



“Internet Gambling”

Thursday, March 26, 2009

**Registration Desk Open: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Welcome Reception & Light Supper: 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Max Bell Fishbowl Lounge**

The Welcome Reception is sponsored by Alberta Gaming & Liquor Commission

Friday, March 27, 2009

**Buffet Breakfast: 7:00 am to 9:00 am
Registration Desk Open: 7:00 am to 9:00 am
Conference Opening: 8:30 am to 9:00 am
Morning Plenary Sessions: 9:00 am to 12:15 pm
Luncheon: 12:15 pm to 1:15 pm
Greetings from the Alberta Government: 1:15 pm to 1:30 pm
Afternoon Plenary Sessions: 1:30 pm to 4:45 pm**

Saturday, March 28, 2009

**Buffet Breakfast: 7:00 am to 9:00 am
Morning Plenary Sessions: 9:00 am to 12:15 pm
Luncheon: 12:15 pm to 1:30 pm
Poster Session Presenters Available: 12:45 pm to 1:30 pm
Afternoon Plenary Sessions: 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm**

Meal Service at Vistas Dining Room, Sally Borden Building

This program is approved by the Canadian Problem Gambling Certification Board

INTERNET GAMBLING

ALBERTA GAMING RESEARCH INSTITUTE'S 8TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE BANFF CENTRE, BANFF,
ALBERTA
March 26 – 28, 2009

Thursday, March 26, 2009			
6:00 – 8:00 pm	Registration Max Bell Foyer		
7:00 - 9:00 pm	Welcome Reception & Light Supper, Max Bell Lounge Sponsored by Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission		
Friday, March 27, 2009			
7:00 – 9:00 am	BUFFET BREAKFAST – Vistas Dining Room		
7:00 – 9:00 am	Registration - Max Bell Foyer		
8:30 – 9:00 am	Welcome/ Opening Remarks	<p><i>Dr. Nady el-Guebaly</i> Chair Alberta Gaming Research Institute</p> <p><i>Jim Olver</i> Director of Customer Service The Banff Centre</p>	
<i>Moderator: Dr: Robert Williams</i>			
9:00 – 9:45 am	“Setting the Stage: History, Current Worldwide Situation, Regulatory Frameworks, and Concerns with Internet Gambling”	<p><i>Dr. Robert Williams</i> Professor, School of Health Sciences & Coordinator, Alberta Gaming Research Institute University of Lethbridge Canada</p>	<p>This presentation provides a context for the other presentations at this conference. It starts with a detailed chronological history of Internet gambling. This is followed by a description of the current situation with regards to the types of online gambling available, who the major providers are, the various payment methods available, the current market share relative to land-based gambling, patronage origin, and revenues. The wide range of regulatory frameworks used in different countries is then discussed, as well as a more detailed examination of the Canadian regulatory framework. Next, the various problems with Internet gambling are examined, including things such as unfair, illegal, or irresponsible business practices, unfair or illegal player practices, Internet gambling by prohibited groups, and the higher rates of problem gambling associated with online play. The final part of this presentation speculates about the future of Internet gambling.</p>
9:45 - 10:30am	“An Exploratory Investigation into the Attitudes and Behaviours of Online Casino and Poker Players”	<p><i>Dr. Jonathan Parke</i> Lecturer Salford Business School University of Salford Salford, Greater Manchester United Kingdom</p>	<p>This research explored attitudes and behaviours among Internet poker players and Internet casino players from 96 different countries. The presentation will include quantitative data collected from a self-selected sample of 10,865 players which was collected using Internet Mediated Research (IMR) via an Internet data collection tool. Overall, 85 questions including closed and open-ended questions were used to collect data on demographic variables, (e.g. luck and superstition), player protection and satisfaction, responsible gambling and positive and negative aspects of Internet gambling. Themes were also explored using a series of 15 focus groups which were held in the US, the UK, Canada, Germany and Sweden. Findings from both studies and the potential implications for policy and further research will be discussed.</p>
10:30 – 10:45am	REFRESHMENT BREAK		
10:45 – 11:30am	“Actual Internet Gambling”	<p><i>Dr. Sarah Nelson</i> Instructor of Psychology Division on Addictions Cambridge Health</p>	<p>Internet gambling has unique properties not found in land-based gambling activities (e.g. anonymity, 24/7 access), and as such, might pose unique risks to gamblers. However, Internet gambling, because of its technology, also offers a unique opportunity for research on actual gambling behavior. Past research has relied primarily on self-report of behavior, limiting</p>

