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Annual report 2017-18, Alberta Gambling Research Institute

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Best Practices

Annual Report 2017 -18

ALBERTA
GAMBLING
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE



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For additional information on research grants and other Institute initiatives, visit www.abgamblinginstitute.ca

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).



Innovation and
best practices can be
sown throughout an
organization
- but only when they fall
on fertile ground.

– *Marcus Buckingham*

Message from the Board Chair

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the 18th Annual Report of the Alberta Gambling Research Institute (AGRI) for the period ending March 31, 2018.

AGRI researchers continue to be actively engaged on a wide range of research on gambling as a significant activity of personal, social, economic, and political concern for Albertans and Canadians. In addition to the annual competition for major proposals for research in the field and the annual competition for graduate scholarships, AGRI has continued with the development and implementation of the first comprehensive national study of gambling prevalence to be conducted in Canada in a decade and a half.

AGRI has engaged successfully in recruiting collaborations with other major research organizations in Canada to this end. The first phase of the study, involving the Canadian Council on Gambling Research and Statistics Canada, is due to start in July 2018 with the

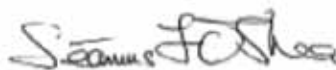
implementation of a new component in the Canadian Community Health Survey which surveys Canadians in all provinces. This will be followed immediately by a very large online survey to gather more detailed data regarding Canadians having a heavier involvement in gambling. The analysis of these data, which will be available to all not-for-profit researchers, and follow-up research will extend for the next few years. Together these studies should provide unique insight into the changing pattern of gambling in Alberta and Canada, the value Canadians see in gambling as a pastime, the effectiveness of various measures undertaken to mitigate the risks of widely available gambling, and the effectiveness of various interventions to help those with gambling-related problems.

The annual meeting in Banff in April 2017 was followed immediately by the North American Think Tank on gambling and both involved leading researchers from all over the world. The Think Tank focused on the question of ethics in gambling research and on developing protocols to ensure that the outcomes are not influenced by the interests of those funding the research. The resulting proposed protocol is under peer review prior to publication.

With the launch of the AGRI National Project (ANP), the Board will be turning its attention to the question of strategic directions beyond the ANP. The Board will meet with AGRI's researchers to identify the most promising research areas to work on in order to maximize AGRI's contributions to knowledge in general and to the base of evidence available to support policy formation.

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

Sincerely,



Dr. Séamus O'Shea



Message from the Executive Director

The theme for this year's Annual Report is 'Best Practices,' and during 2017-18 the Institute demonstrated them on several fronts while supporting and promoting gambling research in Alberta. These included continued high quality research from Institute-funded projects, support for graduate student researchers via scholarships, and celebration of researcher accomplishments.

Of particular note were the awards received by Dr. Nady el-Guebaly, Institute Research Director, Dr. David Hodgins, Institute Research Coordinator (Calgary), and Dr. Yale Belanger, Institute-funded researcher. Dr. el-Guebaly was appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada for his distinguished leadership on addictions research and treatment. Dr. Hodgins was awarded a U of Calgary Killam Annual Professorship award for demonstrating excellence in research and teaching while also serving his academic discipline and community. Dr. Belanger, a leading scholar of Indigenous studies, was named as a member of The Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists. College members represent the emerging generation of scholarly, scientific, and artistic leadership in Canada. In my opinion, each of these awards demonstrate best practices related to leadership, research, and scholarly achievement.

Institute Research Coordinators, Drs. David Hodgins (U of Calgary), Garry Smith (U of Alberta), and Rob Williams (U of Lethbridge), have established best practices with respect to building internationally-recognized research programs and partnerships with colleagues in other provinces and countries. Institute Research Chairs, Drs. Darren Christensen (U of Lethbridge), Dan McGrath (U of Calgary), and Fiona Nicoll (U of Alberta) are likewise creating gambling research best practices communities in Alberta and nationally within their specific areas of expertise, namely, neurosciences, addiction, and Indigenous studies, respectively.

Contributing to the Institute's best practices was the co-hosting of the North America Think Tank 2017, which occurred directly after the 17th Annual AGRI

Conference. Both events brought together local, national, and international gambling researchers for four days of presentations, brain storming, and networking. The Ethical Best Practices report was a product of the 2017 Think Tank.

I gratefully acknowledge the Institute Board, the Government of Alberta, Treasury Board and Finance, and the Office of the Vice President (Research), University of Calgary, for their support, which has been critical to the successful development of the Institute's internal best practices. I would also like to thank Rhys Stevens, Librarian, and Karen Buttner, Administrative Assistant, for their contributions in support of the creation of our own best practices for administrative processes and procedures. Lastly, thank you to Dr. Garry Smith for his guidance, advice, and friendship. After nineteen years with the Institute, Dr. Smith's retirement at the end of March was well deserved; he will certainly be missed!

I hope readers will find this Annual Report informative and learn more about other 'best practices' throughout the Institute. In reflection of this year's activities, I believe the future of the Institute will be an exciting time with many best practice opportunities for furthering scholarly gambling research in the Province of Alberta.

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.

Institute Board

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 35]

Back row:

Dr. Anna Lund, Dr. Cam Wild,
Dr. Chris Nicol, Dr. Séamus O'Shea

Front row:

Glenda Wong, Berenika Kienc,
Dr. Nady el-Guebaly, Dr. Tom Strong,
Rhys Stevens





Gambling Research at the Partner Universities

Gathering Data for Best Practices

Dr. Nady el-Guebaly, Research Director

2017-18 marked year two of the current five-year funding agreement with the Government of Alberta. The Institute focused on the following three strategic research priorities:

Ensuring Sustainability of Research Funding for Graduate Students

The Institute continued to enjoy high quality applications for our graduate program. Selecting ten to twelve candidates from among the eligible applicants was a challenging task. Our main criteria is to respond to stakeholders' priorities and maintenance of available research across the Universities of Alberta, Calgary, and Lethbridge. The students' presentations at the annual Banff meeting are a testimony of the range and quality of their contributions.

Consolidating the AGRI National Gambling Project

Based on the concepts developed the prior year, 2017-18 saw the operationalization and funding of this peer-reviewed project with a start date planned for July 2018. The Institute also secured funding partnerships for this initiative with the Canadian Consortium of Gambling Research, the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction's Low Risk Gambling National Project, and Gambling Research Exchange Ontario. Statistics Canada will be responsible for surveying the national aspects of gambling activities while the firm

of Leger will undertake a more detailed investigation of an interprovincial sample of respondents.

