

GAMBLING RESEARCH

ALBERTA
GAMBLING
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE



Back to the Centre: AGRI Conference 2022

BACK TO THE CENTRE BACK TO THE FUTURE OF GAMBLING RESEARCH 2022

The Institute's 21st annual conference will once again be welcoming delegates in-person at The Banff Centre in Banff, Alberta from June 23 - 25, 2022. Furthermore, for the first time ever, attendees unable to participate in the face-to-face event will have the option of attending remotely.

In addition to presentations from leading gambling researchers and a research poster session, conference program organizer Dr. David Hodgins has also incorporated the following special themes:

1. **Low Risk Gambling Guidelines** – Researchers from Canada (Matthew Young), United States (Rachel Volberg), Sweden (Jakob Johnson) and Australia (Nicki Dowling; Nerilee Hing) will be presenting keynote and discussion panel sessions about a large-scale, international project that has produced guidelines for lower-risk gambling.
2. **New Findings from the AGRI National Project (ANP)** – Three keynote sessions will present recent findings from the Institute's national study of gambling (ANP). Included will be an overview of new findings (Rob Williams), a session examining the impacts of COVID-19 on gambling (Carrie Shaw),

and one that will review the effects of 'RG-Check' training on casino employee behaviour (Darren Christensen).

3. **Early Career Researcher Concurrent Sessions** – Concurrent sessions will feature eight presentations from early career researchers who will present on a variety of gambling research topics.

Conference registration and a preliminary conference program are available from the Institute website:

<https://research.ucalgary.ca/alberta-gambling-research-institute/institute-conference>

The primary aim of the Alberta Gambling Research Institute, a consortium of the Universities of Alberta, Calgary, and Lethbridge, is to support academic research related to 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.

Research Snapshots Highlight Findings of AGRI National Project (ANP)-Related Publications

Over the course of the past year, analyses of data collected for the Institute's national study of gambling in Canada, the ANP, has been ongoing and peer-reviewed journal articles reporting on key research findings have appeared in the *Journal of Gambling Studies*, *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, and *Canadian Journal of Public Health*. Publication in journals is a critical to sharing scholarship and advancing the field of gambling studies but subscription fees mean that, unfortunately, many articles are unavailable to policy-makers, clinicians and the interested public. In addition, scientific articles are often full of complex language and disciplinary jargon which can make them inaccessible to non-specialist audiences

One organization at the forefront of improving both availability and accessibility to research findings has been Greo, based in Guelph, Ontario. Greo has been involved for many years generating, synthesizing, and mobilizing research into action across the health and wellbeing sectors. Included within their well-known Evidence Centre of digital gambling research are a series of 1,660+ plain language "Research Snapshots." These snapshots summarize peer-reviewed articles on gambling research topics and identify the most important information for audiences as well as actionable results. Recently, Greo has created the following five research snapshots, featuring articles authored by the ANP research team:

- 1. Awareness of responsible gambling among patrons of casinos and racinos in Canada**
- 2. Are erroneous gambling beliefs the main determinants of problem gambling?**
- 3. Gambling and problem gambling in Canada before and during the COVID-19 lockdown**
- 4. Gambling in Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians**
- 5. EGM use and other factors that predict gambling and problem gambling in Canada**

Keep an eye on the Institute's ANP Research webpage for details about project-related articles, conference presentations and links to new Greo research snapshots.

Research Grants

Six Major Grants Awarded in 2021-22 Funding Cycle

The Institute is pleased to announce funding for the following six new major grants as part of the 2021-22 research funding cycle:

- **Financial Outcomes After Winning the Lottery**
 - Barry Scholnick (Business, U. Alberta)
- **A Social Neuroscience Examination of Ironic Risk-Taking**
 - Kyle Nash (Psychology, U. Alberta)
- **The Economic Incidence of Indigenous Gaming**
 - Laurel Wheeler (Economics, U. Alberta)
- **Online Gambling Self-help and Motivational Enhancement**
 - David C. Hodgins & Brad W. Brazeau (Psychology, U. Calgary)
- **Gambling in Canada: A Return to Normal or the Establishment of a New Normal?**
 - Carrie Leonard & Robert J. Williams (Health Sciences, U. Lethbridge)
- **Determining the Relationship of Communication in Emotional Regulation and Severity of Problem Gambling and Comorbidities**
 - Bonnie K. Lee (Health Sciences, U. Lethbridge)

Full descriptions for 2021-22 research grants as well as grants funded in previous cycles are available from the [Major Grants](#) section of the Institute website. For more information about research grants, including types, eligibility, stakeholder priorities and application deadlines, please visit the [Apply for Grants](#) section of the website.

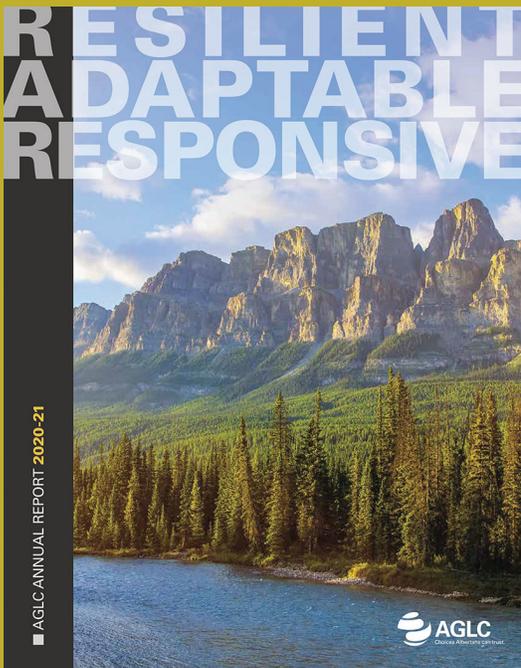
Annual Reports Released AGRI



The Institute's Annual Report 2020-21 is now available. It contains details about Institute-related research activities at partner universities including the status of major and small grants as well as the AGRI National Project. Also included are audited financial statements as at March 31, 2021. The report is accessible online from the [Annual Reports & Business Plans section](#) of the Institute web site.

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Annual Reports Released Cont'd AGLC



Alberta Gaming, Liquor & Cannabis (AGLC) released their Annual Report 2020-21 on November 16, 2021. The report contains a wealth of information for those interested in further understanding the provincial gambling landscape. As anticipated, gaming net operating income was substantially lower in 2020-21 (\$773.6-M) versus 2019-20 (\$1,331.4-M) primarily due to COVID-19 venue closures. AGLC's new online gambling platform, PlayAlberta.ca, launched on September 30, 2020 and its net sales were \$37-M in the six-month period ending March 31, 2021.

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