



Progress through Adaptability

Alberta Gambling Research Institute
2022 - 2023 Annual Report

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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).



"A
wise
man
adapts
himself to
circumstances
as water shapes
itself to the vessel
that contains it."

Anonymous

Message from the Board Chair



This year's Annual Report, AGRI's 22nd, documents another year of research, publication, training, and communications intended to fulfill AGRI's mandate.

COVID was much less of a factor than the year before but left a significant hangover as people and organizations began to shift to a new mode of operation, blending pre- and during-COVID operating practices. Those research and teaching activities which depend on in-person meetings began again slowly because the risk of resurgence still hung over everything. Nevertheless, things began to regain momentum. Those activities, such as analyzing and writing, continued apace and many important results of the AGRI National Project were published.

The Annual Conference, held in June, 2022, was a combination of in-person and virtual, since during the planning it was not yet clear whether travel

and attendance would be possible. Happily, it was very successful and had the feel of pre-COVID AGRI conferences. It also had the traditional weather mixture even though it was held in June rather than 2-3 months earlier in the year. Once again, I would like to thank Ms. Glenda Wong, the program organizers (our Principal Investigators), and to Encore who provided the technical platforms and support that made it such a success.

The conference featured talks highlighting the great harvest of publications resulting from the ANP. Details and presentations of many talks are available on the AGRI website.

Because AGRI's contract with the Government of Alberta was expiring on March 31, 2023 the Board and PIs also worked on the agenda for life after the ANP. Important conversations were held with stakeholders and an outline of another major research effort was developed. Watch this space!

I wish to thank the Members of the Board for their interest, energy and imagination as they support AGRI's work, and I look forward to another productive year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Séamus O'Shea". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr. Séamus O'Shea

Message from the Executive Director



As the world gets back to 'normal', I see how the Institute adapted through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and progressed. This year's Annual Report theme, 'Carry On: Progress through Adaptivity', is very representative of AGRI carrying on in meeting its vision, mission and goals and adapting, despite pandemic restrictions, to continue to move forward and progress.

Progressing through adaptivity this year was especially evident at the Institute's 21st Annual Conference, 'Back to the Centre – Back to the Future of Gambling Research'. This was the Institute's first ever hybrid conference. After a three-year hiatus, the Conference returned to the Banff Centre for an in-person program which was also broadcast to remote attendees. Adapting to the pandemic, the Conference was postponed for two months when a COVID wave hit during the original conference date in April. Also, the option to attend in-person or remotely/virtually provided for delegates 'comfort' levels for the Conference to proceed. The Conference presenters spoke on the latest developments in gambling-related research and the

AGRI National Project's (ANP) research findings were again highlighted (see Conference 2022-2023 section for more information). I want to thank the Conference delegates for their support and flexibility during this uncertain time.

The impressive list of publications funded by the Institute (see Research Publications section) attests to the progress achieved in 2022-2023. The ANP research team published an additional five articles adding to the nine publications from last year. The peer-reviewed research findings of the ANP through publication in scholarly literature expands the breadth and depth of scientific knowledge into gambling – one of the Institute's core purposes. Congratulations to the ANP's team of researchers for their contribution to gambling research in Alberta, Canada and internationally. Further information on the ANP's activities may be found in the Annual Report's sections 'Gambling Research at Partner Universities' (Dr. Robert Williams' report) and 'Strategic & Collaborative Initiatives'.

In addition, the Institute's Research Coordinators, Drs. David Hodgins (U of Calgary), Fiona Nicoll (U of Alberta) and Rob Williams (U of Lethbridge), have carried on with building internationally-recognized research programs and partnerships with colleagues in other provinces and countries. Institute Senior Research Fellows, Drs. Darren Christensen (U of Lethbridge) and Dan McGrath (U of Calgary) are likewise carrying on with creating gambling research communities in Alberta and nationally within their specific areas of expertise, namely, neurosciences and, addiction, respectively.

The Institute continued remote operations through 2022-2023. The past three years showed how the office effectively and efficiently adapted and progressed in its functioning.

Once again, I would like to thank the Institute's Board, the Government of Alberta, Treasury Board and Finance, the Office of the Vice President (Research), University of Calgary and the consortium universities (University of Alberta, Calgary and Lethbridge) for their support. Also, thank you to Rhys Stevens, Institute Librarian, for his support and contribution in the Institute's administrative processes, procedures and meeting stakeholders' needs and requirements this past year. All have contributed to the Institute 'carrying on – progress through adaptivity'.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glenda Wong'.

Glenda Wong

Under the surface of 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;

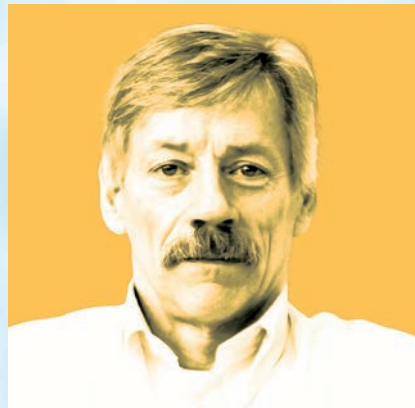
5. facilitate the transfer of knowledge and information to stakeholders, which includes, among other activities, maintaining a library collection;
6. forge strong collaborative links with stakeholders that include, but are not limited to, national and international scholars, organizations involved in 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 a seven-member Board consisting of two directors appointed by and from each Partner University, and an external Board Chair appointed by the Vice Presidents, Research, of the Partner Universities. The Executive Director serves as an advisory role on the Board. [For biographical information, see 'Board of Directors,' page 38]



Dr. Cheryl Currie
University of Lethbridge
(top of this column)

Dr. Chris Nicol
University of Lethbridge
(centre of this column)

Tombe, Dr. Trevor
University of Calgary
(bottom of this column)



Dr. Jenny Godley
University of Calgary
(top of this column)

Dr. Séamus O'Shea
Board Chair
(centre of this column)

Dr. Jared Wesley
University of Alberta
(bottom of this column)



Dr. Anna Lund
University of Alberta
(top of this column)

Dr. David Stewart
(Ended June, 2022)
University of Calgary
(centre of this column)

Glenda Wong
(Executive Director)
(bottom of this column)



The Steady Flow of Gambling Research at the Partner Universities

Dr. Fiona Nicoll, Ph.D., was appointed as the Alberta Gambling Research Coordinator at the University of Alberta on April 1, 2018. Dr. Nicoll holds a Ph.D. from the University of Melbourne and is a full Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Alberta. Her book *Gambling in Everyday Life: Spaces, Moments and Products of Enjoyment* was published by Routledge in 2019. She is the founding editor of the international academic journal *Critical Gambling Studies* and co-author of a book on *Disciplinary and Academic Integrity in Gambling Research* which will be completed in 2023.