Anticipation of Future Gambling Research Opportunities

Institute-affiliated investigators constantly monitor new developments in the gambling field. Of major interest is the expanding access to Internet gambling and the increasing fusion of gaming and gambling in new products available to adolescents and young adults. In addition, the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission's experience is becoming involved in regulating the introduction of legalized cannabis in our province. The Institute has had twenty years of experience in studying the complexities of the gambling arena in Alberta and has contributed to its responsible sustainability. We are examining applying this experience to the complexities surrounding the forthcoming availability of legalized cannabis.

Nady el-Guebaly, MD



Research Director

His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, announced 99 new appointments to the Order of Canada on June 30, 2017. Dr. el-Guebaly was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada "for his leadership on addictions research and treatment, particularly for his efforts to have addictions treated as a mental health issue."

Dr. Nady el-Guebaly with Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada >



University of Alberta



**Dr. Garry Smith,
Research Coordinator
(to March 31, 2018)**

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. His research interests include

gambling public policy, social and economic impacts of gambling, and sports gambling. Dr. Smith retired from his position as Gambling Research Coordinator at the University of Alberta at the end of March 2018.

AGRI was well represented at the University of Alberta in the 2017-18 fiscal year. Dr. Garry Smith chaired the April 2017 AGRI annual conference on gambling research which drew a record number of attendees (130) and poster presentations (48). Following the conference, Dr. Smith helped organize an International Think Tank on ethical issues related to commercial gambling provision. Emerging from the Think Tank was a report on Ethical Best Practices in gambling studies research.

Other highlights for the period were: 1) the involvement of Dr. Garry Smith and Dr. Fiona Nicoll (University of Alberta) in an AGRI-funded research team including four colleagues from Central Queensland University that deals with ways of improving government responsible gambling initiatives – the data has been collected and the final report will be out in the spring of 2019; 2) the addition of Dr. Mark Johnson as a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Alberta – Dr. Johnson is recognized as a leading expert

on e-sports and fantasy league gambling; 3) Dr. Smith and Dr. Linda Hancock (Deakin University) co-authored a controversial article that challenged many of the tenets of the Reno Model – the *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction* sought out five noted scholars to react to the paper; 4) Dr. Nicoll has a forthcoming book dealing with cultural issues related to gambling and has taken the lead in organizing a new international gambling journal based on a cultural studies theme; and 5) University of Alberta faculty and graduate students in disciplines such as psychology, political science, law, and business continue to publish in peer-reviewed journals and present at international conferences.

After eighteen years as the University of Alberta Research Coordinator for AGRI, Dr. Garry Smith retired and passed the baton to Dr. Fiona Nicoll. In her two years at the University of Alberta, Dr. Nicoll has become a star performer in the Department of Political Science in her capacities as a teacher, researcher, networking specialist, and critical thinker. Her presence as AGRI's first female research coordinator augurs well for the continued success of the Institute.

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.

Projects at the University of Alberta contributed to best practice in four related areas: ethics, Indigenous gambling research, current and future developments in gambling, and innovative gambling research methodologies. Dr. Nicoll and Dr. Garry Smith completed a survey on responsible gambling behaviours with Professor Nerilee Hing, Central Queensland University in Australia, and will share their findings with stakeholders in late September 2018. Dr. Nicoll has built capacity on intersections between gambling and gaming through the appointment of Killam postdoctoral research fellow Dr. Mark Johnson, an expert on video games whose research contributes to current debates about the ambiguous legal status of Daily Fantasy Sports.

Dr. Nicoll has attracted an international editorial board of leading gambling scholars to the new Journal of Critical Gambling Studies which will be launched in 2019. This journal will broaden the scope of disciplinary perspectives

in gambling research, with a specific focus on cutting-edge work by researchers in humanities and social sciences. A meta-analysis of gambling studies research using a big data approach led by Dr. Nicoll is an example of innovation in research methodology; it has already generated new findings about the prevalence of research on EGMs in peer-reviewed journal articles. A project with Indigenous anthropologist Dr. Darrel Manitowabi and non-profit partner IndigeSpheres will be launched at the 2018 AGRI conference and will draw on Dr. Johnson’s expertise to investigate connections between Aboriginal youth gambling and video gaming. Ongoing work on research ethics at the University of Alberta includes Dr. Nicoll’s contribution to the ‘Auckland code of ethics;’ this outlines best practice for non-Indigenous gambling researchers investigating Indigenous gambling.

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.



Gambling research at the University of Calgary continues to flourish! Drs. Hodgins and McGrath continued to have active research labs. An average of twelve students and research assistants attended our joint biweekly research meetings. In addition, a number of other faculty members are conducting 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, is currently on maternity leave but will be returning shortly to continue analyses of the Leisure, Lifestyle, and Lifecycle Project (LLLP) dataset. LLLP, a comprehensive, seven-year longitudinal cohort project, was the AGRI flagship project for a number of years. Two master's students, Maggie Schluter and Maryam Sharif-Razi, defended their theses and have entered the doctoral program.

We are excited that two of our previously funded students, Drs. Igor Yakovenko and Tanya Mudry, now have

tenure-track academic positions.

Dr. Yakovenko is with the Departments of Psychology and Psychiatry at Dalhousie University and Dr. Mudry is in the Faculty of Education at the University of Calgary. Importantly, both continue to work in the addictions area.

The International Behavioural Addictions and Impulse Control Disorder Network, a joint University of Calgary and University of São Paulo research collaboration, is now in its second year of operation. Dr. Hodgins and Mr. Andrew Kim, one of our doctoral students, travelled to Brazil to further the collaboration. We have also secured an AGRI Team Development grant (the first award in this new funding opportunity) to bring our first trainee from Brazil to Canada. The intent is to have regular student exchanges focused on clinical gambling research.

Drs. Hodgins and McGrath continued 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. Daniel 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's 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 disordered gambling.

Dr. McGrath led numerous research projects over the course of 2017-18. Several projects related to the personality characteristics of disordered gamblers were completed or underway. Specifically, his team has completed the first full-scale studies of the HEXACO model in disordered gambling among both student gamblers and community-recruited gamblers. The honesty-humility dimension was found to be strongly negatively associated with gambling and disordered gambling, a novel finding in the personality literature. Next steps involve examining the HEXACO model in a sample of disordered

gamblers in treatment.

