both maintain and renew our workforce.

The above three strategic priorities will allow us to pursue and strengthen our collaborative efforts with provincial stakeholders including the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC) and its Responsible Gambling Council. New investigative ventures resulting from the pending marijuana legislation are contemplated. In addition, we continue to participate in major national initiatives such as the Low Risk Gambling Guidelines project, co-chaired by Dr. David Hodgins, as well as collaboration with the Canadian Consortium for Gambling Research (CCGR). Internationally, a highlight is our co-hosting of the International Think Tank on Gambling Research, Policy and Practice following our Annual Conference in Banff which will provide renewed impetus for collaboration among some 60 invited members. From my perspective, our current five-year window appears very promising.

Nady el-Guebaly, MD
Research Director



¹ A strategic multi-year grant funded by the Institute which funded a longitudinal study of gambling in Alberta. Findings from the study continue to inspire scientific analysis and new projects for both students and investigators.



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

DR. GARRY SMITH, RESEARCH COORDINATOR

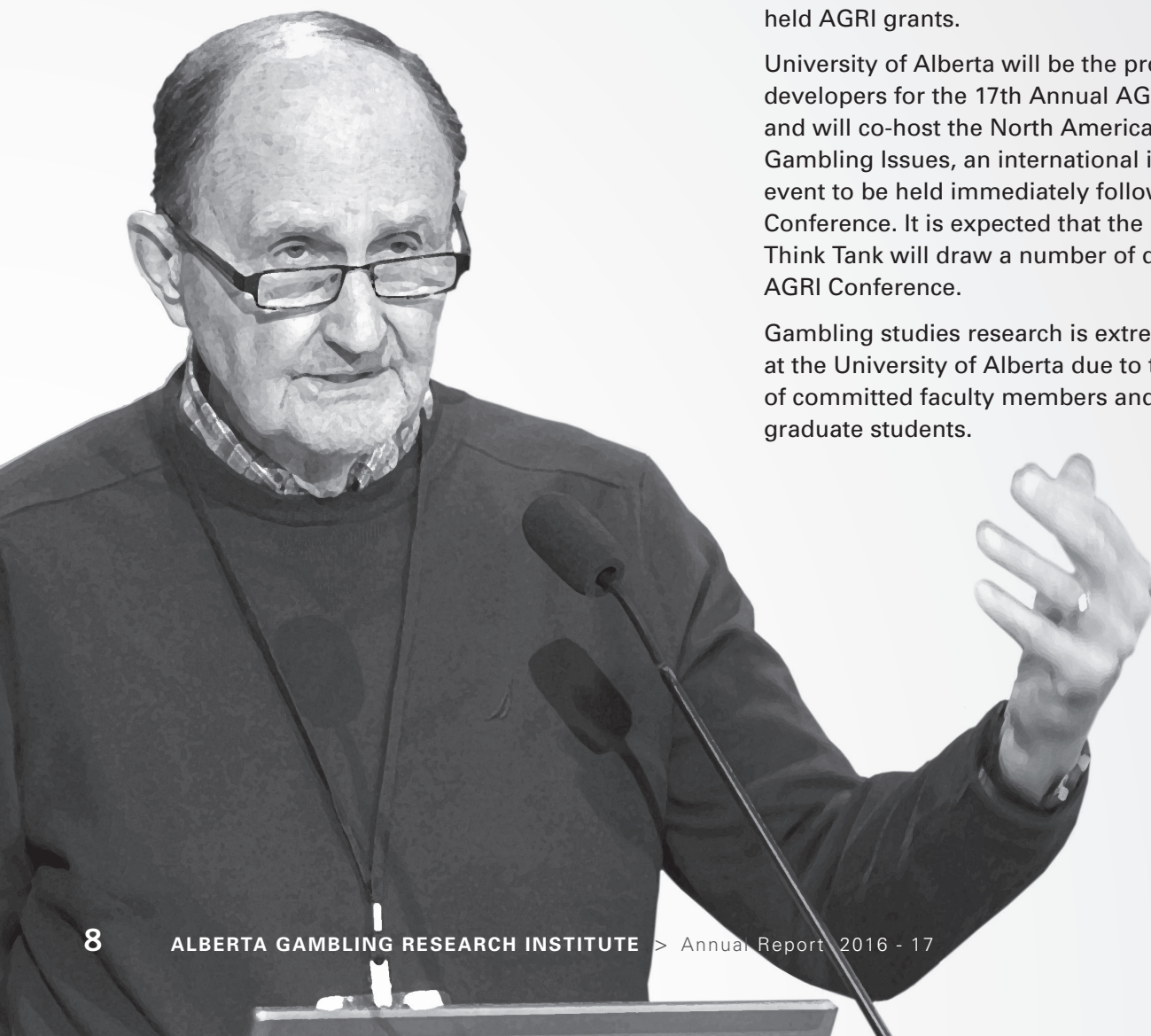
Dr. Garry Smith, Ph.D., is a University of Alberta Professor Emeritus who has been researching gambling-related topics for over thirty years. Dr. Smith has produced numerous government reports and articles for academic journals, as well as addressing national and international audiences on gambling-related matters. Currently, Dr. Smith serves as the University of Alberta Research Coordinator for the Alberta Gambling Research Institute. His research interests include gambling public policy, social and economic impacts of gambling, and sports gambling.

The 2016-17 fiscal year was a time of growth, opportunity, and stimulating administrative challenges. Dr. Fiona Nicoll came on board as the Chair of Gambling Studies in the Political Science Department. Among her notable achievements were inaugurating a new course in gambling studies, becoming part of an AGRI grant project examining responsible gambling issues, doing preparatory work on founding a new journal which will link gambling with cultural studies and the humanities, and recruiting Post-Doctoral Fellow Dr. Mark Johnson, an international expert on digital and online gambling and gaming. Dr. Anna Lund, an insolvency law scholar, joined the Faculty of Law and conducted research on gambling-related bankruptcies.

Faculty members in such disciplines as psychology, business, physical education, law, political science, and psychiatry continue to undertake research on gambling-related topics. In addition, six University of Alberta graduate students and several full-time faculty members held AGRI grants.

University of Alberta will be the program developers for the 17th Annual AGRI Conference and will co-host the North American Think Tank on Gambling Issues, an international invitation-only event to be held immediately following the AGRI Conference. It is expected that the North American Think Tank will draw a number of delegates to the AGRI Conference.

Gambling studies research is extremely active at the University of Alberta due to the interest of committed faculty members and graduate students.



DR. FIONA NICOLL, CHAIR IN GAMBLING RESEARCH



Dr. Fiona Nicoll, Ph.D., was appointed as the Alberta Gambling Research Institute Chair in Gambling at the University of Alberta in July 2016. Dr. Nicoll holds a Ph.D. in Cultural Studies from the University of Melbourne and is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Alberta. Dr. Nicoll has been publishing on cultural aspects of gambling spaces, products, and policies for over a decade and is completing a manuscript titled “Gambling in Everyday Life: Governing Spaces, Moments and Products of Enjoyment,” to be published by Routledge in 2018. Dr Nicoll’s research interests include intersections of finance and gambling, the “pokie lounge” as a space of neoliberal governance, Indigenous gambling, and Native American iconography in electronic gaming machine design.