Dr. Fiona Nicoll
Research Coordinator

The visual theme of this year's report recalls a visit in 2019 to the Bruce Lee Museum in Hong Kong. A memorable piece of wisdom offered by this martial artist, actor and international icon, was to 'be like water'. This captures the experience of learning to flow around the many challenges posed by a global pandemic rather than trying to directly resist their overwhelming force. I visited the Bruce Lee Museum enroute to an international symposium on Philosophy and Gambling hosted by the University of Macau. A highlight of 2022 was the publication of six [academic essays](#) from this event, celebrated by an international panel of speakers held in late July.

Further reflections on the theme of water recall a transnational exchange of Indigenous youth videogamers and researchers in summer. This exchange commenced with a team-building exercise in which youth from two continents learned to kayak together on a beautiful lake at Spirit Point in Northern Ontario. This was one of several land-based activities that created a space for cultural exchange

University of Alberta

and reflection, away from the ceaseless prompts of gamblified videogames on large and small screens. Academic researchers participated within the flows of everyday life for Indigenous youth as they participated in camping, cultural gardening, drum-making, poetry and song-writing, as well as engaging with two trauma-informed workshops on neurological and somatic aspects of videogames and gambling. A subsequent workshop in Thunder Bay led by Indigenous youth researchers in winter facilitated discussions between youth workers and gamers about their individual and group experiences of gambling and videogaming. The year ended with a visit to the University of Alberta in March where youth researchers adapted their project findings to share with professors and graduate students from different university faculties.

This year also saw the graduation of AGRI funded student David Baxter, with a timely and original dissertation on the important, but frequently overlooked, role of grey literature in gambling research. From government reports to gambling industry publications, and white papers, grey literature flows between the paywalls of academic publication to inform and complement other sources of knowledge about gambling.

Another example of AGRI's capacity to sustain and increase gambling research flows between different nations, jurisdictions and disciplines can be found in the journal of *Critical Gambling Studies*. To date the journal has published 41 research articles (including primary research and knowledge syntheses), six editorials, six commentaries, seven book reviews and

one original translation (of a fragment on card games by philosopher, [GWF Hegel](#)). Extending the scope of gambling research beyond an existing body of work in psychology and neuroscience, *Critical Gambling Studies* features research from over 29 academic disciplines and fourteen different countries.

An emerging current at the end of this year of adaptation and change is the development of educational resources to channel interdisciplinary knowledge flows from the ANP and *Critical Gambling Studies* to benefit graduate students, public service professionals and treatment providers through a microcredential with a timeline to be offered in 2024.



Dr. David C. Hodgins, Ph.D., FCAHS is a Professor and the Director of the Program in Clinical Psychology in the Department of Psychology, University of Calgary. He is the University of Calgary's Research Coordinator for the Alberta Gambling Research Institute. Dr. Hodgins is a registered Clinical Psychologist in Alberta.

University of Calgary

Like the Bow River running through Calgary, the gambling research program at the University of Calgary is deceptively deep in its steady flow of activities. Drs. Hodgins and McGrath, both originally recruited to the university through AGRI's capacity-building program, continue to have active research labs that provide mentoring to a diverse range of trainees. An average of 12 students and research assistants attend joint biweekly research meetings. In addition, several other faculty members are conducting gambling projects as part of larger research programs. Eight University of Calgary masters and 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. Two doctoral students and two MSc students completed their degrees this year and two of our doctoral students are also completing 12-month clinical psychology residency. U of Calgary has also the home for Dr. Youseff Allami, the AGRI postdoc co-supervised by Drs. Hodgins and Williams. He has been an engaged and enthusiastic team member at both U of Calgary and U of Lethbridge. Youssef taught a graduate course in the Clinical Psychology program which further exposed students to issues concerning gambling. He has also extended our capacity to host more undergraduate students in our labs- at least 20 participated actively in projects this past year.

All of these achievements were possible due to the flexibility of both individuals and institutions like AGRI to be willing to flow forward by doing things in new ways as pandemic related barriers appeared. The 2022 AGRI conference chaired by Dr. Hodgins, was optimistically titled "Back to the Centre" with the full expectation that it would be in person post pandemic. Instead, it evolved into our first fully hybrid event, which was exceedingly well attended and received.



Dr. David Hodgins
Research Coordinator

AGRI's presence at U of Calgary has been instrumental in the recognition that there is now a critical mass of researchers in the addictions area. The Hotchkiss Brain Institute has launched an initiative to coordinate and stimulate activities in this area that will mutually benefit AGRI's profile and capacity. Similarly, Dr. Hodgins heads the Prairie Node of the Canadian Initiative in Substance Misuse, which aligns well with the AGRI mandate.

U of Calgary continues our active collaboration with the University of São Paulo. This collaboration has expanded to include Toronto Metropolitan University. The International Behavioural Addictions and Impulse Control Disorder Network is now well established. This collaboration allows the clinical experience in one treatment centre to be shared world-wide through peer reviewed publications.

Drs. Hodgins and McGrath and other faculty across the university have active research projects funded by AGRI's grant program. Topics are diverse, including, the interaction of gambling and alcohol, understanding how people overcome gambling problems, the association between video games and gambling, and selective attention to gambling images among gamblers. These projects have both theoretical and practical implications.

Dr. Robert Williams is a full professor in the Addiction Counselling program in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Lethbridge. Dr. Williams is a clinical psychologist by training and spent the first 15 years of his career as the regional psychologist for northern Manitoba and then as a clinician in the Addiction Centre in Calgary, Alberta. He has been the AGRI Research Coordinator for the University of Lethbridge since 2001. Dr. Williams has published in the areas of substance use and addictions, behavioural addictions, fetal alcohol syndrome, statistical analysis, financial speculation, seasonal affective disorder, evolutionary theory, biofeedback, and gambling. For the past 20 years most of his work has focused on gambling, where he is an internationally recognized expert. Dr. Williams is one of the world's leading authorities in the prevention of problem gambling; online gambling; the socioeconomic impacts of gambling, the proportion of gambling revenue deriving from problem gamblers; the prevalence and nature of gambling within Indigenous communities; and the etiology of problem gambling.

University of Lethbridge

The University of Lethbridge has always had a small but vibrant group of diverse academics involved in gambling research. The 'Gambling Research Group', has been meeting once a month from September to May each year since 2010. At any one time the meeting will consist of between 10 – 20 people, with a mixture of students, Professors, and Librarians. It also involves a mix of disciplines, including people from Addiction Counselling, Psychology, Sociology, Neuroscience, Political Science, Mathematics, and the faculty of Education. Each meeting involves a presentation of recent research work. The multidisciplinary nature of the members provides for very rich feedback.