Dr. McGrath has also continued to explore the role of attentional biases in gambling. His team has completed an AGRI-funded project investigating the specificity of attentional biases across various forms of gambling. Furthermore, data collection is currently underway for a second AGRI-funded project exploring the psychological factors most strongly correlated with gambling attentional biases. In addition, two AGRI-funded graduate students in the lab, Chelsea Fitzpatrick and Emma Ritchie, will be conducting eye-tracking projects focused on gambling. Outside of the laboratory, Dr. McGrath has continued to foster collaborations with numerous researchers including Drs. David Hodgins, Hermano Tavares, Michael Wohl, and Matt Keough, to name a few.

Dr. McGrath has obtained several grants for his research over the previous year. In collaboration with Dr. David Hodgins, their team was awarded a large AGRI grant to examine the efficacy of fear appeals in pop-up messaging for gamblers. In addition, they



have also secured an AGRI Team Development Grant to foster their international collaborative network with Dr. Tavares at the University of São Paulo (as mentioned by Dr. David Hodgins.) Lastly, outside of the gambling area, Dr. McGrath was awarded a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Development Grant to investigate the leisure and social determinants of electronic cigarette use among young adults. Aside from his research, Dr. McGrath has been actively supervising students including three graduate students and numerous undergraduate independent studies students.

University of Lethbridge

Dr. Robert Williams, Research Coordinator

Dr. Robert 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; and regularly gives expert witness testimony on the impacts of gambling.

In 2017-18, gambling research at the University of Lethbridge continued to involve faculty and students from a myriad of different academic disciplines. Departments represented included Education, 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. Of particular note is a comprehensive national study of gambling, *"Gambling and Problem Gambling in Canada: A National Study,"* that involves several AGRI researchers (Drs. Williams, Yale Belanger, Darren Christensen, el-Guebaly, Hodgins, McGrath, Nicoll, and Smith, and Mr. Rhys Stevens) and co-funding from the Canadian Consortium for Gambling Research, the Canadian Centre for Substance Use and Addiction, and Gambling Research Exchange Ontario. Several other gambling research projects are ongoing: "From Motivation to Compulsion: the Neural Bases of Disordered Gambling Explored in a Rodent Model" involves Dr. David Euston (Neuroscience); "Gambling in the Workplace: Characteristics and Experiences" involves Dr. James Sanders (Health Sciences); "Implications of Integration of Mental Health and Addiction Systems for Problem Gambling Treatment: Case Studies of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Ontario," involves Dr. Christensen and Dr. Rebecca Hudson Breen, (Health Sciences); "Examining the Relationship between Problem Gambling and Problematic Video Game Use," involves Dr. Sanders



(Addictions Counselling) and Dr. Williams (Health Sciences); “Gambling Disorder vs Alcohol Use Disorder: Comparing Treatment Outcomes with Congruence Couple Therapy,” involves Dr. Bonnie Lee (Addictions Counselling) and Dr. Christensen (Health Sciences); “Neural Mechanisms of Gambling,” involves Dr. Euston (Neuroscience), and “Naltrexone-Imaging Study,” involves Dr. 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 Ph.D. student Ms. Gillian Russell.



**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 developing the best practices for behavioural and pharmacological treatments for gambling, psychometric evaluations of gambling tools, investigations of gambling etiology, evaluating the experiences of gambling venue workers, and reviewing the best practices of harm minimization measures. These studies provide opportunities for gamblers to receive treatment and for students to research issues relating to gambling.

In the 2017-18 year, Dr. Darren Christensen and colleagues worked on animal models of gambling (Dr. Euston), a drug treatment for gambling disorder (Drs. Hodgins, Bradley Goodyear, David Crockford, and Ronald Lim), terrestrial (Drs. Leighton and Hudson-Breen) and on-line behavioural treatments for gambling disorder (Drs. Chad Witcher and Trent Leighton and Ms. Dee Ann Benard), and a relationship-focused treatment for alcohol and gambling disorders (Drs.

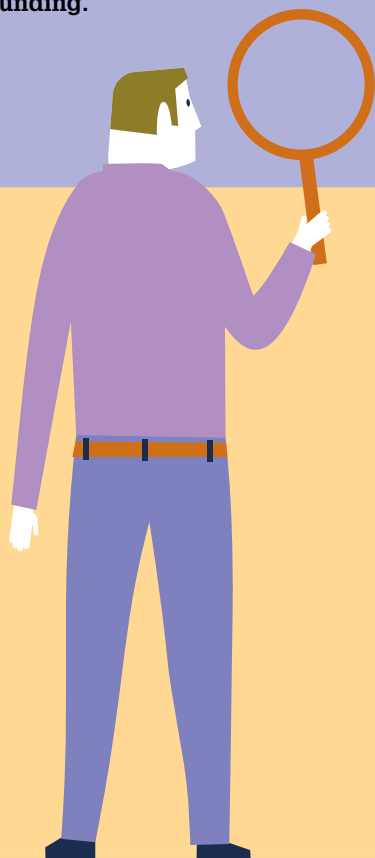
Lee, Andrew Greenshaw, Katherine Aitchison, and Olu Awosoga). His drug treatment study was featured again on the CTV television network in Calgary, and information about his behavioural and pharmacological treatment studies are available from AGLC GameSense Info Centres. He currently recruits participants from two Alberta Health Services locations, the Calgary Opioid Dependency Program, and the Claresholm Mental Health and Addictions Centre.

In the 2017-18 year, Dr. Christensen supervised two post-graduate University of Lethbridge students. They investigated theoretical models of gambling etiology and accessibility. He also employs post-graduate addictions counselling students on his terrestrial and on-line counselling studies. He is also supervising an undergraduate project investigating the experiences of gambling venue workers in the cruise ship industry.

Research Activity

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.