Since commencing her appointment at the University of Alberta in July 2016, Dr. Nicoll has completed the research for her forthcoming manuscript with Routledge titled “Gambling in Everyday Life: Governing Spaces, Moments and Products of Enjoyment,” and contributed to published literature on Indigenous gambling. Two new research projects commenced in her first year: a meta-analysis of gambling research in Australia, New Zealand, North America, and the UK between 1996-2016; and a comparative study of Indigenous gambling policy in Australia,

North America, and New Zealand over the same period. The meta-analysis utilizes ‘big data’ methods to map patterns of funding, topics, disciplinary dominance, and citation in gambling research since the appearance and proliferation of high-intensity electronic gaming machines. She joined Dr. Garry Smith as co-investigator on an international research collaboration with Australian researchers from Central Queensland University, led by Professor Nerilee Hing, to more precisely delineate and promote responsible gambling in Alberta.

In the course of 2016-17, Dr. Nicoll consulted with leading international gambling researchers and early career researchers ahead of establishing a new journal: Critical Gambling Studies. The journal will publish the best research on gambling from academics based primarily in humanities and social science disciplines, currently under-represented in gambling research.

Dr. Nicoll was active in other knowledge transfer initiatives. She developed a new course in gambling policy for senior students to be incorporated into a new Masters of Public Policy program offered by the Department of Political Science in 2018-19. The course will involve AGRI colleagues and stakeholders, including the AGLC and the River Cree Casino, and provide students with a holistic understanding of regulated gambling in Alberta in the context of international scholarship in the field. To address rapidly changing contexts and global platforms of online gambling, including Esports and fantasy leagues, Dr. Nicoll raised funds for a visiting research fellowship to host Dr. Mark Johnson from the University of York (UK).

Dr. Johnson is an expert on the media platforms and social gaming practices where gambling and gaming converge. His visit will bring computer scientists from the University of Alberta who are leading global research in artificial intelligence (AI) together with colleagues in gaming studies and politics from the Faculty of Arts.



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

DR. DAVID HODGINS, RESEARCH COORDINATOR

Dr. David C. Hodgins, Ph.D., is a Professor in the Program in Clinical Psychology in the Department of Psychology, University of Calgary. Dr. Hodgins is the University of Calgary's Research Coordinator for the Alberta Gambling Research Institute and is a registered Clinical Psychologist in Alberta. His work focuses on the clinical aspects of recovery from addictive disorders, including brief motivational interventions. He has an active research lab of clinical psychology trainees.

The theme of "opportunities" described gambling research at the University of Calgary in 2016-17 where Drs. Hodgins and McGrath continued to have flourishing research labs. An average of 12 students and research assistants attended our

joint biweekly research meetings. In addition, a number of other faculty members conducted gambling projects as part of larger research programs. Six University of Calgary doctoral graduate students were supported by AGRI scholarships, and numerous research assistants and undergraduate students gained exposure to gambling research through the active small and large research projects. Dr. Seema Mutti, our AGRI-funded post-doctoral fellow, was diligently working to extract useful findings from the Leisure, Lifestyle, and Lifecycle Project (LLLP) dataset. She was recently joined by Dr. Shakeel Kalathil, a post-doctoral fellow working on the Gambling Family Study.

One of the most exciting opportunities in 2016-17 came with the establishment of the International Behavioural Addictions and Impulse Control Disorder Network, a joint University of Calgary and University of São Paulo research collaboration. Dr. McGrath and Andrew Kim, one of our doctoral students, travelled to Brazil to further the collaboration. The hope is to have regular student exchanges focused on clinical gambling research.

Drs. Hodgins and McGrath continue to have the opportunity to serve the community through responding to media requests for research-based information on gambling as well as speaking regularly at local and international conferences.

DR. DAN MCGRATH, CHAIR IN GAMBLING RESEARCH

Dr. Daniel McGrath, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology and is the Alberta Gambling Research Institute Chair in Gambling Research at the University of Calgary. Dr. McGrath's research focuses on the behavioural pharmacology of substance use and gambling, and his primary research interests involve studying the impact of addictive substances (e.g., tobacco and alcohol) on gambling outcomes and behaviour. Dr. McGrath's other interests include underlying motives for gambling as well as cognitive biases associated with problematic gambling.

Over the course of 2016-2017, Dr. McGrath was involved in a series of research projects. First,



several studies were conducted in the Substance Use and Gambling Laboratory on motives in gambling. Along with Christina Rash, a graduate student in the lab, Dr. McGrath conducted the first study on reasons why non-gamblers avoid gambling. This study was published in the *Journal of Gambling Studies*. This line of research is currently being extended with other populations of gamblers. Along with Dr. Kibeom Lee, Dr. McGrath investigated the role of personality in gambling. They have recently completed the first full-scale study of the HEXACO model in disordered gambling. Dr. McGrath also maintained an active research stream involving the use of eye-gaze tracking technology in collaboration with Dr. Chris Sears. Over the course of 2016-17, three eye-tracking projects were completed, and several more were initiated.

Dr. McGrath actively pursued grant funding from a number of agencies. In his collaborations with Dr. David Hodgins, Dr. McGrath secured a large AGRI grant to study the effects of gambling outcomes on drinking behavior. In addition, Dr. McGrath and University of Calgary collaborators Dr. Hodgins and Dr. Kristin von Ranson formally established the International Behavioural Addictions and Impulse Control Disorders Network. This enterprise is a collaboration between the University of Calgary and the University of São Paulo. Dr. McGrath

was awarded a University of Calgary Eyes High International Collaborative Grant to support these efforts. Aside from his research, Dr. McGrath has been actively supervising students. As of September 2017, three graduate students will be in the lab, and Dr. McGrath will co-supervise a fourth. In addition, several research assistants and undergraduate students have been actively conducting research.

UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE

DR. ROBERT WILLIAMS, RESEARCH COORDINATOR

Dr. Rob Williams, Ph.D., is a Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Lethbridge, and a Research Coordinator for the Alberta Gambling Research Institute. Dr. Williams teaches courses on gambling; provides frequent consultation to government, industry, the media, and public interest groups; regularly gives expert witness testimony on the impacts of gambling; and is a co-editor of *International Gambling Studies*. Dr. Williams is widely published and is a leading authority in the areas of: prevention of problem gambling, the etiology of problem gambling, Internet gambling, the socioeconomic impacts of gambling, the proportion of gambling revenue deriving from problem gamblers, the prevalence and nature of gambling in Aboriginal communities, and best practices in the population assessment of problem gambling.

In 2016-17, gambling research at the University of Lethbridge continued to involve faculty and students from a myriad of different academic disciplines. Departments represented included Education, Mathematics, Sociology, Addictions Counselling, Psychology, Native American Studies, Neuroscience, Political Science, and Public Health. In total there were approximately 15 to 20 people engaged in gambling research at the university. Several AGRI-funded research projects are ongoing: "Implications of Integration of Mental Health and Addiction Systems for Problem Gambling Treatment: Case Studies of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Ontario," involves Dr. Darren Christensen (Health Sciences) and Dr. Rebecca Hudson Breen (Health Sciences); "Examining the Relationship between Problem Gambling

and Problematic Video Game Use,” involves Dr. James Sanders (Addictions Counselling) and Dr. Rob Williams (Health Sciences); “Gambling Disorder vs Alcohol Use Disorder: Comparing Treatment Outcomes with Congruence Couple Therapy,” involves Dr. Bonnie Lee (Addictions Counselling) and Dr. Darren Christensen (Health Sciences); “Neural Mechanisms of Gambling,” involves Dr. David Euston (Neuroscience), and “Naltrexone-Imaging Study,” involves Dr. Darren Christensen (Health Sciences).

As in past years, the Gambling Research Group met monthly during the academic year and showcased the work of the gambling researchers at the University of Lethbridge. This year the meetings were very capably organized by graduate student Gillian Russell.