The main focus of Dr. Williams's research in 2022/2023 has been finishing up research from the AGRI National Project. To date this project has produced 15 peer-reviewed academic papers, with another four currently under review. The topics and main findings to date are as follows:

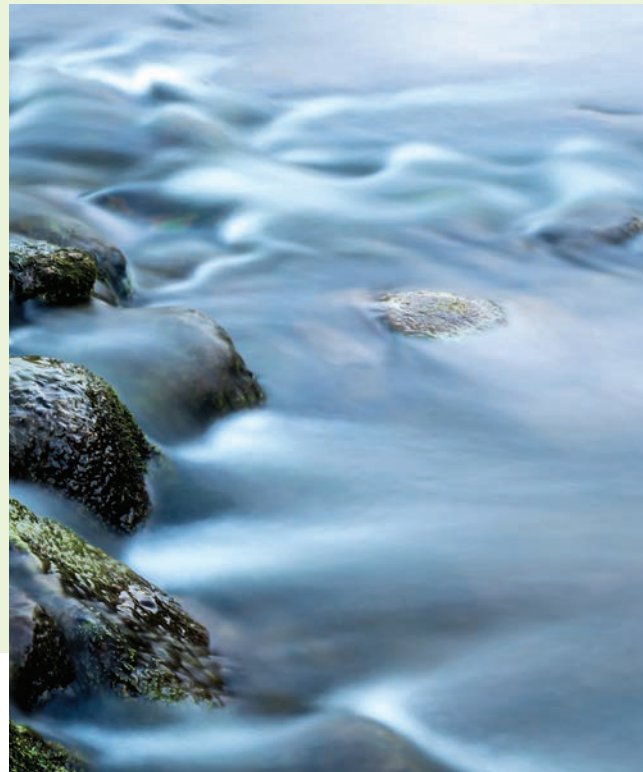
- **Prevalence** rate of both gambling (66.2%) and problem gambling (0.6%) in 2018 down significantly from 2002 rates although the provincial patterns and relative popularity of different types are quite similar between the two time periods. Suggests a degree of inoculation in the population as gambling availability has increased in that time period.



Dr. Robert Williams
Research Coordinator

- **Predictors of gambling participation and problem gambling rates** vary as a function of gender, income, educational attainment, race/ethnicity, and province. However, multivariate analysis identified electronic gambling machine (EGM) participation to be the primary predictor of problem gambling status.
- **Indigenous Canadians** have higher participation in EGMs, bingo, instant lotteries, overall gambling and a higher rate of problem gambling (2.0% versus 0.5%). Variables predictive of Indigenous problem gambling are the same ones predictive of problem gambling in all populations (i.e., EGM participation, gambling fallacies, comorbidities). The elevated rates of EGM participation, fallacies, and comorbidities likely responsible for higher PG rates.

- **Illegal gambling** prevalence very low: .05% for illegal betting shops/bookies; .07% for patronizing illegal casinos or card rooms; .09% for illegal animal contests; and 1.59% for illegal online gambling. Participation higher among intensive gamblers and problem gamblers. Legal forms of gambling appear to have replaced illegal forms, but illegal gambling does continue to exist to a limited extent.
- **Financial speculation** prevalence of 3.6% with Alberta having the only higher inter-provincial rate. Speculators were predominantly male, white, middle-aged, with higher educational attainment and income. Strongest multivariate predictor of speculation was higher frequency of traditional gambling involvement, confirming a strong conceptual and empirical relationship to gambling.
- **Etiology of problem gambling.** The strongest multivariate predictors of current and future problem gambling were current and past problem gambling, intensive gambling involvement, playing electronic gambling machines (EGMs), gambling fallacies, socializing with other people having gambling-related problems, and family history of having gambling-related problems. Beyond gambling-related variables, greater impulsivity and lower household income were robustly predictive.
- **Responsible Gambling among Casino Patrons.** Frequent casino patrons showed increased awareness and use of harm minimization tools from 2011-2019. However, a substantial portion of gamblers are still unaware of these tools and the actual impact on behaviour is unknown as it is not assessed.
- **Harm Minimization (HM) among Casino Employees.** Most casino employees receive a limited amount of HM training. HM knowledge among employees appears adequate, although understanding of probability is weak. Most employees report engaging in at least one HM interaction with a patron at some point during their employment, but the overall frequency and nature of these interactions is unknown, and thus, the impact on HM is also unknown.
- **Recovery from Gambling-Related Harm.** Whereas gambling treatment-seeking rates are low, self-change attempts are high, with 59.8% of problem gamblers making a change attempt. Of those, 90.2% indicated they did this primarily on their own with only 7.7% accessing formal treatment. Most people attempting self-change indicated that this was a personal preference (55%) but about a third reported feeling too ashamed to seek help. Over a third (31%) reported that their self-attempt was successful and 39% of people seeking treatment described it as helpful.
- **Impact of COVID.** Nearly one-third of gamblers ceased gambling altogether during the lockdown and gambling intensity decreased among those who continued gambling. There was also a significant shift to online gambling during the lockdown. After the lockdown there was a significant increase in gambling, albeit not to pre-lockdown levels.
- **Comorbidities.** There is a high co-occurrence of gambling and cannabis use, with a total of 56.2% of gamblers reporting using cannabis while gambling in the past 12 months. Tobacco use and child abuse were the strongest predictors of cannabis use with non-use of cannabis being associated with older age, less alcohol use, and less online gambling.





The Depth of Our Research Activity

AGRI is the world's leading gambling research centre, with over 20 years of research by AGRI researchers and AGRI-funded research projects, far surpassing other research institutes.

Major and Small Grants

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

Research Projects

(New, Ongoing and Completed in 2022-23)

THE FOLLOWING NEW RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSALS WERE APPROVED IN THE 2022-23 GRANT FUNDING CYCLE:

- [#98 Major Grant 2022-23] ***An Examination of Cryptocurrency Ownership in Canada and its Relationship to Gambling Involvement and Severity*** – Dr. Daniel McGrath (U of Calgary)
[Priority: **Internet / Remote Gambling**]
- [#99 Major Grant 2022-23] ***Reinforcement Schedules Underlying the Allure of Gambling*** – Dr. David R. Euston (U of Lethbridge)
[Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]

AS OF MARCH 31, 2023, THE FOLLOWING RESEARCH PROJECTS WERE **ONGOING** AS FUNDING WAS PROVIDED IN A PREVIOUS GRANT FUNDING CYCLE:

- [#69 Major Grant 2014-15] ***Naltrexone-Imaging Study*** – Dr. Darren Christensen (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**]
- [#85 Major Grant 2018-19] ***Development of an Ecologically Valid Non-Human Primate Model of Gambling*** – Dr. Jean-Baptiste Leca, Dr. Robert J. Williams & Dr. James Sanders (U of Lethbridge)
[Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]
- [#87 Major Grant 2019-20] ***Targeting Implicit Cognitions in Comprehensive Prevention Programming for Gambling, Alcohol and Cannabis Use*** – Ms. Gillian Russell (U of Lethbridge), Dr. Marvin Krank (UBC Okanagan) & Dr. Robert J. Williams (U of Lethbridge)
[Priority: **Longitudinal Research, Treatment and Stigma**]
- [#88 Major Grant 2019-20] ***A Cross-National Investigation of the Convergence of Gambling and Gaming*** – Dr. David C. Hodgins (U of Calgary) & Dr. Hyoun S. Kim (Toronto Metropolitan University)
[Priority: **Internet / Remote Gambling**]
- [#89 Major Grant 2020-21] ***Lottery Winnings and Financial Wellbeing*** – Dr. Barry Scholnick (U of Alberta)
[Priority: **Socio-economic / Economics**]
- [#90 Major Grant 2020-21] ***Giwii-Nisidopanmin Odaminowin: Gambling and Videogames in the Lives of Indigenous Youth in Northwestern Ontario*** – Dr. Fiona Nicoll (U of Alberta), Dr. Darrel Manitowabi (Laurentian U), Dr. Lori Haskell (Western U), & Dr. Kevin Harrigan (U of Waterloo)
[Priorities: **Indigenous / First Nations; Internet Gambling**]

- [#92 Major Grant 2021-22] **Financial Outcomes After Winning the Lottery** – Dr. Barry Scholnick (U of Alberta)
[Priority: **Socio-economic / Economics**]
- [#93 Major Grant 2021-22] **A Social Neuroscience Examination of Ironic Risk-Taking** – Dr. Kyle Nash (U of Alberta)
[Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]
- [#94 Major Grant 2021-22] **The Economic Incidence of Indigenous Gaming** – Dr. Laurel Wheeler (U of Alberta)
[Priority: **Indigenous / First Nations**]
- [#95 Major Grant 2021-22] **Online gambling self-help and motivational enhancement** – Dr. David Hodgins & Mr. Bradley Brazeau (U of Calgary)
[Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]
- [#96 Major Grant 2021-22] **Gambling in Canada: A Return to Normal or the Establishment of a New Normal?** – Dr. Carrie Shaw & Dr. Robert J. Williams (U of Lethbridge)
[Priorities: **Internet / Remote Gambling; Longitudinal Research**]
- [#97 Major Grant 2021-22] **Determining the Relationship of Communication in Emotional Regulation And Severity of Problem Gambling and Comorbidities** – Dr. Bonnie Lee (U of Lethbridge) & Dr. Erkan Isik (Istanbul Aydin U)
[Priorities: **Longitudinal Research; Treatment and Stigma**]
- [#S50 Small Grant 2021-22] **The number of response options as a causal factor in human decision-making quality** – Dr. Ben Dyson (U of Alberta)
[Priority: **Treatment and Stigma**]

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

THE FOLLOWING RESEARCH PROJECTS WERE COMPLETED² DURING 2022-23 (AS OF MARCH 31, 2023):

- [#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 / Remote Gambling**]
- [#91 Major Grant 2020-21] **Gambling in Canada in the Aftermath of the Pandemic** – Dr. Carrie Shaw & Dr. Robert J. Williams (U of Lethbridge)
[Priorities: **Internet / Remote Gambling; Longitudinal Research**]

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).

Strategic & Collaborative Initiative Grants

Gambling and Problem Gambling in Canada: A National Study [AGRI National Project]

This strategic, collaborative grant was one of the largest and most comprehensive national investigations of gambling ever conducted in Canada, and was completed 2021-22. The team of eight Institute researchers from the Universities of Lethbridge, Calgary, and Alberta have been active in writing up their findings with a total of 15 publications to date, many others being developed and many more potential writings. (See Research Publications section for 2022-23 AGRI National Project publications.) A two-year post-doctoral position was funded for the AGRI National Project to assist with the publication of these additional papers as well as one remaining AGRI National Project research project.



Dr. Youssef Allami, Post-Doctoral Fellow, AGRI National Project

Youssef Allami (PhD in clinical psychology) is a postdoctoral fellow (PDF) at the Alberta Gambling Research Institute, working under the supervision of Dr Robert Williams (University of Lethbridge) and Dr David Hodgins (University of Calgary). Before moving to Alberta, he practiced as an addiction clinical psychologist in Montreal, Quebec. His past research has looked at how various mental health and gambling-related risk factors differentially predict problem gambling severity. Currently, he studies predictors of treatment-seeking and remission from problem gambling, with the goal of identifying unique predictors as a function of the biopsychosocial profiles of people who gamble.

As a PDF, Dr Allami led three studies using data from the ANP online panel. The first study, accepted for publication in the *Canadian Journal of Addiction*, looked at the popularity and helpfulness of various treatment options (results from this study were also presented at the AGRI 2023 conference). The second study, which was recently revised and resubmitted to an academic journal, identified predictors of remission among people with gambling problems. A third study, which was also recently revised and resubmitted to an academic journal, looked at mental health and motivational predictors of online gambling initiation. Although based in Calgary, he has also been organizing monthly meetings at the University of Lethbridge, gathering a group of student and faculty gambling researchers.

Between secondary analyses of ANP data, Dr Allami has launched data collection for the final component of the ANP, the Pathways to Treatment study. With the help of gambling treatment programs across the country, people seeking treatment for gambling problems are currently being recruited from five Canadian provinces. This final component of the ANP will allow us to understand how people with gambling problems choose to seek formal treatment for their difficulties.

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:

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



Scholarship and Research Allowance Awards

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 thirteen scholarships were awarded in 2022-23:

- **Jami Albright-Tolman**, Doctoral, Health Sciences, University of Lethbridge.
Revamp and re-test the Prison Gambling Awareness and Prevention Program implemented in the Lethbridge Correctional Centre (2006)
[Priorities: **Public Policy and Safe Gambling Strategy; Internet / Remote Gambling; Treatment & Stigma**]
- **Deepika Bajaj**, Master's, Psychology, University of Calgary.
This study aims to investigate emotion dysregulation predictors of binge eating and problem gambling over time in a community sample of men.
[Priorities: **Longitudinal Research; Internet / Remote Gambling**]
- **Bradley Brazeau**, Doctoral, Psychology, University of Calgary.
This study will conduct a scoping review of technology-mediated self-guided addiction interventions, develop a smartphone intervention based on the scoping review, conduct a feasibility testing of the intervention and conduct preliminary proof-of-concept testing.
[Priorities: **Longitudinal Research; Internet / Remote Gambling; Treatment & Stigma**]
- **Daniel Cunningham**, Master's, Psychology, University of Calgary.
This project will build upon and extend a line of research examining the impact of stress on attentional biases in disordered gambling.
[Priorities: **Treatment & Stigma**]
- **Ashley Ethier**, Doctoral, Psychology, University of Calgary.
This study investigates the influence of motivational-reward processes and the application of contingency management to problem gambling treatment. [Priority: **Treatment & Stigma**]
- **Nolan Gooding**, Master's, Psychology, University of Lethbridge.
This study will establish the risk of harm associated with individual types of gambling while controlling for all other involvement and the Problem and Pathological Gambling Measure (PPGM) will be revised to improve the predictive power of its 'at risk' designation.
[Priorities: **Public Policy add Safe Gambling Strategy; Longitudinal Research**]
- **Julie Gorenko**, Doctoral, Psychology, University of Calgary.
To evaluate how late-life events influence gambling among older adults and examine if social support and coping behaviours mediate the link between stressful life-events and gambling.
[Priority: **Longitudinal Research**]
- **Diandra Leslie**, Doctoral, Psychology, University of Calgary.
This project will aid in identifying risk factors for, or protective factors against gambling-related problems among university students, which can then guide the development of interventions and supports for students experiencing gambling-related problems. [Priorities: **Internet / Remote Gambling**]

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- **Helen Ma**, Master's, Psychology, University of Alberta.
This project aims to increase our understanding of how non-verbal communication is used in gaming to achieve success, and how those same dynamic measures index decision-making in different gaming environments.
[Priorities: **Public Policy and Safe Gambling Strategy; Internet / Remote Gambling**]
 - **Ruby Prinsen**, Doctoral, Psychology, University of Alberta.
This study will examine the effects of romantic partnerships on risky decision-making by employing novel eye movement recording in conjunction with an analog task of real-world gambling to examine decision-making done by individuals alone compared to when in pairs.
[Priorities: **Treatment & Stigma**]
 - **Katherine Silang**, Doctoral, Psychology, University of Calgary.
This study aims to assess longitudinally the relationship between COVID-19 distress and gambling in new parents to see how these two phenomena are related and whether they are linked through parenting-related distress.
[Priority: **Longitudinal Research; Socio-economics/Economics**]
 - **Kyle Tuico**, Master's, Psychology, University of Calgary.
This study aims to assess fallacious cognitions and conspiratorial thinking among cryptocurrency users.
[Priorities: **Internet / Remote Gambling**]
 - **Sean Wilcox**, Doctoral, Cultural, Social, and Political Thought, University of Lethbridge.
Utilizing Foucault's genealogical approach in a study of the concept of gambling addiction.
[Priorities: **Public Policy and Safe Gambling Strategy; Treatment & Stigma**]



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

Disseminating Gambling Research

Institute Library & Web Site Overview 2022-23

The Institute's three affiliated university libraries (U. of Lethbridge, U. of Calgary, and U. of Alberta) selected and purchased approximately \$30,000 of materials in support of gambling-related research at their institutions. Specifically, \$14,000 was allocated to U. Lethbridge, \$8,000 to U. of Alberta and \$8,000 to U. of Calgary. Purchases primarily included electronic journal title subscriptions, E-books and print books³.

As well as supporting collection building, the Institute Librarian⁴ provided assistance with 20+ specific reference requests, updated research guides on gambling-related topics, digitized and/or archived a variety of significant gambling-related publications, maintained the Institute web site, authored newsletter articles, and assisted with knowledge transfer/translation services.

A continued focus during 2022-23 was participation as a research team member on the Institute's recently completed strategic research project *Gambling and Problem Gambling in Canada: A National Study*. This included involvement in proofreading, editing and reference work for articles produced by the team and updating Canadian statistical information about gambling. The existing Looker Studio (formerly Google Data Studio) online database was updated to incorporate [Canadian gambling statistics \(1970-2022\)](#) for year 2021-22. Details were presented at the Institute's annual conference in June, 2022 in a talk



Rhys Stevens

MLIS, Librarian III at the University of Lethbridge

entitled [Canada's Provincial & Territorial Gambling Revenue 2020/21](#) and also in the standalone report [Gambling in Canada: Statistics 2020-2021](#) (2022, April). Another significant initiative was the updating and revising a report about Open Access (OA) and Author Processing Charges (APCs) in gambling-related journals for the Institute's Proposal Adjudication Committee. A table listing OA APCs in gambling-related journals was created, including information on discounts and waivers for which most AGRI-funded researchers are eligible.

The Institute web site continued to function as the primary point of access for information about the Institute and its ongoing research activities. Citations, abstracts, digital object identifiers (DOIs) and project-

relevant details were added to grant web pages as new research publications and presentations became available. 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 163 funded grants were kept up-to-date.

3 Details of specific Library acquisitions 2022-23 are available from Librarian upon request.

4 Librarians Rhys Stevens (July, 2023-March, 2023) and David Scott (April-June, 2022) both provided Institute library services during 2022-23.

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, 2022, to March 31, 2023:

Bedford, K., Casey, E., & Nicoll, F. Editorial. *Critical Gambling Studies*, 4(1), i-iii.

<https://doi.org/10.29173/cgs161>



Brazeau, B. W., & Hodgins, D. C. (2022). Psychometric evaluation of the NORC diagnostic screen for gambling problems (NODS) for the assessment of DSM-5 gambling disorder. *Addictive Behaviors*, 130, 107310.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.addbeh.2022.107310>



Bui, V., Baumgartner, C., Bilevicius, E., Single, A., Vedelago, L., Morris, V., Kempe, T., Schaub, M. P., Stewart, S. H., MacKillop, J., Hodgins, D. C., Wardell, J. D., O'Connor, R., Read, J., Hadjistavropoulos, H. D., Sundström, C., Dermody, S., Kim, A. H., & Keough, M. T. (2023). Efficacy of a novel online integrated treatment for problem gambling and tobacco smoking: Results of a randomized controlled trial. *Journal of Behavioral Addictions*, 12(1), 168-181.

<https://doi.org/10.1556/2006.2022.00081>



Christensen, D. R., Nicoll, F., Williams, R. J., Shaw, C. A., Belanger, Y. D., el-Guebaly, N., Hodgins, D. C., McGrath, D. C., Smith, G. J., & Stevens, R. M. (2022). Harm minimization training, knowledge, and behaviour of Canadian casino employees. *Journal of Gambling Studies*.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10899-022-10128-4>

Coelho, S. G., Keough, M. T., Hodgins, D. C., Shead, N. W., Parmar, P. K., & Kim, H. S. (2023). Latent profile analyses of addiction and mental health problems in two large samples. *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction*.