In 2017-18, the following new research grant proposals were approved:

- [#82 Major Grant 2017-18] Gambling in the Workplace: Characteristics and Experiences – Dr. Rebecca Hudson Breen (U of Alberta) & Dr. James Sanders (U of Lethbridge) [Priorities: **Internet Gambling; Crime and Gambling**]
- [#83 Major Grant 2017-18] Pop-up Messages for Internet Gambling: An Experimental Study Examining the Efficacy of Fear Appraisals – Dr. David C. Hodgins, Dr. Seema Mutti-Packer, Hyoun S. Kim, Dr. Daniel McGrath (U of Calgary); Dr. Matthew J. Rockloff (Central Queensland U); Dr. Michael Wohl (Carleton U) [Priority: **Internet Gambling**]
- [#84 Major Grant 2017-18] From Motivation to Compulsion: The Neural Bases of Disordered Gambling Explored in a Rodent Model – Dr. David Euston (U of Lethbridge) [Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]
- [#S44 Small Grant 2017-18] Gambling Risk-Taking Behavior in the Aftermath of Broken Promises: The Role of Stress – Dr. Yannick Griep & Dr. Daniel McGrath (U of Calgary) [Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]
- [#S45 Small Grant 2017-18] Disordered Gambling and Bankruptcy Law: Research-Informed Practice for Insolvency Professionals – Dr. Anna Lund

(U of Alberta) [Priorities: **Public Policy; Treatment and Stigma; Crime and Gambling**]

- [#S46 Small Grant 2017-18] Selective Memory in Gamblers: An Autobiographical Memory Approach – Dr. Norman R. Brown (U of Alberta) [Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]

As of March 31, 2018, the following research projects were ongoing¹ as funding was provided in previous grant cycles:

- [#68 Major Grant 2014-15] Family Study of Executive Functioning Deficits in Gambling Disorder – Dr. Vina Goghari (U of Calgary) [Priorities: **Longitudinal Research; Treatment and Stigma**]
- [#69 Major Grant 2014-15] Naltrexone-Imaging Study – Dr. Darren Christensen (U of Lethbridge) [Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]
- [#70 Major Grant 2014-15] Neural Mechanisms of Gambling – Dr. David R. Euston (U of Lethbridge) [Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]
- [#73 Major Grant 2014-15] Gambling Disorder vs. Alcohol Use Disorder: Comparing Treatment Outcomes with Congruence Couple Therapy – Dr. Bonnie K. Lee & Dr. Darren Christensen (U of Lethbridge) [Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]

¹ Principal Investigators (PIs) of ongoing Institute-funded research projects are required to submit an annual research project status report using an Institute-provided template.

- [#74 Major Grant 2015-16] Reducing the Allure of Winning Cues in Gambling – Dr. Marcia Spetch (U of Alberta) [Priorities: **Public Policy; Treatment and Stigma**]
- [#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) [Priorities: **Public Policy; Treatment and Stigma**]
- [#76 Major Grant 2015-16] Towards Understanding Addiction Substitution: An Examination of Substituted vs. Recovered Gamblers – Dr. David Hodgins (U of Calgary) [Priorities: **Longitudinal Research; Treatment and Stigma**]
- [#77 Major Grant 2015-16] Identifying Psychological Factors that Are Predictive of Attentional Bias in Gamblers: An Eye-tracking Study – Dr. Daniel McGrath (U of Calgary) [Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]
- [#78 Major Grant 2015-16] Examining the Relationship between Problem Gambling and Problematic Video Game Use – Dr. James Sanders (U of Lethbridge) [Priorities: **Internet Gambling; Treatment and Stigma**]
- [#79 Major Grant 2016-17] Gambling Responsibly: Measuring and Validating Responsible Gambling Behaviours Amongst Regular Gamblers in Alberta – Dr. Garry Smith (U of Alberta) [Priorities: **Public Policy; Internet Gambling; and Treatment and Stigma**]

- [#80 Major Grant 2016-17] Do Social Casino Games Encourage Gambling? An Experimental Approach – Dr. David C. Hodgins, Hyoun S. Kim, Dr. Daniel McGrath (U of Calgary); Dr. Matthew J. Rockloff (Central Queensland U); Dr. Michael Wohl (Carleton U) [Priority: **Internet Gambling**]
- [#S43 Small Grant 2016-17] Sex Differences in Cross-Priming for Gambling Among Stimulant Users – Dr. Daniel McGrath (U of Calgary) [Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]

As of March 31, 2018, the following research projects were completed²:

- [#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**]
- [#72 Major Grant 2014-15] Lottery Winners and Bankruptcy Filers – Dr. Barry Scholnick (U of Alberta) [Priority: **Public Policy**]
- [#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) [Priorities: **Public Policy; Treatment and Stigma**]
- [#S40 Small Grant 2015-16] Problem Gambling in Individuals with Schizophrenia: The Role of Cognitive Deficits and Effects of Working Memory Training –

Briana Cassetta (U of Calgary) [Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]

- [#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) [Priorities: **Internet Gambling; Treatment and Stigma**]
- [#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**]

Other Grant Opportunities

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- and inter-disciplinary academic teams among Partner Universities, nationally, internationally, and with other stakeholders. *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 from the Institute 'Grant Opportunities' web page:

www.abgamblinginstitute.ca/grants.

² Institute-funded research projects are considered complete once a completion report has been received by the Institute from the approved project Principal Investigator (PI).

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.

The following eleven scholarships were awarded in 2017-18:

- **Briana Cassetta, Doctoral-level scholarship, Clinical Psychology, U of Calgary:**
Identify mediating factors to explain elevated rates of disordered gambling found in schizophrenics. [Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]
- **Megan Cowie, Master's-level scholarship, Clinical Psychology, U of Calgary:**
Harm reduction strategies based on an understanding of specific motives and social contexts which pre-dispose one to gambling-related risk. [Priorities: **Public Policy; Longitudinal Research**]
- **Hyoun S. (Andrew) Kim, Doctoral-level scholarship, Clinical Psychology, U of Calgary:**
Shed light on addiction substitution among disordered gamblers. [Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]
- **Catherine Laskowski, Doctoral-level scholarship, Neuroscience, U of Lethbridge:**
Study gambling addiction in an animal model. [Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]
- **Chang Lu, Doctoral-level scholarship, Business, U of Alberta:**
Understand how marginalized actors engaged in social entrepreneurship in industry - specifically, the founding and management of First Nations casinos in Canada. [Priorities: **Indigenous/First Nations; Longitudinal Research**]
- **Dallas Novakowski, Doctoral-level scholarship, Business, U of Calgary:**
Study the suggestion that risk-taking behaviours such as gambling and dangerous driving are not isolated phenomena rather parts of a broader constellation of risk-acceptance. [Priority: **Public Policy**]
- **Sienna Randolph, Master's-level scholarship, Neuroscience, U of Lethbridge:**
To reveal the brain processes involved in loss aversion and reward sensitivity, which become disrupted in problem gambling. [Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]
- **Christina Rash, Master's-level scholarship, Psychology, U of Calgary:**
Examine motives for not gambling among non-gamblers as well as those treated for gambling disorder. [Priorities: **Longitudinal Research; Treatment and Stigma**]
- **Emma Ritchie, Master's-level scholarship, Psychology, U of Calgary:**
Examine the relationship between alcohol and gambling activities that are more skill-based rather than chance-based. [Priorities: **Public Policy; Treatment and Stigma**]
- **Magdalen Schluter, Master's-level scholarship, Psychology, U of Calgary:**
Address the possibility that impulsive choice contributes to the maintenance of disordered gambling. [Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]
- **Nathan Wispinski, Doctoral-level scholarship, Psychology, U of Alberta:**
Explore the fundamental process behind decision-making and leveraging it to make better decisions. [Priorities: **Longitudinal Research; Treatment and Stigma**]