		Alliance, Teaching Affiliate of Harvard Medical School Medford, MA United States	the information it can provide and the conclusions we can draw. The current presentation describes the study of actual Internet gambling behavior, how the conclusions drawn from such study relate to previous self-report research, and future directions for this kind of research.
11:30 – 12:15pm	“Internet Gambling In Comparative Perspective:, Patterns, Problems, and Policy Options”	<i>Dr. Rob Wood</i> Associate Professor Department of Sociology University of Lethbridge Lethbridge, Alberta Canada	Drawing upon data from a weighted random sample of 6,010 Canadian gamblers, the present study provides an up-to-date and representative overview of the prevalence and pattern of gambling in Canada, with a distinct comparative focus on Internet versus land-based gambling. Internet and land-based gamblers are compared with respect to their: 1) demographic characteristics; 2) propensity for problem gambling; 3) gambling expenditures; 4) health characteristics; 5) gaming frequency; and 6) game-type preferences. Findings yield important implications for the responsible design and implementation of potential future Internet gambling policies in Canada.
12:15 – 1:15 pm	LUNCH – Vistas Dining Room		
<i>Moderator: Dr. Garry Smith</i>			
1:15 – 1:30 pm	“Greetings from the Province”	<i>Rob Anderson</i> Parliamentary Assistant to the Honourable Fred Lindsay, Alberta Solicitor General and Minister of Public Services”	
1:30 – 2:15 pm	“British Columbia Lottery Corporation’s Online Gaming”	<i>Kevin Gass</i> Vice President, Corporate Affairs British Columbia Lottery Corporation Richmond, B.C. Canada	BCLC’s PlayNow is one of only two legal gaming websites in North America. The presentation will outline the development of the site and its player protection features and describe the kinds of products currently available. He will give an overview of what the future will look like and provide a brief look at other jurisdictions.
2:15 – 3:00 pm	“Public and Private Sector Internet Gambling Operations: Some useful information from Europe”	<i>Martin Sychold</i> Head of Common Law and Mixed Legal Systems Swiss Institute of Comparative Law Lausanne Switzerland	In Europe today, many steps are being taken, in many different directions, in respect of Internet gambling. Some States are trying to restrict it generally, others are basically encouraging it and still others accept it as long as it doesn’t cross national borders. At the level of the European Union, efforts are continuing to ensure that the freedom of inter-State trade also applies to gambling services, in particular when supplied via the Internet, but resistance to the EU regulation of gambling remains strong. Research is being conducted into the economic, legal and social health repercussions of Internet gambling. What can the rest of the world learn from all these developments?
3:00 – 3:15 pm	REFRESHMENT BREAK		
3:15 – 4:00 pm	“Player Protection Issues with Internet Gambling”	<i>Dr. Jamie Wiebe</i> Factz Research Toronto, Ontario Canada	Today, the online gambler has more options than ever with regard to games and virtual venues. The potential for underage access, the ability to gamble unlimited by time or location, and the anonymity and social isolation of the gambler all raise concerns from a problem gambling standpoint. This presentation examines the risks associated with online gambling and what some sites are doing to reduce these risks.
4:00 – 4:45 pm	“The Polaris Computer Poker Program”	<i>Dr. Michael Bowling</i> Associate Professor Department of Computing Science University of Alberta Edmonton, Alberta Canada	The game of poker presents a serious challenge to artificial intelligence research. The game involves many sources of uncertainty including stochastic dynamics, unobservable opponent cards, and unknown opponent strategies. This talk will outline both the challenges and the state of the art in overcoming these challenges, identifying the key advances that led to Polaris, a program developed at the University of Alberta, becoming the first computer poker program to defeat professional players in a meaningful competition.