In addition to faculty members, undergraduate and graduate students were actively involved in gambling research, either as part of theses, independent studies, or as research assistants. Two Lethbridge graduate students (Catherine Laskowski and Samuel Ofori Dei) also received Institute scholarships for the 2016-17 academic year.



DR. DARREN CHRISTENSEN, CHAIR IN GAMBLING RESEARCH

Dr. Darren Christensen, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences and is the Alberta Gambling Research Institute’s Chair in Gambling Research at the University of Lethbridge. Dr. Christensen’s research is focused on behavioural and pharmacological treatments for gambling, the experiences of gambling venue workers, and harm minimisation measures. These studies provide opportunities for gamblers to receive treatment and for students to research issues relating to gambling.

Dr. Christensen and colleagues worked on the following research projects in 2016-17: animal models of gambling (Dr. Euston), drug treatment for gambling disorder (Drs. Hodgins, Goodyear, Crockford, and Lim), terrestrial (Drs. Leighton and Hudson-Breen) and on-line behavioural treatments for gambling disorder (Drs. Witcher and Leighton and Ms. Bernard), and a relationship-focused treatment for alcohol and gambling disorders (Drs. Lee, Greenshaw, Aitchison, and Awosoga). Dr. Christensen’s drug treatment study was featured on the CTV television network in Calgary and Toronto, and information about his behavioural and pharmacological treatment studies are available from AGLC GameSense Info Centres.

Dr. Christensen supervised three post-graduate University of Lethbridge students in 2016-17. They investigated theoretical models of gambling etiology, experience, and accessibility. Currently, he is investigating the experiences of gambling venue workers in two studies facilitated by undergraduate students. One study examines the experiences of venue workers in the cruise ship industry, and the other examines the experiences of venue workers in an Alberta casino.



MAJOR AND SMALL GRANTS

The Institute contributes to the development of the knowledge base in gambling-related research in a number of ways. An annual call for proposals is issued in May (with an end-of-June submission deadline) soliciting applications from researchers to address stakeholder-identified high-priority research topics as well as those identified by researchers themselves. The submissions are subjected to a rigorous peer review process which involves the critical review of proposals by external experts with related areas of expertise. This type of review process provides the most reliable means of ensuring that only the highest quality research submissions receive Institute funding.

RESEARCH PROJECTS (NEW, ONGOING, AND COMPLETED IN 2016-17)

In 2016-17, the following new Research Grant proposals were approved:

- [#79 Major Grant 2016-17] Gambling Responsibly: Measuring and Validating Responsible Gambling Behaviours Amongst Regular Gamblers in Alberta – Dr. Garry Smith (U of Alberta) [Priority: **Public Policy, Internet Gambling and Treatment**]
- [#S42 Small Grant 2016-17] A Comparison of Attentional Biases by Preferred Gambling Activity: An Eye-Tracking Study – Dr. Daniel McGrath (U of Calgary) [Priority: **Longitudinal Research**]
- [#S43 Small Grant 2016-17] Sex Differences in Cross-Priming for Gambling Among Stimulant Users – Dr. Daniel McGrath (U of Calgary) [Priority: **Treatment**]

AS OF MARCH 31, 2017, THE FOLLOWING RESEARCH PROJECTS WERE ONGOING² AS FUNDING WAS PROVIDED IN PREVIOUS GRANT CYCLES:

- [#66 Major Grant 2013-14] Needs, Gambling, and Well-being – Dr. Gordon J. Walker (U of Alberta) [Priority: **Longitudinal Research**]

- [#67 Major Grant 2013-14] The Role of Memory Distortions in Gambling – Dr. Marcia Spetch (U of Alberta) [Priority: **Internet Gambling**]
- [#68 Major Grant 2014-15] Family Study of Executive Functioning Deficits in Gambling Disorder – Dr. Vina Goghari (U of Calgary) [Priority: **Longitudinal Research and Treatment**]
- [#69 Major Grant 2014-15] Naltrexone-Imaging Study – Dr. Darren Christensen (U of Lethbridge) [Priority: **Treatment**]
- [#70 Major Grant 2014-15] Neural Mechanisms of Gambling – Dr. David R. Euston (U of Lethbridge) [Priority: **Treatment**]
- [#72 Major Grant 2014-15] Lottery Winners and Bankruptcy Filers – Dr. Barry Scholnick (U of Alberta) [Priority: **Public Policy**]
- [#73 Major Grant 2014-15] Gambling Disorder Vs. Alcohol Use Disorder: Comparing Treatment Outcomes with Congruence Couple Therapy – Dr. Bonnie K. Lee (U of Lethbridge) & Dr. Darren Christensen (U of Lethbridge) [Priority: **Treatment**]
- [#74 Major Grant 2015-16] Reducing the Allure of Winning Cues in Gambling – Dr. Marcia Spetch (U of Alberta) [Priority: **Public Policy and Treatment**]
- [#75 Major Grant 2015-16] Implications of Integration of Mental Health and Addiction Systems for Problem Gambling Treatment: Case Studies of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Ontario – Dr. Darren Christensen & Dr. Gabriela Novotna (U of Lethbridge) [Priority: **Public Policy and Treatment**]
- [#76 Major Grant 2015-16] Towards Understanding Addiction Substitution: An Examination of Substituted vs. Recovered Gamblers – Dr. David Hodgins (U of Calgary) [Priority: **Longitudinal Research and Treatment**]

² Principal Investigators (PIs) of ongoing Institute-funded research projects are required to submit annual research project status reports using the Institute-provided template every April.

- [#77 Major Grant 2015-16] Identifying Psychological Factors that Are Predictive of Attentional Bias in Gamblers: An Eye-tracking Study – Dr. Daniel S. McGrath (U of Calgary) [Priority: **Treatment**]
- [#78 Major Grant 2015-16] Examining the Relationship between Problem Gambling and Problematic Video Game Use – Dr. James Sanders (U of Lethbridge) [Priority: **Internet Gambling and Treatment**]
- [#S39 Small Grant 2015-16] Public Stigma of Gambling Disorder: Attitudes Toward Gambling and the Effect of Labels – Jennifer Prentice, Leanne Quigley, Dr. David C. Hodgins, & Dr. Keith S. Dobson (U of Calgary) [Priority: **Public Policy and Treatment & Stigma**]
- [#S40 Small Grant 2015-16] Problem Gambling in Individuals with Schizophrenia: The Role of Cognitive Deficits and Effects of Working Memory Training – Ms. Briana Cassetta (U of Calgary) [Priority: **Treatment**]
- [#S41 Small Grant 2015-16] Using Custom-Built Board Games and Video-Game Level Editors to Measure the Impact of Theme and Medium on Risky Decision-Making – Dr. Craig Chapman (U of Alberta) [Priority: **Internet Gambling and Treatment**]

AS OF MARCH 31, 2017, THE FOLLOWING RESEARCH PROJECTS WERE COMPLETED³:

- [Strategic & Collaborative Initiative 2011-12] Development and Evaluation of a Gambling Participation Instrument - Canadian Consortium for Gambling Research (CCGR) – Dr. Robert Williams (Williams and Associates) & Dr. Rachel Volberg (Gemini Research)
- [#60 Major Grant 2012-13] Assessing Transitions in Problem Gambling in a Longitudinal Study – Dr. David C. Hodgins (U of Calgary)

³ Institute-funded research projects are considered complete once a completion report template has been received by the Institute from the approved project Principal Investigator (PI).