Communicating Gambling Research



Rhys Stevens, MLIS, is a Librarian III at the University of Lethbridge Library. His primary responsibility is Librarian and Information Specialist for the Alberta Gambling Research



Institute (AGRI). He is also subject liaison librarian for Geography, Maps and Government Documents, Anthropology, and Spatial/ Numeric Data.

Institute Library and Web Site Overview 2017-18

Over the course of fiscal 2017-18 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 of Lethbridge, \$8,000 to U of Alberta and \$8,000 to U of Calgary.

These primarily included electronic journal title subscriptions, E-books, print books, and audio-visual resources³.

In addition to supporting collection building, the Institute Librarian provided assistance with 28 specific reference requests, updated research guides on gambling-related topics, digitized and archived a variety significant gambling-related publications, maintained the Institute web site, authored newsletter articles, and assisted with knowledge transfer/ translation services.

The Institute web site functioned as the primary point of access for information about the Institute and its ongoing research activities. The colour scheme of the web site as well as the main horizontal banner saw modifications. Citations, abstracts, digital object identifiers (DOIs), and project-relevant details were added to grant web pages as new research publications and presentations were published. The Institute's Twitter account was used for sending notifications about Institute activities and developments in the field of gambling research. Lastly, online spreadsheets detailing worldwide gambling prevalence studies and the Institute's 140+ funded grants were kept up-to-date.

³ Details of specific Library acquisitions for 2017-18 are available from the Institute Librarian upon request.

Conference 2017



April 6 – 8, 2017

The theme of the 2017 conference linked gambling to questions of justice and integrity and it aimed to apply critical thought to current gambling practices and “hot button issues” in the provision of commercial gambling. Participants learned about efforts to promote gambling administration that align with principles of honesty, integrity, social responsibility, and advancing the common good. They also heard about numerous strategies being used to ensure that the delivery of commercial gambling is safer, fairer, and aligned with the public good.

Conference 2017 Best Research Poster



The Best Research Poster award winner was Dr. Angela Rintoul of the Australian Gambling Research Centre with her poster titled “Responsible Gambling Codes of Conduct: Honoured in the Breach Rather than the Observance?” Dr. Rintoul’s poster was chosen from 48 posters (a record number) with presenters from Spain, Iceland, Sweden, Finland, Australia, New Zealand, and numerous Canadian provinces.

2017 North American Think Tank



Immediately following the 16th Annual Institute Conference (April 9-10, 2017), the Institute co-hosted the second North American Think Tank (2017 NATT) with the Gambling and Addictions Research Centre, Auckland University of Technology (AUT), New Zealand; developers of the Think Tank. Held since 2004, the Think Tank is an invitation-only forum with the vision: an international network of scientists, researchers, policy makers, service providers, gambling industry members, consumers, and others interested in collaborating to advance understanding of gambling in the context of public health and social/economic development. Tied to the Institute’s Conference theme, the meeting sessions included topics on ethics and integrity concerns in gambling studies, on-line gambling, and gambling-related harm and how to assess. Each session had breakout groups discussing research, policy, and public health. Participants provided insight for the topics being discussed and assisted in achieving the Think Tank’s vision. In addition, the development of a code of ethics for gambling researchers was initiated.



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, 2017, to March 31, 2018:

Banks, P. J., Tata, M. S., Bennett, P. J., Sekuler, A. B., & Gruber, A. J. (2018). Implicit valuation of the near-miss is dependent on outcome context. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 34(1), 181-197. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10899-017-9705-3>

Boothby, C. A., Kim, H. S., Romanow, N. K., Hodgins, D. C., & McGrath, D. S. (2017). Assessing the role of impulsivity in smoking & non-smoking disordered gamblers. *Addictive Behaviors*, 70, 35-41. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.addbeh.2017.02.002>

Cassetta, B. D., Kim, H. S., Hodgins, D. C., McGrath, D. S., Tomfohr-Madsen, L. M., & Tavares, H. (2018). Disordered gambling and psychosis: Prevalence and clinical correlates. *Schizophrenia Research*, 192, 463-464. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.schres.2017.04.006>

Hancock, L., & Smith, G. (2017). Replacing the Reno Model with a robust public health approach to "responsible gambling": Hancock and Smith's response to commentaries on our original Reno Model critique. *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction*, 15(6), 1209-1220. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11469-017-9836-x>

Johnson, M. R. (2017). Comparing the professionalization of pro gamblers and pro video game players. *Center for Gaming Research Occasional Paper Series: Paper 40*. Retrieved from https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/occ_papers/40

Kim, H. S., Christianini, A. R., Bertoni, D., de Oliveira, M. d. C. M., Hodgins, D. C., & Tavares, H. (2017). Kleptomania and co-morbid addictive disorders. *Psychiatry Research*, 250, 35-37. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2017.01.048>

Kim, H. S., Poole, J. C., Hodgins, D. C., McGrath, D. S., & Dobson, K. S. (2018). Betting to deal: Coping motives mediate the relationship between urgency and problem gambling severity. *Addiction Research & Theory*, 1-9. <https://doi.org/10.1080/16066359.2018.1455188>

Konkolý Thege, B., Horwood, L., Slater, L., Tan, M. C., Hodgins, D. C., & Wild, T. C. (2017). Relationship between interpersonal trauma exposure and addictive behaviors: A systematic review. *BMC Psychiatry*, 17(1), 164. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s12888-017-1323-1>

Lobo, D. S. S., Aleksandrova, L., Knight, J., Casey, D. M., el-Guebaly, N., Nobrega, J. N., & Kennedy, J. L. (2014). Addiction-related genes in gambling disorders: New insights from parallel human and pre-clinical models. *Molecular Psychiatry*, 20, 1002. <https://doi.org/10.1038/mp.2014.113>