<http://doi.org/10.1007/s11469-022-01003-9>

Coelho, S. G., Tabri, N., Kerman, N., Lefebvre, T., Longpre, S., Williams, R. J., & Kim, H. S. (2022). The perceived causes of problems with substance use, gambling, and other behavioural addictions from the perspective of people with lived experience: A mixed-methods investigation. *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction*.

<http://doi.org/10.1007/s11469-022-00900-3>

Evans, V., Zorn, M., Williams, R., & Volberg, R. (2022). Proximity to casino gambling venues and risk of problem gambling in Massachusetts. *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction*.

<http://doi.org/10.1007/s11469-022-00861-7>

Gooding, N. B., Kim, H. S., Williams, R. J., & Williams, J. N. (2023). Individual differences and predictors of general awareness in problem gambling. *Addictive Behaviors*, 136, 107505.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.addbeh.2022.107505>

Gooding, N. B., Williams, J. N., & Williams, R. J. (2023). The differences between gamblers and substance users who seek treatment. *Canadian Journal of Addiction*, 14(1), 26-34.

<https://doi.org/10.1097/cxa.000000000000171>

Hodgins, D. C., Williams, R. J., Belanger, Y. D., Christensen, D. R., el-Guebaly, N., McGrath, D. S., Nicoll, F., Shaw, C. A., Smith, G. J. & Stevens, R. M. G. (2022). Making change: Attempts to reduce or stop gambling in a general population sample of people who gamble. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 13.

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsy.2022.892238>

Hodgins, D. C., Young, M. M., Currie, S. R., Abbott, M., Billi, R., Brunelle, N., Costes, J., Dufour, M., Flores-Pajot, M., Olason, D. T., Paradis, C., Romild, U., Salonen, A., Volberg, R., & Nadeau, L. (2022). Lower-risk gambling limits: Linked analyses across eight countries. *International Gambling Studies*, 1-17.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/14459795.2022.2143546>



Jonsson, J., Munck, I., Hodgins, D. C., & Carlbring, P. (2023). Reaching out to big losers: Exploring intervention effects using individualized follow-up. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*. Advance online publication.

<https://doi.org/10.1037/adb0000906>

- Kim, H. S., Coelho, S., Wohl, M. J. A., Rockloff, M., McGrath, D. S., & Hodgins, D. C. (2023). Self-generated motives of social casino gamers. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 39(1), 299-320. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10899-022-10135-5>
- Kim, H. S., Ritchie, E. V., Sears, C. R., Hodgins, D. C., Kowatch, K. R., & McGrath, D. S. (2022). Affective impulsivity moderates the relationship between disordered gambling severity and attentional bias in electronic gaming machine (EGM) players. *Journal of Behavioral Addictions*, 11(2), 386-395. <https://doi.org/10.1556/2006.2022.00043>
- Kim, H. S., Sanches, M., Mariani, M. M. d. C., Hodgins, D. C., & Tavares, H. (2022). Examining the gambling-related harms, gambling disorder, and player characteristics of jogo do bicho (an illegal national lottery) in a representative sample of Brazilian lottery players. *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11469-022-00865-3>
- Lee, B. K., & Merali, N.-K. (2022). Employment stress and couple adjustment among clients with disorders of gambling and alcohol use: Themes of transfers in Congruence Couple Therapy. *Substance Abuse: Research and Treatment*, 16, 11782218221080773. <https://doi.org/10.1177/11782218221080773>
- Lee, B. K., & Ofori Dei, S. M. (2022). Changes in work status, couple adjustment, and recovery capital: Secondary analysis of data from a congruence couple therapy randomized controlled trial. *Substance Abuse: Research and Treatment*, 16, 11782218221088875. <https://doi.org/10.1177/11782218221088875>
- Lee, B. K., Ofori Dei, S. M., & Isik, E. (2023). Congruence couple therapy for alcohol use and gambling disorders with comorbidities (part II): Targeted areas and mechanisms of change. *Family Process*, 62(2), 534-556. <https://doi.org/10.1111/famp.12816>
- Lee, B. K., Ofori Dei, S. M., Brown, M. M. R., Awosoga, O. A., Shi, Y., & Greenshaw, A. J. (2023). Congruence couple therapy for alcohol use and gambling disorders with comorbidities (part I): Outcomes from a randomized controlled trial. *Family Process*, 62(1), 124-159. <https://doi.org/10.1111/famp.12813>
- Leslie, R. D., & McGrath, D. S. (2023). A comparative profile of online, offline, and mixed-mode problematic gamblers' gambling involvement, motives, and HEXACO personality traits. *Journal of Gambling Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10899-023-10193-3>
- Mackey-Simpkin, S., Williams, R. J., Shaw, C. A., & Russell, G. E. H. (2022). Prevalence and predictors of illegal gambling in Canada. *International Gambling Studies*, 1-16. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14459795.2022.2149833>
- McGrath, D. S., Williams, R. J., Rothery, B., Belanger, Y. D., Christensen, D. R., el-Guebaly, N., Hodgins, D. C., Nicoll, F., Shaw, C. A., Smith, G. J., & Stevens, R. M. G. (2023). Problem gambling severity, gambling behavior, substance use, and mental health in gamblers who do and do not use cannabis: Evidence from a Canadian national sample. *Addictive Behaviors*, 137, 107520. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.addbeh.2022.107520>
- Mikhed, V., Raina, S., & Scholnick, B. (2022). *To incorporate or not? The role of financial constraints*. University of Alberta School of Business, Working paper. University of Alberta. Edmonton.
- Nicoll, F., & Albarran-Torres, C. (2022). "Almost the Same but not Quite": The Camouflage of Play in Gambling Iconography. *Critical Gambling Studies*, 3(2), 160-173. <https://doi.org/10.29173/cgs78>
- Sharif-Razi, M., Kim, H. S., Hodgins David, C., D., M., von Ranson, K., & Tavares, H. (2021). Gender differences in people seeking treatment for gambling disorder with a comorbid eating disorder: a preliminary study. *Archives of Clinical Psychiatry (São Paulo)*.
- Shaw, C. A., Hodgins, D. C., Williams, R. J., Belanger, Y. D., Christensen, D. R., el-Guebaly, N., McGrath, D. S., & Stevens, R. M. G. (2022). Gambling in Canada during the pandemic: Six months after the national COVID lockdown. *Canadian Journal of Addiction*, 13(3), 36-45. <https://doi.org/10.1097/cxa.000000000000157>
- Shaw, C. A., Williams, R. J., Violo, V. T., Williams, J. N., Demetrovics, Z., & Delfabbro, P. (2023). Cognitive factors that predict gambling fallacy endorsement. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 39(2), 843-855. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10899-022-10177-9>

Srihaput, V., Craplewe, K., & Dyson, B. J. (2020).