EXPANDED GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Post-Doctoral Fellowship Grants, implemented in 2015, provide training and mentorship opportunities for the candidate's academic growth in an area of gambling-related research identified as needing development. Dr. Anna Lund, Faculty of Law, University of Alberta, completed her Post-doctoral Fellowship in June 2016, with research focused on how Canada's personal bankruptcy system may create a better rehabilitation model for problem gamblers. In January 2016, Dr. Seema Mutti, Department of Psychology, University of Calgary, began her awarded Post-doctoral Fellowship grant. Dr Mutti's research provides primary and secondary analyses of the Leisure, Lifestyle, and Lifecycle Project's unique dataset and will continue into the 2017 academic year.

Leveraging Grants aim to enable researchers with non-AGRI funding to augment projects with a gambling-related component in stakeholder-identified high-priority areas; *Team Development Grants* provide an opportunity for joint proposals aiming to support the development of multi/interdisciplinary academic teams among Partner Universities, nationally, internationally, and with other stakeholders; and *Impact Grants* provide support for 'special purpose' initiatives that contribute to addressing Institute priorities other than primary research (e.g., research data repository, knowledge transfer/translation initiatives, outcome measurement, etc.).

More information on all grant types is available through links on the Institute's 'Grant Opportunities' web page - <http://www.abgamblinginstitute.ca/grants>.

SCHOLARSHIP AND RESEARCH ALLOWANCE AWARDS

In an effort to foster young researcher involvement in gambling-related research, a multi-tiered (doctoral and graduate level in addition to a 'top-up' opportunity for students receiving other major external awards) scholarship and research allowance program promotes gambling-related research to promising new scholars.

TWELVE SCHOLARSHIPS WERE AWARDED FOR FALL 2016/ WINTER 2017

- **Jennifer Bertrand, Masters-level scholarship, Physical Education & Recreation, University of Alberta:**

Understand how visual stimuli, common to a gambling environment, could affect the state of the brain such that specific decisions become more likely. [Priority: **Longitudinal Research**]

- **Hyoun S. (Andrew) Kim, Doctoral-level scholarship, Clinical Psychology, University of Calgary:**

Shed light on addiction substitution among disordered gamblers as addiction substitution can increase the risk of relapse and/or lead to the development of a new addiction. [Priority: **Treatment**]

- **Catherine Laskowski, Doctoral-level scholarship, Neuroscience, University of Lethbridge:**

Study gambling addiction as caused by positive surprise in an animal model. [Priority: **Treatment**]

- **Chang Lu, Doctoral-level scholarship, School of Business, University of Alberta:**

Find new ways to manage the contestations between different stakeholders and reconcile their competing interests in First Nations casinos. [Priorities: **Indigenous/First Nations; Longitudinal Research**]

- **Dustin Marcinkevics, Doctoral-level scholarship, Educational Psychology, University of Alberta:**

Research gambling among post-secondary students through a developmental psychopathology lens in order to recognize distinguishing risk and protective factors among this group and advance further targeted awareness, prevention, and intervention strategies. [Priority: **Treatment**]

- **Samuel M. Ofori Dei, Doctoral-level scholarship, Health Sciences, University of Lethbridge:**

Explain how individual level factors such as sociodemographic and psychosocial factors shape the manner in which gambling accessibility factors influence gambling participation and problems. [Priorities: **Public Policy; Longitudinal Research**]

- **Jeffrey Pisklak, Doctoral-level scholarship, Psychology, University of Alberta:**

Assess the functional role of near miss events on gambling behavior utilizing experimental analyses of pigeon and human behavior. [Priority: **Longitudinal Research**]

- **Jennifer Prentice, Doctoral-level scholarship, Clinical Psychology, University of Calgary:**

Investigate the relationship between stigma (i.e., stereotypes, social distance, and discrimination) and different labels that are used to describe problem gambling. [Priorities: **Public policy; Treatment & Stigma**]

- **Christina Rash, Masters-level scholarship, Psychology, University of Calgary:**

Construct a psychological profile of individuals who do not gamble in order to shed light on additional protective factors against problem gambling, so that we may focus more of our efforts on those at a higher risk. [Priorities: **Longitudinal Research; Treatment**]

- **Jennifer Swan, Doctoral-level scholarship, Psychology, University of Calgary:**

Further examine the mechanisms by which motivational interviewing promotes behaviour change and how this can further inform the development and implementation of effective brief interventions for disordered gambling. [Priority: **Treatment**]

- **Nathan Wispinski, Masters-level scholarship, Psychology, University of Alberta:**

Explore the neural signatures of discrimination decision making to understand both the regular and disordered decision making we see in gambling scenarios. [Priorities: **Longitudinal Research; Treatment**]

- **Gabriel Yanicki, Doctoral-level scholarship, Anthropology, University of Alberta:**

Examine how gambling could have served as a primary vehicle for the social interaction between specialized bison-hunters and broad-spectrum foragers in the Great Salt Lake area in the 13th century AD. [Priority: **Indigenous/First Nations**]

COMMUNICATING GAMBLING RESEARCH

Rhys Stevens, MLIS, is a Librarian III at the University of Lethbridge Library. His primary responsibility is Librarian & Information Specialist for the Alberta Gambling Research Institute (AGRI). Mr. Stevens is also subject liaison librarian for Geography, Maps & Government Documents, Anthropology, and Spatial/Numeric Data.

INSTITUTE LIBRARY & WEB SITE OVERVIEW 2016-17

Over the course of fiscal 2016-17, the Institute's three affiliated university libraries (U. of Lethbridge, U. of Calgary, and U. of Alberta) selected and purchased approximately \$30,000 of materials in support of gambling-related research at their institutions. Specifically, \$14,000 was allocated to U. Lethbridge, \$8,000 to U. of Alberta and \$8,000 to U. of Calgary. These acquisitions primarily included electronic journal title subscriptions, E-books, print books, and audio-visual resources⁴.

In addition to supporting collection building, the Institute Librarian provided assistance with 44 specific reference requests, updated research guides on gambling-related topics, digitized and archived a variety of significant gambling-related publications, maintained the Institute web site, authored newsletter articles, and assisted with knowledge transfer/translation services.

The Institute web site functions as the primary point of access for information about the Institute and its ongoing research activities. During fiscal 2016-17, a major focus involved relocation of the site hosting from the U. of Alberta to the U. of Calgary. Many site web pages and PDF documents were either updated, removed, or archived during this process.

Past-year web initiatives included surveys of both Institute stakeholders and former graduate student scholarship recipients. The Institute initiated a Twitter account which was regularly used to post notifications of Institute activities and other developments in the field of gambling research. Lastly, online spreadsheets detailing worldwide gambling prevalence studies and the Institute's 135 funded grants were kept up-to-date.

⁴ Details of specific U. of Lethbridge Library acquisitions in 2016-17 are available from Librarian upon request.



CONFERENCE 2016

UNDERSTANDING GAMBLING: MECHANISMS AND PREDICTORS, APRIL 7-9, 2016

Presentation themes ranged from updates on the latest research on neurobiological and cognitive mechanisms that underlie gambling and problem gambling to presentations on how different treatment and self-help interventions work. Plenary presentations from top experts provided the stimulus for structured conversation sessions that allowed participants to discuss issues in depth. Participants also had the opportunity to showcase their recent research findings. A record number of posters (26) were presented at the Conference.

The Canadian Consortium on Gambling Research (CCGR) pre-conference workshop, "*Digital Engagement: How the Web Changes Recruitment, Data Collection and User Feedback*," took place Thursday, April 7, 2016. The CCGR research methods workshop engaged researchers, policy makers and other experts to share their knowledge, perspectives and experience on key issues in gambling research. This workshop

explored frameworks, methods, and ethical issues related to online recruitment and data collection, analyzing large collections of online data, and the effectiveness of real time feedback on player behaviour.