- McGrath, D. S., Meitner, A., & Sears, C. R. (2018). The specificity of attentional biases by type of gambling: An eye-tracking study. *PLOS ONE*, 13(1), e0190614. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0190614>
- Mutti-Packer, S., Hodgins, D. C., el-Guebaly, N., Casey, D. M., Currie, S. R., Williams, R. J., Smith, G. J., & Schopflocher, D. P. (2017). Problem gambling symptomatology and alcohol misuse among adolescents: A parallel-process latent growth curve model. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*, 31(4), 447-456. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/adb0000261>
- Mutti-Packer, S., Hodgins, D. C., Williams, R. J., & Konkoly Thege, B. (2017). The protective role of religiosity against problem gambling: findings from a five-year prospective study. *BMC Psychiatry*, 17(1), 356. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12888-017-1518-5>
- Rash, C. L., Kim, H. S., Hodgins, D. C., & McGrath, D. S. (2018). Comparing undergraduate and community-recruited adult non-gamblers' motives for not gambling: Do they differ? *Addictive Behaviors*, 76, 41-44. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.addbeh.2017.07.026>
- Salame, L., Williams, R. J., Zorn, M., Peake, T., Volberg, R. A., Stanek, E. J., & Mazar, A. (2017). *Patron and license plate survey report: Plainridge Park Casino 2016*. Amherst, MA: School of Public Health and Health Sciences, University of Massachusetts Amherst. Retrieved from <https://www.umass.edu/seigma/sites/default/files/PPC%20Patron%20Survey%20Report%202017-10-17.pdf>
- Sanders, J. L., Williams, R. J., & Damgaard, M. (2017). Video game play and Internet gaming disorder among Canadian adults: A national survey. *Canadian Journal of Addiction*, 8(2), 6-12. https://journals.lww.com/cja/Fulltext/2017/12000/Video_Game_Play_and_Internet_Gaming_Disorder_Among.2.aspx
- Smith, G. J. (2018). Sport and gambling. In G. Ritzer (Ed.), *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology* (2nd ed.). Blackwell Publishing. <http://doi.org/10.1002/9781405165518>
- Williams, R. J., Zorn, M., Volberg, R. A., Stanek, E. J., Freeman, J., Maziya, N., Naveed, M., Zhang, Y. & Pekow, P. S. (2017). *Gambling and problem gambling in Massachusetts: In-depth analysis of predictors*. Amherst, MA: School of Public Health and Health Sciences, University of Massachusetts Amherst. Retrieved from https://www.umass.edu/seigma/sites/default/files/SEIGMA%20Deeper%20Analyses_Final_z4.pdf
- Wisniewski, N. J., Truong, G., Handy, T. C., & Chapman, C. S. (2017). Reaching reveals that best-versus-rest processing contributes to biased decision making. *Acta Psychologica*, 176, 32-38. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.actpsy.2017.03.006>
- Wohl, M. J. A., Salmon, M. M., Hollingshead, S. J., & Kim, H. S. (2017). An examination of the relationship between social casino gaming and gambling: The bad, the ugly, and the good. *Journal of Gambling Issues*. <https://jgi.camh.net/index.php/jgi/article/view/3970>
- Yakovenko, I., & Hodgins, D. C. (2018). A scoping review of co-morbidity in individuals with disordered gambling. *International Gambling Studies*, 18(1), 143-172. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14459795.2017.1364400>
- Yucel, M., Carter, A., Allen, A. R., Balleine, B., Clark, L., Dowling, N. A., Gainsbury, S. M., Goudriaan, A. E., Grant, J., Hayes, A., Hodgins, D., van Holst, R., Lattimore, R., Livingstone, C., Lorenzetti, V., Lubman, D., Murawski, C., Parkes, L. & Hall, W. (2017). Neuroscience in gambling policy and treatment: An interdisciplinary perspective. *Lancet Psychiatry*, 4(6), 501-506. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/s2215-0366\(16\)30369-8](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/s2215-0366(16)30369-8)

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, 2017, to March 31, 2018:



Spring 2017

Feature articles:

- Pigeons, People and the Near-Miss Effect: An Interview with Jeffrey Pisklak
- Smoking Monkeys and Gambling Pigeons: Why Animal-Based Research Into Gambling Disorder Matters
- From the Library ... A Bestiary of Risk-Taking Among Non-Human Species



Summer 2017

Feature articles:

- Focus on Ethical Challenges Pertaining to Gambling Provision, Policy and Research: Conference 2017 Recap
- 2017 North American Think Tank
- Instrument Developed to Assess Gambling Participation



Fall 2017

Feature articles:

- Institute Research Director Dr. Nady el-Guebaly Appointed as Member of the Order of Canada
- International Jurisdictions Continue to Adopt the Alberta-Developed Becoming a Winner Program for Gambling Self-Recovery
- 2017-18 Scholarship and Research Allowance Award Recipients



Winter 2018

Feature articles:

- Institute Conference 2018: Current Issues in Gambling Research
- Dr. Yale Belanger Elected to The Royal Society of Canada
- Institute Research Coordinator Dr. David Hodgins Selected for 2017 Killam Annual Professorship



