

Canada's Gambling Watch Network's e-mailed Newsletter

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We are not alone in our struggle against the continuing expansion of gambling in Canada. Going to <http://www.citizenvoice.ca> will give you more information on this group, while Game Planit reveals the truth about slots and other Electronic Gaming Machines (EGMs). See how deceptive the machines can be from virtual reels to concealed odds. All things in the EGMs are designed to addict the player. Visit <http://www.gameplanit.com> for more. Anyone who wants to join the class-action suit against Loto-Québec, or wanting to know more on that issue, will find a link on website www.vivaconsulting.com pointing the way.

Also: a group of activists in Nova Scotia established the Web site gameovervits, it has many stories that show what pathological gambling does to individuals and their families. Our Blueprint for action to reform Canadian gambling law, policies & practices into real public interest will be e-mailed to anyone who asks for it.

We're always open to Guest Editorials and Letters to the Editor. Placing an item doesn't mean that we agree with the opinion expressed. As a coalition of a variety of groups and people, our "party line" leaves room for differences of opinion, and we welcome them!

Help!

We are always looking for persons who have the time, the interest and the ability to help us finding news articles about gambling from coast to coast. We are doing our best to be a Canada-wide organization, but the fact that many newspapers (especially in Atlantic Canada!) restrict access to their site to subscribers makes it necessary to find activists in all provinces to make sure that items of importance are not missed. All that our activists need is a computer and access to the Internet. Do not be afraid of your own inexperience: in the 7 years of our existence, we have more than once helped new people to get started! We should add here that Canada's Gambling Watch Network also needs financial help. For some seven years our expenses have been paid from the pockets of generous activists, and a few years ago we tried to get regular supporters. We'll continue to gain subscribers to our Newsletter. The minimum membership is \$10 per year, the regular is \$20 annually, and any bigger gifts will be welcome. We cannot issue receipts that will be recognized by Canada's taxation system. How can we actively oppose gambling without being political? Cheques or money orders, payable to Canada's Gambling Watch Network, should be sent to our Treasurer, Art Tiesma, 308 Spruce Street, London, ON N5W 4N5.

Due to the closing of our former Internet server, our Web site is presently inaccessible. Its contents are a part of our extensive archives, so it can be rebuilt. We are badly in need of a volunteer Web Master or Mistress with the ability and the willingness to do so.

Why did it almost two weeks to get back in the Internet?

The simple answer is that it was totally the fault of our new server: Bellnet.ca. We do not know if the technician who was supposed to connect us on September 22 did not follow his instructions or if he did not receive the proper instructions, but the fact was that we did not get connected. After that it was a horror story of phoning time after time, of not

receiving answers, of hanging on the phone for hours and not getting anywhere, of asking again and again to repeat what was said, of

Now we are gathering gambling news again. If any of our readers can help us by giving us news articles that we've missed, we will greatly appreciate that. As of next week we hope to be able to resume emailing our weekly newsletters.

Our editor tried to talk to a few lottery addicts in a mall surrounded by apartments for old people. The person running the lottery counter there tried to get him thrown out. Lottery counter staff ought to have at least some insight in the addictive quality of the products the OLG pushes. See the following editorial:

Will a person with high moral standards work at a lottery counter?

That question came to me recently when I happened to be in an area where many retired persons visit a shopping mall close to their home. It's a sad fact of our present life style that any shopping mall or corner store must have a lottery counter, and lottery counters must have clerks to sell their 'products'.

Just imagine that you were in need of a job, and that you saw an ad offering jobs at such a counter. If you are an honest person with high moral standards – should you apply?

Let me describe some of the things I saw at that lottery counter near the homes of many oldsters. The first thing I saw was that it was surrounded by people – mainly oldsters and females - standing near waste baskets breaking open and dumping their used tickets.

When I sat down to watch what was going on, my eyes came to rest on two women who both had a stack of those tickets. I watched them for at least 45 minutes. During that time they made visit after visit to the cashier to change their winning tickets for fresh ones and to get another stack of new ones. I did not stay long enough to see the younger one leave, but the older one – she kept wiping the perspiration off her cheeks and forehead – was followed by me when she finally departed. When we were out of sight of the counter, I addressed her: 'Do you do this often?' Her reply was: 'Yes, and I love doing it. I am entitled to have one vice, and it's my own money I spend. So why would you care?'

Another, younger woman, admitted she is addicted. She'd seen a counsellor, obviously one of the government type, because he'd told her to keep her gambling under control rather than helping her to quit.

Most of the men I saw were sitting at nearby tables with scratch tickets. I talked to one of them. He readily admitted he is addicted. The only solution he saw was to make tickets like the ones he buys illegal. Then he would be forced to stop.

The women in charge of the lottery counters know which of their customers are addicts. If they were of high morals, would they keep feeding those addicts? Their jobs are legal, but are they morally not as low-grade as dope pushers are?

Should anyone of high morals take such a job? The answer to this question is clear.

Not long ago a now retired pharmacist told me how government officials – including the RCMP! – kept an eye on the way he handled, prescribed and kept records of addictive medications. What's the matter with our present government that provincial lottery corporations are allowed to advertise and market highly addictive lottery tickets by practically untrained pushers?

Johannes DeViet, Editor of Canada's Gambling Watch Newsletter.

Here are some of the naughty dreams of Canada's Gambling Watch Network:

At some point, Canada's formerly highly ethical charities will realize that their wasteful and unpractical way of raising money by lotteries does nothing but promote a general unhealthy greed causing people to only give money if they have a chance to gain more than they donated.

The governments of our countries and provinces will at some point wake up to the fact that casinos and slots lounges do not belong in developed and healthy countries. They will be transformed to cancer clinics and addiction cure centres at some point. Even the U.S.A. – it declared Nevada's mob acceptable – will see its errors.

Please make a note of our new email address!