CONFERENCE 2016 BEST RESEARCH POSTER:

Gabriel Yanicki of the University of Alberta was the winner of the best research poster. The title of Gabriel's poster was "*Gambling for Prestige: Intergroup Competition in Alberta's Prehistory*."



RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

An important aspect of research is the communication of peer-reviewed research findings through publication in the scholarly literature. Following is a list of Institute-funded research published from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017:

- Abbott, M., Bellringer, M., Vandal, A. C., Hodgins, D. C., Battersby, M., & Rodda, S. N. (2017). Effectiveness of problem gambling interventions in a service setting: a protocol for a pragmatic randomised controlled clinical trial. *BMJ Open*, 7(3). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2016-013490>
- Abouzari, M., Oberg, S., Gruber, A., & Tata, M. (2015). Interactions among attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and problem gambling in a probabilistic reward-learning task. *Behavioural Brain Research*, 291, 237-243. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.bbr.2015.05.041>
- Abouzari, M., Oberg, S., & Tata, M. (2016). Theta-band oscillatory activity differs between gamblers and nongamblers comorbid with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder in a probabilistic reward-learning task. *Behavioural Brain Research*, 312, 195-200. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.bbr.2016.06.031>
- Arthur, J. N., Williams, R. J., & Delfabbro, P. H. (2016). The conceptual and empirical relationship between gambling, investing, and speculation. *Journal of Behavioral Addictions*, 5(4), 580-591. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1556/2006.5.2016.084>
- Belanger, Y. D., Williams, R. J., & Prusak, S. Y. (2016). Tracking the westernization of urban Aboriginal gambling in Canada's Prairie Provinces. *International Gambling Studies*, 1-19. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14459795.2016.1244698>
- Cunningham, J. A., Hodgins, D. C., Bennett, K., Bennett, A., Talevski, M., Mackenzie, C. S., & Hendershot, C. S. (2016). Online interventions for problem gamblers with and without co-occurring mental health symptoms: Protocol for a randomized controlled trial. *BMC Public Health*, 16(1), 1-6. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s12889-016-3291-7>
- Currie, S. R., Hodgins, D. C., Casey, D. M., el-Guebaly, N., Smith, G. J., Williams, R. J., & Schopflocher, D. P. (2017). Deriving low-risk gambling limits from longitudinal data collected in two independent Canadian studies. *Addiction*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/add.13909>
- Hancock, L., & Smith, G. (2017). Critiquing the Reno Model I-IV international influence on regulators and governments (2004-2015) - the distorted reality of "responsible gambling". *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction*, 1-26. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11469-017-9746-y>
- Hollingshead, S. J., Kim, H. S., Wohl, M. J. A., & Derevensky, J. L. (2016). The social casino gaming-gambling link: Motivation for playing social casino games determines whether self-reported gambling increases or decreases among disordered gamblers. *Journal of Gambling Issues*, 52-67. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4309/jgi.2016.33.4>
- Huang, H., Humphreys, B. R., & Zhou, L. (2016). Do urban casinos affect nearby neighbourhoods? Evidence from Canada. *Papers in Regional Science*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/pirs.12277>
- Kim, H. S., Wohl, M. J. A., Salmon, M., & Santesso, D. (2017). When do gamblers help themselves? Self-discontinuity increases self-directed change over time. *Addictive Behaviors*, 64, 148-153. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.addbeh.2016.08.037>
- Konkolö Thege, B., Hodgins, D. C., & Wild, T. C. (2016). Co-occurring substance-related and behavioral addiction problems: A person-centered, lay epidemiology approach. *Journal of Behavioral Addictions*, 5(4), 614-622. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1556/2006.5.2016.079>
- Laskowski, C. S., Williams, R. J., Martens, K. M., Gruber, A. J., Fisher, K. G., & Euston, D. R. (2016). The role of the medial prefrontal cortex in updating reward value and avoiding perseveration. *Behavioural Brain Research*, 306, 52-63. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.bbr.2016.03.007>
- Leonard, C. A., & Williams, R. J. (2016). The relationship between gambling fallacies and problem gambling. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*, 30(6), 694-704. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/adb0000189>
- Ludvig, E. A., Madan, C. R., Pisklak, J. M., & Spetch, M. L. (2014). Reward context determines risky choice in pigeons and humans. *Biology Letters*, 10(8). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rsbl.2014.0451>

- Lund, A. (2017). Gambling debt in personal insolvency proceedings: The approach of insolvency trustees and judicial officers. In J. P. Sarra & B. Romaine (Eds.), *Annual Review of Insolvency Law 2016* (pp. 515-576). Toronto: Carswell.
- Madan, C. R., Ludvig, E. A., & Spetch, M. L. (2016). The role of memory in distinguishing risky decisions from experience and description. *The Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*, 1-12. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17470218.2016.1220608>
- Madan, C. R., Spetch, M. L., & Ludvig, E. A. (2015). Rapid makes risky: Time pressure increases risk seeking in decisions from experience. *Journal of Cognitive Psychology*, 27(8), 921-928. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/20445911.2015.1055274>
- McGrath, D. S., Kim, H. S., Boothby, C. A., Romanow, N. K., & Hodgins, D. C. (2016). Patterns and motives for electronic cigarette use in a sample of community-recruited gamblers. *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11469-016-9722-y>
- McGrath, D. S., & Konkoly Thege, B. (2017). The categorical stability of gambling motives among community-recruited gamblers: A longitudinal assessment. *Journal of Gambling Studies*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10899-017-9687-1>
- Mishra, S., Lalumière, M. L., & Williams, R. J. (2016). Gambling, risk-taking, and antisocial behavior: A replication study supporting the generality of deviance. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 1-22. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10899-016-9608-8>
- Multi-Packer, S., Kowatch, K., Steadman, R., Hodgins, D. C., el-Guebaly, N., Casey, D. M., Smith, G. J. (2017). A qualitative examination of factors underlying transitions in problem gambling severity: Findings from the Leisure, Lifestyle, & Lifecycle Project. *Addiction Research & Theory*, 1-8. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/16066359.2017.1307967>
- Nayoski, N., & Hodgins, D. C. (2016). The efficacy of individual Community Reinforcement and Family Training (CRAFT) for concerned significant others of problem gamblers. *Journal of Gambling Issues*, 189-212. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4309/jgi.2016.33.11>
- Nicoli de Mattos, C., Kim, H. S., Requião, M. G., Marasaldi, R. F., Filomensky, T. Z., Hodgins, D. C., & Tavares, H. (2016). Gender differences in compulsive buying disorder: Assessment of demographic and psychiatric co-morbidities. *PLOS ONE*, 11(12), e0167365. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0167365>
- Nicoll, F. (2016). Comparative reflections on indigenous gambling: Sovereignty, race and epistemology. *Aboriginal Policy Studies*, 6(1), 63-80. <https://doi.org/10.5663/aps.v6i1.27582>
- Poole, J. C., Kim, H. S., Dobson, K. S., & Hodgins, D. C. (2017). Adverse childhood experiences and disordered gambling: Assessing the mediating role of emotion dysregulation. *Journal of Gambling Studies*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10899-017-9680-8>
- Rash, C. L., & McGrath, D. S. (2016). Self-generated motives for not gambling among young adult non-gamblers. *Journal of Gambling Studies*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10899-016-9656-0>
- Rodda, S. N., Hing, N., Hodgins, D. C., Cheetham, A., Dickins, M., & Lubman, D. I. (2016). Change strategies and associated implementation challenges: An analysis of online counselling sessions. *Journal of Gambling Studies*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10899-016-9661-3>
- Stewart, M. J., Davis MacNevin, P. L., Hodgins, D. C., Barrett, S. P., Swansburg, J., & Stewart, S. H. (2016). Motivation-matched approach to the treatment of problem gambling: A case series pilot study. *Journal of Gambling Issues*, 124-147. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4309/jgi.2016.33.8>
- Thomas, A., Carson, R., Deblaquiere, J., Armstrong, A., Moore, S., Christensen, D., & Rintoul, A. (2016). *Review of electronic gaming machine pre-commitment features: Self-exclusion*. Retrieved from: <https://aifs.gov.au/agrc/publications/pre-commitment-self-exclusion>
- Thomas, A., Christensen, D. R., Deblaquiere, J., Armstrong, A., Moore, S., Carson, R., & Rintoul, A. (2016). *Review of electronic gaming machine pre-commitment features: Limit setting*. Retrieved from: <https://aifs.gov.au/agrc/publications/pre-commitment-limit-setting>