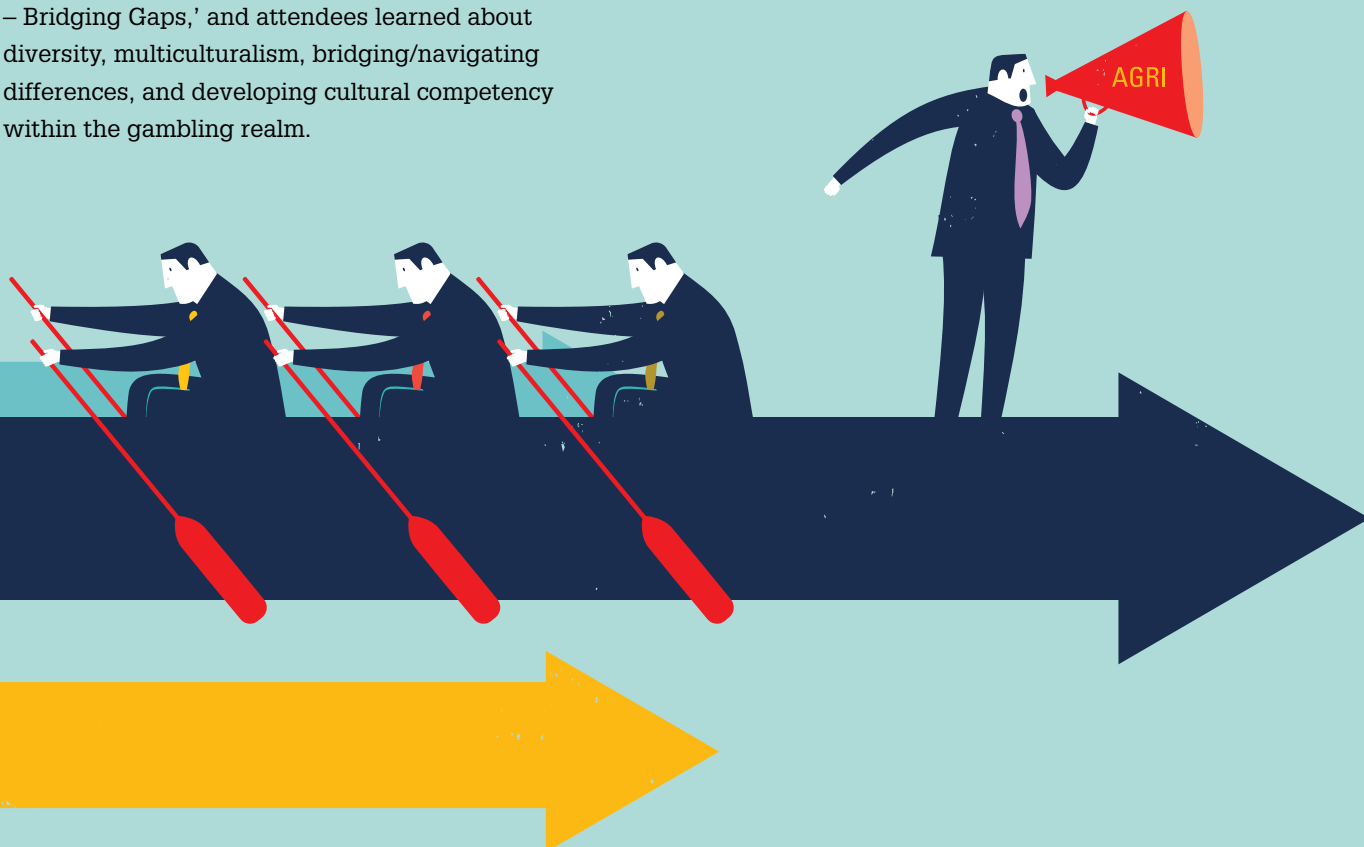
Consulting and Collaborating: A Coordinated Approach

In 2017-18, the Institute was a participating organization in the following:

- Responsible Gambling Advisory Committee (RGAC), Alberta Gaming & Liquor Commission - Participants Dr. Nady el-Guebaly and Glenda Wong.
- Interprovincial Canadian Consortium for Gambling Research (CCGR) - Participants Dr. Nady el-Guebaly and Glenda Wong.
- 2017 Game Sense Symposium (September 26), Alberta Gaming & Liquor Commission – Participants invited to the Edmonton symposium were the Institute-affiliated Research Coordinators, Gambling Chairs, Librarian, Executive Director, and Board Members. The event theme was ‘Multiculturalism – Bridging Gaps,’ and attendees learned about diversity, multiculturalism, bridging/navigating differences, and developing cultural competency within the gambling realm.

In 2017-18, Institute Research Coordinators consulted in the following:

- National Low Risk Gambling Guidelines, Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction – Participant Dr. David Hodgins.
- Canadian Consortium for Gambling Research Advisory Committee, Canadian Community Health Survey Gambling Module (Statistics Canada) – Participants Drs. Robert Williams and Cam Wild (Board member).
- Committee on the Public Health Implications of Addictive Behaviours, World Health Organization – Participant Dr. David Hodgins.



Audited Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2018

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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, 2018, 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, 2018 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Calgary, Alberta
June 19, 2018

MNP LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

MNP LLP

Statement of Financial Position

AS AT MARCH 31

	2018	2017
Financial Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 4)	\$ 711,495	\$ 1,642,128
Grants receivable	375,000	—
Unexpended funds receivable (Note 5)	15,294	12,832
	<u>1,101,789</u>	<u>1,654,960</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	37,381	40,812
	<u>1,064,408</u>	<u>1,614,148</u>
Net Financial Assets		
Non-Financial Assets		
Prepaid expenses	4,000	9,250
	<u>1,068,408</u>	<u>1,623,398</u>
Net Assets		
Net Assets		
Accumulated surplus	1,623,398	2,227,822
Annual deficit	(554,990)	(604,424)
	<u>\$ 1,068,408</u>	<u>\$ 1,623,398</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

	2018 BUDGET (Note 9)	2018 ACTUAL	2017 ACTUAL
Revenues			
Government transfers	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000
Investment income	5,000	11,560	13,059
Other/unexpended funds recovered	50,000	15,294	12,832
	<u>\$ 1,555,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,526,854</u>	<u>\$ 1,525,891</u>
Expenses (Schedule 1)			
Research	\$ 1,765,000	\$ 1,586,900	\$ 1,668,635
Infrastructure and library	140,000	140,000	140,000
Research linkages	90,000	89,314	59,966
Research administration	315,000	265,630	261,714
	<u>\$ 2,310,000</u>	<u>\$ 2,081,844</u>	<u>\$ 2,130,315</u>
Annual Deficit	<u>\$ (755,000)</u>	<u>\$ (554,990)</u>	<u>\$ (604,424)</u>

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

Statement of Cash Flows

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

	2018	2017
Operating Transactions		
Contributions from the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance	\$ 1,125,000	\$ 1,500,000
Unexpended funds	24,392	40,946
Research expenditures	(1,591,900)	(1,760,203)
Infrastructure and library expenditures	(140,000)	(140,000)
Research linkages expenditures	(84,064)	(62,216)
Research administration expenditures	(264,060)	(271,302)
Cash Used for Operating Transactions	<u>(930,632)</u>	<u>(692,775)</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents, Beginning of Year	1,642,128	2,334,903
Cash and Cash Equivalents, End of Year	<u><u>\$ 711,495</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,642,128</u></u>

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

Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

	2018 BUDGET (Note 9)	2018 ACTUAL	2017 ACTUAL
Annual deficit	\$ (755,000)	\$ (554,990)	\$ (604,424)
Change in prepaid expenses	—	5,250	1,500
Decrease in net financial assets	(755,000)	(549,740)	(602,924)
Net financial assets, beginning of year	1,614,148	1,614,148	2,217,072
Net financial assets, end of year	<u>\$ 859,148</u>	<u>\$ 1,064,408</u>	<u>\$ 1,614,148</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 April 1, 2011 (signed September 27, 2011). 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, 2018.