Saturday, March 28, 2009

Posters Set Up

7:00 – 9:00 am	BUFFET BREAKFAST – Vistas Dining Room		
9:00 – 9:45 am	“Youth Online Gambling”	<i>Dr. Jeff Derevensky</i> Professor of School/Applied Child Psychology Dept. of Educational and Counselling Psychology McGill University Montreal, Quebec Canada	Multiple issues surrounding underage and young adult Internet wagering have recently been raised. The current presentation focuses upon a number of recent adolescent, young adult, and adult Internet gambling studies. Policy recommendation and prevention initiatives are discussed.
9:45 – 10:30am	“Cheating and Cybercrime @ Gambling Sites.Com”	<i>Dr. John McMullan</i> Professor Department of Sociology & Criminology Saint Mary’s University Halifax, Nova Scotia Canada	This paper investigates the types, techniques and organizational dynamics of cheating and crime at online gambling sites. It discusses the diversity of illegal activities (i.e. hacking, identity fraud, dot.coms, phishing scams, cyberextortion, money laundering, etc.) and examines how they are organized to deal with the Internet environment. It concentrates on the organization of cheating and cybercrime as rationally geared to manage technical problems of social order such as coordinating multinational hack attacks, routinizing illegal acts on the net, interacting with victims, managing the law and law enforcement, etc. and outlines three varieties of criminal organization - techno-nomads, digital associates and criminal assemblages – currently operating on the Internet.
10:30 – 10:45am	REFRESHMENT BREAK		
<i>Moderator: Dr. David Hodgins</i>			
10:45 – 11:30am	“Internet Gambling Research and Policy in a Post-Obama United States: Yes They Can?”	<i>Dr. Bo Bernhard</i> Associate Professor Departments of Sociology and Hotel Management Director of Gambling Research International Gaming Institute University of Nevada, Las Vegas Las Vegas, NV United States	As promised during the 2009 presidential election, much has changed on the political front in the United States. The question remains: how much will this “change” be felt in the US-based gaming industry – and especially, the internet gaming industry? Will internet gamblers in the US be able to say “yes we can” (wager legally)? This presentation will focus on key political developments and empirical data that shed light on these important questions.
11:30 – 12:15pm	“Speculative Trading and Gambling Activities in Financial Markets”	<i>Dr. Alok Kumar</i> Assistant Professor of Finance McCombs School of Business University of Texas at Austin Austin, Texas United States	Dr. Kumar’s presentation will focus on the availability of gambling opportunities in financial markets. In particular, he will argue that investors have many opportunities to gamble in the stock market using existing financial instruments. In particular, during bad economic times, the propensity to gamble using financial instruments increase, just as the propensity to play state lotteries increases. He will also highlight the demographic characteristics of individuals who exhibit a greater tendency to invest in lottery-type stocks. Finally, he will discuss whether there are broad market-wide effects of speculative and gambling-type activities, such as their impact on stock returns and volatility.
12:15 – 1:30 pm	LUNCH – Vistas Dining Room		
12:45 – 1:30 pm	Poster Session – Max Bell ‘Fishbowl’ Room		

1:30 – 2:15 pm	“Virtual Sovereignty: Exploring the Nature of Canadian First Nations Internet Gaming Ventures”	<i>Dr. Yale Belanger</i> Assistant Professor Department of Native Studies University of Lethbridge Lethbridge, Alberta Canada	Certain Canadian Aboriginal groups (e.g., most notably the Kahnawa:ke First Nation in Quebec and the Alexander First Nation in Alberta) have taken the position that they are sovereign nations able to enact their own gambling legislation. The beliefs oppose Canada's perspective that First Nations are non-state actors bound by federal legislation. The outcome: two self-proclaimed sovereigns battle for jurisdictional supremacy over the right to regulate online gambling. This presentation will offer insights into the nature of these differences.
2:15 – 3:00 pm	“Online Treatment for Addictions”	<i>Dr. John Cunningham</i> Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Toronto, Ontario Canada	This presentation will provide a summary of the state of Internet-based Interventions (IBIs) for addictive behaviours to-date. First, a rationale for IBIs will be provided. Next, common elements in IBIs will be discussed along with select research findings. The presentation will conclude with a discussion of what questions still need answering as IBIs are further developed in the next few years.
3:00 – 3:15 pm	REFRESHMENT BREAK		
3:15 – 4:00 pm	“Online Support for People with Gambling Issues”	<i>Dr. Richard Wood</i> Director of GamRes Research & Consultancy Vaudreuil-Dorion, Quebec, Canada	The presentation will explore the potential of online support services for helping people with gambling issues. Focusing primarily on peer based support forums, key findings from two UK studies (Wood & Griffiths, 2007; Wood 2007) will be presented highlighting the advantages and limitations of this type of support for a range of people at all levels of the gambling spectrum. There will also be a brief introduction to GamTalk, a new national support forum helping Canadians with gambling issues.
4:00 – 4:45 pm	“Responsible Gaming and Gambling Problems among 3000 Swedish Internet Poker Players”	<i>Jakob Jonsson</i> Clinical Psychologist Spelinstitutet Skarnack Sweden	As the first governmental owned gambling company in the world, the Swedish gambling company Svenska Spel introduced Internet poker in March 2006. This presentation will present two empirical studies that were parts of the governmental evaluation of Internet poker at Svenska Spel. The first study used a representative web-panel and 2002 Swedish active Internet poker players answered questions about poker gambling behaviour, gambling problems (Problem Gambling Severity Index (Ferris & Wynne, 2001), poker modified) and reasons for playing at Svenska Spel and other poker-sites, respectively. In the second study, 1031 from a randomly drawn sample of 2575 active poker players at Svenska Spel answered the PGSI, poker modified and questions with focus on the use of, and attitudes towards, different responsible gaming tools.
4:45 – 5:00 pm	Closing Remarks	<i>Dr. Robert Williams</i> Professor, School of Health Sciences, U of Lethbridge	