Thomas, A., Rintoul, A., Deblaquiere, J., Armstrong, A., Moore, S., Carson, R., & Christensen, D. R. (2016). *Review of electronic gaming machine pre-commitment features: Transaction history statements*. Retrieved from: <https://aifs.gov.au/agrc/publications/pre-commitment-transaction-history>

Wang, J., Lam, W. R., Ho, K., Attridge, M., Lashewicz, M. B., Patten, B. S., Merali, Z. (2016). Preferred features of e-mental health programs for prevention of major depression in male workers: Results from a Canadian national survey. *Journal of Medical Internet Research*, 18(6), e132. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2196/jmir.5685>

Williams, R. J., Belanger, Y. D., & Prusak, S. Y. (2016). Gambling and problem gambling among Canadian urban aboriginals. *The Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, 61(11), 724-731. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/0706743716661990>

Williams, R. J., Pekow, P. S., Volberg, R. A., Stanek, E. J., Zorn, M., & Houpt, K. A. (2016). *Impacts of gambling in Massachusetts: Results of a Baseline Online Panel Survey (BOPS)*. Retrieved from http://www.umass.edu/seigma/sites/default/files/Baseline%20Online%20Panel%20Report_2017-01-10.pdf

Williams, R. J., Volberg, R. A., Stevens, R. M. G., Williams, L. A., & Arthur, J. N. (2017). *The definition, dimensionalization, and assessment of gambling participation*. Retrieved from <http://hdl.handle.net/10133/4838>

NEWSLETTER

Following is a list of the contents of the Institute newsletter, **'Gambling Research Reveals – an Update on Gambling Research in Alberta'** published from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017:



SPRING 2016

Feature articles:

- Substance Use and Gambling Lab at the University of Calgary by Dr. Daniel McGrath
- Canada's Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act as Applied to Problem Gamblers: An Interview with Dr. Anna Lund
- Gambling Mechanisms & Predictors Explored at AGRI Conference 2016



SUMMER 2016

Feature articles:

- Graduate Student Gillian Russell: Using Word Association, Behaviour Association and Attentional Bias to Evaluate Gamblers' Unconscious Gambling Involvement
- Research Takeaways and Inspirations From the 16th International Conference on Gambling & Risk Taking
- From the Library ... Digital Identifiers
- 2016-17 Student Scholarship Recipients



FALL 2016

Feature articles:

- Addiction Substitution, Behavioural Change, Social Casino Gambling and Mechanical Turk: An Interview with Andrew Kim About His Diverse Gambling Research Interests
- The Growth of eSports and Its Relevance to Gambling
- Important Dates



WINTER 2017

Feature articles:

- 16th Annual Gambling Research Conference to Be Held April 6-8, 2017, in Banff, Alberta
- Exploring Social and Cultural Conceptions of Gambling: An Interview with Dr. Fiona Nicoll
- From the Library ... Beware of Predatory Publishers

CONSULTING AND COLLABORATING: A COORDINATED APPROACH

In 2016-17, AGRI was a participating organization in the following:

- **AGLC's Responsible Gambling Advisory Committee (RGAC)** - *by Dr. Nady el-Guebaly and Glenda Wong*
- **Interprovincial Canadian Consortium for Gambling Research (CCGR)** - *by Dr. Nady el-Guebaly and Glenda Wong*
- **2016 Game Sense Symposium**

Institute-affiliated research coordinators, chairs, and Board Members were invited to be part of the Alberta Gaming & Liquor Commission's (AGLC) annual responsible gambling stakeholders symposium held in Edmonton on Wednesday, October 5, 2016. The event theme was 'Responsible Gambling: What Next?' Attendees had the opportunity to learn about the use of behaviour-changing apps and technology, preventative communications, supporting gaming workers, and the use of narrative fidelity within the story of responsible gambling.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017

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25	Statement of Operations
26	Statement of Cash Flows
27	Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets
28	Notes to the Financial Statements
33	Schedule of Expenses

Independent Auditors' Report

To the Directors of Alberta Gambling Research Institute:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Alberta Gambling Research Institute, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2017, and the statements of operations (including schedule 1), cash flows and change in net financial assets for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Alberta Gambling Research Institute as at March 31, 2017 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Other matter

The prior year financial statements were audited by the Office of the Auditor General of Alberta who issued an unqualified opinion on those statements on August 24, 2016.

Calgary, Alberta
June 12, 2017

MNP LLP
Chartered Professional Accountants

MNP
LLP

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT MARCH 31

	2017	2016
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 4)	\$ 1,642,128	\$ 2,334,903
Unexpended funds receivable (Note 5)	12,832	27,887
	<u>\$ 1,654,960</u>	<u>\$ 2,362,790</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	40,812	145,718
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 1,614,148</u>	<u>\$ 2,217,072</u>
NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Prepaid expenses	9,250	10,750
NET ASSETS	<u>1,623,398</u>	<u>2,227,822</u>
NET ASSETS		
Accumulated surplus	2,227,822	2,648,398
Annual deficit	(604,424)	(420,576)
	<u>\$ 1,623,398</u>	<u>\$ 2,227,822</u>

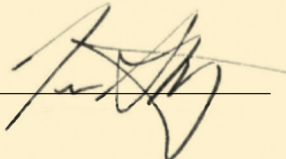
The accompanying notes and schedule are part of these financial statements.

Approved by the board:


Signature

Board Chair

Position


Signature

Audit Committee Chair

Position

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

	2017 BUDGET (Note 9)	2017 ACTUAL	2016 ACTUAL
REVENUES			
Government transfers	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000
Investment income	10,000	13,059	2,785
Other/unexpended funds recovered	50,000	12,832	43,643
	<u>1,560,000</u>	<u>1,525,891</u>	<u>1,546,428</u>
EXPENSES (Schedule 1)			
Research	1,816,000	1,668,635	1,492,233
Infrastructure and library	140,000	140,000	140,000
Research linkages	90,000	59,966	53,031
Research administration	330,000	261,714	281,740
	<u>2,376,000</u>	<u>2,130,315</u>	<u>1,967,004</u>
ANNUAL DEFICIT	<u><u>\$ (816,000)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (604,424)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (420,576)</u></u>

The accompanying notes and schedule are part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

	2017	2016
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Contributions from the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000
Unexpended funds	40,946	57,526
Research expenditures	(1,760,203)	(1,403,068)
Infrastructure and library expenditures	(140,000)	(140,000)
Research linkages expenditures	(62,216)	(71,185)
Research administration expenditures	(271,302)	(228,927)
CASH USED FOR OPERATING TRANSACTIONS	<u>(692,775)</u>	<u>(285,654)</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 2,334,903	\$ 2,620,557
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 1,642,128</u>	<u>\$ 2,334,903</u>