Switching competitors reduces win-stay but not lose-shift behaviour: The role of outcome-action association strength on reinforcement learning. *Games*, 11(3), 25.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/g11030025>

Stea, J. N., Yakovenko, I., Kim, H. S., & Hodgins, D. C. (2023). Substance use and addiction. In C. L. Santa Maria & S. Hupp (Eds.), *Pseudoscience in Therapy: A Skeptical Field Guide* (pp. 179-202). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

<https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009000611.013>

Volberg, R. A., Williams, R. J., Zorn, M., & Evans, V. (2022). *Legalized sports betting in the United States and potential impacts in Massachusetts*. SEIGMA, Social and Economic Impacts of Gambling in Massachusetts, University of Massachusetts School of Public Health and Health Sciences.

<https://massgaming.com/wp-content/uploads/SEIGMA-Sports-Betting-Impacts-Report-9.8.22-1.pdf>

Wenning, M., & Nicoll, F. (2022). Editorial: Philosophy and gambling: Reflections from Macao. *Critical Gambling Studies*, 3(2), i-vii.

<https://doi.org/10.29173/cgs147>

Williams, R. J., Shaw, C. A., Belanger, Y. D., Christensen, D. R., el-Guebaly, N., Hodgins, D. C., McGrath, D. S. & Stevens, R. M. G. (2023). Etiology of problem gambling in Canada. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*, 37(3), 483-498.

<https://doi.org/10.1037/adb0000843>



Conference 2022/2023



Back to the Centre: Back to the Future of Gambling Research (2022, June 23-25)

The Institute hosted its 21st annual conference on gambling research at the Banff Centre in Banff, Alberta from June 23-25, 2022. The theme was “Back to the Centre” which acknowledged the return of conference delegates back to Banff after a hiatus lasting more than three years. Also, for the first time ever, the conference offered a hybrid program featuring a mixture of both in-person and off-site virtual presenters who spoke about the latest developments in gambling-related research.

Specifically, day one of the event featured presentations about indigenous casino gambling in Canada, harm minimization in Sweden, responsible gambling programs in Massachusetts, the science behind lower-risk gambling guidelines (LRGGs), potential ideas for implementing LRGGs, and a poster presentation session. Poster judges awarded the best research poster to Sophie Coelho (Toronto Metropolitan University) from among 30 high-quality submissions for the poster entitled, “Video Game Engagement, Gambling Engagement, and Impulsivity Among Video Game Players Who Do and Do Not Purchase Loot Boxes.”

The morning of day two began with a series of talks about the AGRI National Project (ANP), including an overview of the ANP and its resultant publications, the latest figures on Canada’s gambling revenue, online gambling during Canada’s COVID lockdown, and harm minimization training among Canadian casino employees. Following the ANP update were concurrent sessions by early career researchers on important and emerging topics. The afternoon concluded with sessions featuring established international researchers from the United States, United Kingdom, and Australia. Topics included socio-economic impacts of resort casinos, laws & ethics, adaptive interventions for gamblers, and intimate partner violence and economic abuse against women related to gambling.

Newsletter

Following is a list of the contents of the Institute's Gambling Research Reveals newsletter published from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023:

Summer/Fall 2022



Feature Articles:

- Institute Hosts Successful Conference in Return to Banff Centre
- Critical Gambling Studies: Stimulating and Showcasing Interdisciplinary Gambling Research
- Studying the Effectiveness of Responsible Gambling Tools
- Announcement of Graduate Scholarship Recipients 2022/23
- Announcing Call for Post-doctoral Fellowship Applicants 2022/23

Winter 2023



Feature Articles:

- Are There Riskier Forms of Gambling? An Interview with Graduate Scholarship Recipient Nolan Gooding
- Institute's 22nd Annual Conference to Take Place at Banff Centre
- Two New Major Grants Approved for Funding in 2022/23
- The Card Players (ca.1890-1895) by Paul Cézanne, oil on canvas, Musée d'Orsay, Paris

Spring 2023



Feature Articles:

- Post-Doctoral Fellows Adding to Research Capacity at Partner Universities
- Study Establishes the Prevalence of Illegal Gambling in Canada for First Time
- The Cock Fight (1759) by William Hogarth, etching, Yale University Art Gallery



Consulting and Collaborating: a Synchronized Approach

In 2022-23, the Institute was a participating organization in the following:

- 2022 Insight Responsible Gambling Symposium (September 27, 2022), Alberta Gaming, Liquor & Cannabis; virtual symposium focused on culture and gambling, the changing landscape of the gambling environment and emerging technology and its effects on gambling - Participants invited to the symposium were Institute affiliated Research Coordinators, Senior Research Fellows, Librarian, Executive Director and Board members.
- The Partnership (formerly Canadian Partnership for Responsible Gambling) symposium (November 7-8, 2022), 'The Game Plan: Working Together to Shape a Safer Canadian Sports Betting Landscape' - Participant Dr. Fiona Nicoll.

In 2022-23, Institute Research Coordinators consulted in the following:

- Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis (various gambling topics) – Participants Drs. David Hodgins, Fiona Nicoll and Rob Williams.
- Centre of Excellence in Responsible Gaming (CERG), University of Gibraltar, International Scientific Advisory Board – Participant Dr. David Hodgins.
- Centre for Gambling Research, University of British Columbia, Advisory Council – Participant Dr. David Hodgins.
- World Health Organization, Committee on the Public Health Implications of Addictive Behaviours – Participant Dr. David Hodgins
- Provincial Addiction Curriculum and Experiential Skill (PACES) Training Initiative – Participant Dr. David Hodgins
- Gambling Research Exchange Organization (Greo) - Related Suicide Research Programme; peer-reviewer of qualitative proposals – Participant Dr. Fiona Nicoll
- Bristol Hub for Gambling Harms Research - advisory board member – Participant Dr. Fiona Nicoll
- Massachusetts Gaming Commission - Participant Dr. Robert Williams.

Audited Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

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To the Directors of Alberta Gambling Research Institute:

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Alberta Gambling Research Institute (the "Institute"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2023, and the statements of operations, cash flows, change in net financial assets and the related schedule for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Institute as at March 31, 2023, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Institute in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the 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.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Institute's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Institute or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Institute's financial reporting process.