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, grants receivable, 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 rate, currency, or credit risks arising from its financial instruments.

Change in Accounting Policies

Effective April 1, 2017, the Institute adopted the recommendations relating to the following Sections, as set out in the CPA Canada Public Sector Accounting Handbook:

- PS 2200 Related Party Disclosures
- PS 3420 Inter-entity Transactions
- PS 3210 Assets
- PS 3320 Contingent Assets
- PS 3380 Contractual Rights

Pursuant to the recommendations, the changes were applied prospectively, and prior periods have not been restated. There was no material impact on the combined financial statements of adopting the new Sections.

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.

	2018				2017
	University of Alberta	University of Calgary	University of Lethbridge	Total	Total
Unexpended grants, opening balance	\$ 2,501	\$ 5,058	\$ 5,273	\$ 12,832	\$ 27,887
Capacity building	92,000	100,000	100,000	292,000	293,700
Library and collections	—	—	140,000	140,000	140,000
New grants provided	92,000	100,000	240,000	432,000	433,700
Current year expenditures	(84,644)	(100,000)	(232,063)	(416,707)	(420,868)
Recovered	(2,501)	(5,058)	(5,272)	(12,831)	(27,887)
	(87,145)	(105,058)	(237,335)	(429,538)	(448,755)
Unexpended capacity-building grants	\$ 7,356	\$ —	\$ 7,938	\$ 15,294	\$ 12,832

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
2018/19	\$ 251,044	\$ 16,139	\$ 346,667	\$ 18,750	\$ 632,600
2019/20	65,129	16,139	162,500	—	243,768
2020/21	-	4,035	32,500	—	36,535
Total	\$ 316,173	\$ 36,313	\$ 541,667	\$ 18,750	\$ 912,903

(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, 2018, 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, 2018 for six months (end date, June 30, 2018).

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 2017-2018 budget was approved by the Institute's Board of Directors on January 4, 2017.

Note 10 Approval of Financial Statements

These financial statements were approved by the Institute's Board of Directors on June 27, 2018.

Schedule of Expenses

Schedule 1

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

	2018 Budget	2018 Actual	2017 Actual
Research			
Grant competition/strategic research	\$ 995,000	\$ 850,899	\$ 953,524
Capacity building	690,000	652,000	629,150
Research direction	80,000	84,001	85,961
	1,765,000	1,586,900	1,668,635
Infrastructure and Library			
Library and collections	140,000	140,000	140,000
	140,000	140,000	140,000
Research Linkages			
Events, colloquia	50,000	58,197	48,752
Communications, exchanges	40,000	31,117	11,214
	90,000	89,314	59,966
Research Administration			
Governance	50,000	33,684	32,934
Personnel costs	205,000	205,037	212,417
Contract services	10,000	438	11,640
Professional fees	20,000	12,600	—
Administrative hub	30,000	13,871	4,723
	315,000	265,630	261,714
Total Expenses	\$ 2,310,000	\$ 2,081,844	\$ 2,130,315

Board of Directors

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. Dr. el-Guebaly joined the Institute as Research Director in 2013. In 2017, Dr. el-Guebaly was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada for his leadership on addictions research and treatment.

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 2017, and acted 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 served on the Institute Board from March 1, 2015, to February 28, 2018.

Kienc, Ms. Berenika

Berenika Kienc is the Manager of Enterprise Planning at the Alberta Energy Regulator. Previously, she was a Senior Consultant with Deloitte Canada LLP and the Manager of Policy and Research for the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce. She holds an MBA from the University of Alberta. Ms. Kienc joined the Institute Board as the External/Public Member on September 22, 2017.

Lund, Dr. Anna

Anna Lund is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Alberta. She researches in the areas of bankruptcy and insolvency, and debtor creditor law, and civil procedure. She is currently researching the role of public income support programs in preventing medical bankruptcy and the intersection of insolvency law and gambling. She co-authored *Collections Law in Alberta: A Practical Guide* (Carswell, 2012) and has published articles in journals including the *Canadian Business Law Journal*, the *Saskatchewan Law Review*, and the *Annual Review of Insolvency Law*. A member of the Law Society of Alberta, she continues to practice on a pro bono basis through the Edmonton Community Legal Centre and Pro Bono Law Alberta. Dr. Lund sits on the Canadian Bar Association's Access to Justice Committee (Alberta Branch) and the board of Pro Bono Law Alberta. Dr. Lund joined the Institute Board on March 1, 2018.

Malacrada, Dr. Claudia

Claudia Malacrada is Associate Vice-President in the Office of the Vice President Research at the University of Lethbridge and a Professor of Sociology. Dr. Malacrada 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.

Nicol, Dr. Christopher

Chris Nicol is the University Librarian at the University of Lethbridge and a Professor of Economics. Prior to his appointment as University Librarian, Dr. Nicol was Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science at the University of Lethbridge for twelve years. He has served as a member of the Editorial Board of the Canadian Journal of Economics, and a member of the Executive Council of the Canadian Economics Association. His interests are in econometrics, applied econometrics, the theory of consumer behaviour, and macroeconomic policy debates. Dr. Nicol joined the Institute Board on January 1, 2018.

O'Shea, Dr. Séamus

Séamus O'Shea is a former Vice President (Academic) and Provost, and Professor of Chemistry at the University of Lethbridge. In addition to duties at the University, he is an advocate for increasing university participation and a promoter of university transfer programs, post-diploma degrees, and student-focused programming. He participated in planning and implementing advanced infrastructure for research and development, particularly high performance networks and computing systems. Dr. O'Shea's research interests involved mathematical and computer modelling of molecular liquids and solids. He is past Chair, Board of Directors, of iCORE (informatics Circle of Research Excellence), of Cybera (networks), and of WestGrid (high performance computing systems.) Dr. O'Shea was appointed Chair of the Institute's Board of Directors 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 served on the Institute Board from July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2017.

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, Ms. 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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