The accompanying notes and schedule are part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET FINANCIAL ASSETS

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

	2017 BUDGET	2017 ACTUAL	2016 ACTUAL
Annual deficit	\$ (816,000)	\$ (604,424)	\$ (420,576)
Write down of tangible capital assets	—	—	2,671
Change in prepaid expenses	—	1,500	(8,750)
Decrease in net financial assets	(816,000)	(602,924)	(426,655)
Net financial assets, beginning of year	2,217,072	2,217,072	2,643,727
Net financial assets, end of year	<u>\$ 1,401,072</u>	<u>\$ 1,614,148</u>	<u>\$ 2,217,072</u>

The accompanying notes and schedule are part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

Note 1 Authority and Reporting Entity

The Alberta Gambling Research Institute (the “Institute”) is an unincorporated organization. It is a research consortium comprised of the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, and the University of Lethbridge (the “Partner Universities”). Relations between the Institute and the Government of Alberta are defined in an Agreement between the Institute, Partner Universities and the Alberta Government dated and signed May 5th 2016. The Institute is directed by a Board comprised of eight members including two appointees (senior administrators and researchers) from each of the three Partner Universities in addition to a representative who is appointed by the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance and an external Board Chair who is appointed by the Vice-Presidents (Research) of the Partner Universities.

As required under the Agreement, the Institute reporting entity for the purpose of these financial statements is that portion of Institute operations funded by the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance. The Partner Universities contribute certain services and supplies, including research and administrative personnel and services, to the consortium. The fair value of these contributions, and the cost of these services and supplies, is not reflected in these financial statements.

Note 2 Purpose

The purpose of the Institute is to:

- expand the breadth and depth of scientific knowledge into gambling;
- promote or direct research in those priorities and areas identified as stakeholder priorities;
- develop research capacity in the Partner Universities;
- sponsor research that is peer reviewed and of the highest academic quality;
- facilitate the transfer of knowledge and information to stakeholders;
- provide education about current knowledge through research publications, reporting of research results and knowledge translation strategies; and,
- identify and pursue other potential funding sources.

Note 3 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Reporting Practices

General – Public Sector Accounting Standards (“PSAS”) and Use of Estimates

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian PSAS. The measurement of certain assets and liabilities is contingent upon future events; therefore, the preparation of these financial statements requires the use of estimates, which may vary from actual results. The Institute has no assets or liabilities that require Institute administration to use judgment to determine value.

Revenue Recognition

All revenues are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. Cash received for which expenses have not been incurred by year end is recorded as deferred revenue.

Contributions from the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance

The Partner Universities entered into a funding agreement with the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance effective April 1, 2016 to provide the Institute with \$1,500,000 annually until March 31, 2021. The agreement calls for detailed reporting to the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance at various dates throughout the year. Reporting is complete for fiscal year ended March 31, 2017.

Unspent funds are returned to the Institute by the grant recipient and recorded as other revenue.

Expenses

Grants are recorded as expenses when all the terms and conditions of eligibility have been met and the Institute has authorized payment of the grant.

Assets

Intellectual Property

Intellectual property rights with respect to all research conducted with the financial support, or under the auspices, of the Institute are governed by the policies of the Partner University with which the researcher is affiliated. These rights do not accrue directly to the Institute and are not recognized in these financial statements. The Government of Alberta and the Partner Universities are entitled to freely use and copy, other than for commercial purposes, any intellectual property so created.

Financial Instruments

Financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, unexpended funds receivable and accounts payable and accrued liabilities. They are recognized at cost. Write-downs on financial assets are recognized when the amount of a loss is known with sufficient precision, and there is no reasonable expectation of recovery. The Institute does not own any derivatives, portfolio investments or financial instruments designated in the fair value category and as such has not included a statement of remeasurement gains and losses.

It is management's opinion that the Institute is not exposed to significant market, interest, currency, or credit risks arising from its financial instruments.

Note 4 Cash and cash equivalents

Under the Funding Agreement, funds are to be administered by the HUB University (University of Calgary) on behalf of the Institute. The Institute's funds are invested in keeping with the HUB University's policies for the investment of similar funds. Interest on the funds is paid to the Institute at a rate that is referenced to the 90-day Treasury Bills Canada rate.

Note 5 Unexpended Funds Receivable/Recovered

Certain grants are provided to the Partner Universities for capacity building, research development, library collections, and research node administration for gambling-related operations. These particular grants have a provision that any unspent funds are to be returned to the Institute. The following table provides an accounting for the grants allocated and the amounts spent by the Partner Universities during this fiscal year.

	2017			2016	
	University of Alberta	University of Calgary	University of Lethbridge	Total	Total
Unexpended grants, opening balance	\$ 18,945	\$ -	\$ 8,942	\$ 27,887	\$ 38,984
Capacity building	93,700	100,000	100,000	293,700	367,200
Library and collections	-	-	140,000	140,000	140,000
New grants provided	93,700	100,000	240,000	433,700	507,200
Current year expenditures	(91,199)	(94,942)	(234,727)	(420,868)	(479,313)
Recovered	(18,945)	-	(8,942)	(27,887)	(38,984)
	(110,144)	(94,942)	(243,669)	(448,755)	(518,297)
Unexpended capacity-building grants	\$ 2,501	\$ 5,058	\$ 5,273	\$ 12,832	\$ 27,887

Note 6 Commitments

The Institute receives its principal funding from the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance. The five year agreement was renewed effective April 1, 2016 and expires on March 31, 2021. The Institute's ability to maintain viable operations is dependent upon the continued support from the Alberta Government.

The Institute has the following commitments:

Fiscal Year	Research Grants ^(a)	Lease ^(b)	Sustainability positions ^(c)	Research direction ^(d)	Total
2017/18	\$ 423,526	\$ 15,984	\$ 390,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 874,510
2018/19	160,559	15,984	390,000	–	566,543
2019/20	-	15,984	346,667	–	362,651
2020/21	-	3,996	162,500	–	166,496
2021/22+	-	-	32,500	–	32,500
Total	\$ 584,085	\$ 51,948	\$ 1,321,667	\$ 45,000	\$ 2,002,700

(a) Research Grants

The Institute has various types of granting programs. In response to calls for proposals, the Board approves researcher identified initiatives. Upon approval and receipt of various confirmation documents from the host Institute University's Research Services Office, the Institute authorizes payment of the first year funding of the approved award. For these types of awards extending beyond one year, authorization of subsequent period amounts is subject to satisfactory reporting. Commitments for these awards include the subsequent period amounts, and any other approved grant requests for which the researcher has not yet met all of the eligibility criteria.

(b) Lease

The Institute entered into a lease with the University of Calgary for the period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2020 with a renewal option.

(c) Sustainability Positions

The Board approved funding for a 'sustainability position' at each of the Partner Universities. The principal purpose of the positions is to encourage the expansion and development of gambling research. Funding in the amount of \$100,000 per year for 5 years, up to \$12,000 in relocation costs, and up to \$30,000 per year to support graduate student assistantships to support the position was offered to each of the Partner Universities. As at March 31, 2017, all appointments were in place.

(d) Research Direction

The Board approved proceeding with the engagement of a faculty member at one of the Partner Universities for the contracting for services related to advising the Board on strategic research planning. On February 1, 2013, N. el-Guebaly Professional Corporation was contracted to perform this function. The contract for Dr. el-Guebaly was renewed on January 1, 2017 for one year.

Note 7 Economic Dependence

The Institute receives its principal funding from the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance.

Note 8 Related Party Transactions

During the year, there were no related party transactions except for transactions with the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance and Partner Universities as disclosed in the notes and schedules to these financial statements.

Note 9 Budget

The 2016-2017 budget was approved by the Institute's Board of Directors on December 18 2015.

Note 10 Approval of Financial Statements

These financial statements were approved by the Institute's Board of Directors on June 12, 2017.

SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES

Schedule 1

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

	2017 Budget	2017 Actual	2016 Actual
Research			
Grant competition/strategic research	\$ 1,055,000	\$ 953,524	\$ 809,306
Capacity building	681,000	629,150	597,200
Research direction	80,000	85,961	85,727
	<u>1,816,000</u>	<u>1,668,635</u>	<u>1,492,233</u>
Infrastructure and Library			
Library and collections	140,000	140,000	140,000
	<u>140,000</u>	<u>140,000</u>	<u>140,000</u>
Research Linkages			
Events, colloquia	50,000	48,752	22,153
Communications, exchanges	40,000	11,214	30,878
	<u>90,000</u>	<u>59,966</u>	<u>53,031</u>
Research Administration			
Governance	50,000	32,934	25,706
Personnel costs	230,000	212,417	191,323
Contract services	20,000	11,640	9,669
Administrative hub	30,000	4,723	55,042
	<u>330,000</u>	<u>261,714</u>	<u>281,740</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 2,376,000</u>	<u>\$ 2,130,315</u>	<u>\$ 1,967,004</u>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DOUGALL, ALEXANDER (SANDY)

Sandy Dougall is the financial advisor to the Institute Board. He started his banking career in Scotland, and, after moving to Canada, he worked for a major bank holding a variety of senior-management positions in retail and business banking. Following a long career in banking, Mr. Dougall has been involved in many activities in the community. He sat on the Calgary Health Region Board until 2008 and on the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission for nine years until September 2011. Mr. Dougall has been on the Institute Board as an external member from November 2011 to March 2016, and served as Vice Chair as well as Chair of the Audit Committee.

EL-GUEBALY, DR. NADY

Nady el-Guebaly is Professor and Head, Division of Addiction, in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Calgary and past Chair of the Department. He is the Founding Past Medical Director of the Calgary Health Region's Addiction Program and Founding Past President of the International Society of Addiction Medicine. Currently, Dr. el-Guebaly is the Research Director of the Alberta Gambling Research Institute; Chief Examiner of the International Society of Addiction Medicine; Editor-in-Chief, *Canadian Journal of Addiction*; and Senior Editor, *Textbook of Addiction Treatment: International Perspectives*. Major research interests have resulted in hundreds of peer-reviewed papers and chapters and numerous past and current research grants.

GIBBS VAN BRUNSCHOT, DR. ERIN

Erin Gibbs Van Brunschot is an Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Sociology at the University of Calgary. Her research interests include crime and deviance, with a particular interest in the study of security

and risk at both the individual and institutional levels. Dr. Gibbs Van Brunschot served on the Institute Board from 2007 to 2011, was reappointed effective September 1, 2012, and serves as Chair of the Proposal Adjudication Committee.

KELLEY, DR. HELEN

Helen Kelley is Associate Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and an Associate Professor in the Policy and Strategy area in the Faculty of Management at the University of Lethbridge. Dr. Kelley teaches courses in information systems analysis and design and change management. Her recent research focuses on individual learning, acceptance, and use of information systems technologies plus e-health systems. More recently, Dr. Kelley's research interests include transforming the design, delivery, and management of health services quality as a member of the Health Services Quality Institute (HSQI) at the University of Lethbridge. The purpose of HSQI is to transform the design, delivery, and management of health services quality in Canada through research and education in partnership with key stakeholders. Dr. Kelley joined the Institute Board on March 1, 2015.

MALACRIDA, DR. CLAUDIA

Claudia Malacrida is Associate Vice-President in the Office of the Vice President Research at the University of Lethbridge and a Professor of Sociology. Dr. Malacrida is the author of five books relating to disability, the body, and the history of institutionalization and eugenics in Alberta. Her current research is focused on disability and sexuality (newgenics to eugenics) and on motherhood and medicine (childbirth and choice). In each, she is concerned about how seemingly personal and embodied experiences are constrained and produced through public policy, social attitudes, and professional practice.

Dr. Malacrida holds several major grants, including a SSHRC grant for the Newgenics to Eugenics project and an AIHS grant for the Childbirth and Choice project. Dr. Malacrida joined the Institute Board on January 1, 2016.

O'SHEA, DR. SÉAMUS

Séamus O'Shea is a former Vice President (Academic) and Provost, Associate Vice President (Academic), and Professor of Chemistry at the University of Lethbridge. As an advocate for increasing university participation for increasing student success, he has been an active promoter of university transfer programs, post-diploma degrees, and student-focused programming. He has been active in planning and implementing advanced infrastructure for research and development, particularly high performance networks and computing systems. Dr. O'Shea's research interests include intermolecular forces; thermodynamic, structural and phase behavior of systems based on model potentials; and computer simulation using Monte Carlo and Molecular Dynamics methods. He is past Chair, Board of Directors, iCORE (informatics Circle of Research Excellence) (2005–2009), and is currently the Chair, Board of Directors, Cybera (Cyber-infrastructure) (2007–present). Dr. O'Shea was appointed as Board Chair of the Institute on February 1, 2012, and reappointed in January 2016 for a three-year term.

SMITH, DR. CONSTANCE

Constance Smith is a Professor and Department Chair in the Department of Economics at the University of Alberta. Dr. Smith's previous appointments include Economist at the Bank of Canada; Visiting Fellow at the School of Economics and at the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University, Canberra, Australia; and Visiting Fellow at the School of Economics and Finance, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. Dr. Smith's research is chiefly in the areas of international economics and finance. She is also interested in the economic stabilization benefits of fiscal rules and natural resource revenue stabilization funds. Dr. Smith joined the Institute Board on July 1, 2015.

STRONG, DR. TOM

Tom Strong is a Professor, psychologist, and counsellor-educator at the University of Calgary who researches and writes on the collaborative, critically-informed, and practical potentials of discursive approaches to psychotherapy. Having recently completed a term as the Werklund School of Education's Associate Dean Research, Dr. Strong is interested in the use of mixed qualitative methods to examine helping processes, including natural recovery processes from addiction. Dr. Strong joined the Board on September 1, 2014.

WILD, DR. CAMERON

Cam Wild is a research psychologist specializing in addiction studies. Dr. Wild was the inaugural Associate Dean (Research) in the School of Public Health at the University of Alberta, where he is currently a Professor and Director of the Addiction and Mental Health Research Laboratory. Dr. Wild's research interests include: epidemiology of substance misuse and addictive behaviours, injection drug use, comorbid addictions and mental disorders, randomized trials and quasi-experiments of community-based brief interventions, motivational factors influencing client retention in addiction treatment, compulsory treatment policies and outcomes, and organization of service systems in relation to population severity and need. Dr. Wild joined the Institute Board on September 1, 2014.

WONG, GLENDA

Glenda Wong assumed the position of Executive Director of the Alberta Gambling Research Institute on September 1, 2015. Ms. Wong's work background includes twelve years of senior management and administration in the area of health care within the University of Calgary. She has also collaborated and worked with other Canadian universities, provincial and national government health departments, and various health organizations. Ms. Wong serves in an ex-officio advisory capacity on the Institute Board and represents the Institute on a number of inter-organizational and inter-jurisdictional planning bodies for collaborative research initiatives.

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