MNP LLP

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Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Institute's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Institute's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Institute to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Calgary, Alberta

August 25, 2023

MNP LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

MNP

Statement of Financial Position

AS AT MARCH 31

	2023	2022
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 4)	\$ 656,227	\$ 437,397
Unexpended funds receivable (Note 5)	63,977	18,171
	<u>720,204</u>	<u>455,568</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	17,500	1,366
	<u>702,704</u>	<u>454,202</u>
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS		
	702,704	454,202
NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Prepaid expenses	-	2,000
	<u>702,704</u>	<u>456,202</u>
NET ASSETS		
Accumulated surplus	456,202	1,003,045
Annual surplus (deficit)	246,502	(546,843)
	<u>\$ 702,704</u>	<u>\$ 456,202</u>

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

Approved by the board:

Original signed by:

Dr. Séamus O'Shea

Signature

Board Chair

Position

Trevor Tombe

Signature

Audit Committee Chair

Position

Statement of Operations

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

	2023 BUDGET (Note 9)	2023 ACTUAL	2022 ACTUAL
REVENUES			
Government transfers	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 700,000
Investment income	-	-	-
Other/unexpended funds recovered	5,000	63,977	18,171
	<u>\$ 1,505,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,563,977</u>	<u>\$ 718,171</u>
EXPENSES (Schedule 1)			
Research	\$ 1,220,000	\$ 917,857	\$ 892,448
Infrastructure and library	140,000	140,000	140,000
Research linkages	80,000	90,144	73,352
Research administration	200,500	169,474	159,214
	<u>\$ 1,640,500</u>	<u>\$ 1,317,475</u>	<u>\$ 1,265,014</u>
ANNUAL SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>\$ (135,500)</u>	<u>\$ 246,502</u>	<u>\$ (546,843)</u>

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

Statement of Cash Flows

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

	2023	2022
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Contributions from the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 700,000
Unexpended funds	18,171	21,537
Prepaid expenses	-	22,101
Research expenditures	(900,357)	(892,448)
Infrastructure and library expenditures	(140,000)	(140,000)
Research linkages expenditures	(88,144)	(73,352)
Research administration expenditures	(170,840)	(163,870)
CASH (USED FOR) RECEIVED FROM OPERATING TRANSACTIONS	218,830	(526,032)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	437,397	963,429
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR	\$ 656,227	\$ 437,397

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

Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

	2023 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL	2022 ACTUAL
Annual surplus (deficit)	\$ (135,500)	\$ 246,502	\$ (546,843)
Change in prepaid expenses	-	2,000	22,101
Increase (decrease) in net financial assets	(135,500)	248,502	(524,742)
Net financial assets, beginning of year	456,202	454,202	978,944
Net financial assets, end of year	\$ 320,702	\$ 702,704	\$ 454,202

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

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 March 31, 2023. The Institute is directed by a Board comprised of seven members including two appointees (senior administrators and researchers) from each of the three Partner Universities 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 are funded by the Ministry of Finance, 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.

Note 3 continued...

Revenue Recognition

All revenue is 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 Finance, Treasury Board and Finance

The Partner Universities entered into a funding agreement with the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance effective April 1, 2021 to provide the Institute with \$700,000 for fiscal year 2021/2022 and \$1,500,000 for fiscal year 2022/2023. The Institute's agreement was renewed on March 31, 2023 and provides funding in the amount of \$1,750,000 in each fiscal year from 2023/2024 through 2025/2026. As a condition of funding, the Institute must budget at least \$250,000 each fiscal year to the implementation of research projects related to the stakeholder priority action plan and at least \$250,000 each fiscal year to the funding of investigator research projects. The Ministry may require repayment if these conditions are not met or if the funds are not expended prior to the end of the term, excluding funds required to pay administrative or overhead expenses after the term in respect of any necessary wind-up of operations.

The agreement calls for detailed reporting to the Ministry at various dates throughout the year. Reporting is complete for fiscal year ended March 31, 2023.

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

The Institute recognizes financial instruments when the Institute becomes party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument.

Arm's length financial instruments

Financial instruments originated/acquired or issued/assumed in an arm's length transaction ("arm's length financial instruments") are initially recorded at their fair value.

At initial recognition, the Institute may irrevocably elect to subsequently measure any arm's length financial instrument at fair value. The Institute has not made such an election during the year. The Institute subsequently measures all arm's length transactions at cost or amortized cost.

Transaction costs and financing fees directly attributable to the origination, acquisition, issuance or assumption of financial instruments subsequently measured at fair value are immediately recognized in excess of revenue over expenses. Conversely, transaction costs and financing fees are added to the carrying amount for those financial instruments subsequently measured at cost or amortized cost.

Financial asset impairment

The Institute assesses impairment of all its financial assets measured at cost or amortized cost. The Institute groups assets for impairment testing when numerous assets affected by the same factors. When there is an indication of impairment, the Institute determines whether it has resulted in a significant adverse change in the expected timing or amount of future cash flows during the year.

The Institute reduces the carrying amount of any impaired financial assets to the highest of: the present value of cash flows expected to be generated by holding the assets; the amount that could be realized by selling the assets at the statement of financial position date; and the amount expected to be realized by exercising any rights to collateral held against those assets.

Any impairment, which is not considered temporary, is included in current year excess of revenue over expenses.

The Institute reverses impairment losses on financial assets when there is a decrease in impairment and the decrease can be objectively related to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognized. The amount of the reversal is recognized in excess of revenue over expenses in the year the reversal occurs.

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 in a University of Calgary Funds Held on Behalf of Others (FHOB) account.

Note 5 Unexpended Funds Receivable/Recovered

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.

	2023			2022	
	University of Alberta	University of Calgary	University of Lethbridge	Total	Total
Unexpended grants, opening balance	\$ 4,025	\$ -	\$ 14,146	\$ 18,171	\$ 21,537
Capacity building	100,000	100,000	100,000	300,000	220,000
Library and collections	-	-	140,000	140,000	140,000
New grants provided	100,000	100,000	240,000	440,000	360,000
Current year expenditures	(60,252)	(100,000)	(223,194)	(383,446)	(341,829)
Recovered	(4,025)	-	(14,146)	(18,171)	(21,537)
	(64,277)	(100,000)	(237,340)	(401,617)	(363,366)
Unexpended grants, major grant	-	7,423	-	7,423	-
Unexpended grants, closing balance	\$ 39,748	\$ 7,423	\$ 16,806	\$ 63,977	\$ 18,171

Note 6 Commitments

The Institute has the following commitments:

Fiscal Year	Research Grants ^(a)	Lease ^(b)	Total
2023/2024	175,382	2,738	8,120
2024/2025	49,063	-	49,063
Total	\$ 224,445	\$ 2,738	\$ 227,183

(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's lease with the University of Calgary ended on May 31, 2023 and was not renewed.

Note 7 Economic Dependence

The Institute receives its principal funding from the Ministry of Finance, Treasury Board and Finance. The three year agreement was renewed effective March 31, 2023 and expires on March 31, 2026. The Institute's ability to maintain viable operations is dependent upon the continued support from the Alberta Government.

Note 8 Related Party Transactions

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

Note 9 Budget

The 2022-2023 budget was approved by the Institute's Board of Directors on February 2, 2022.

Note 10 Approval of Financial Statements

These financial statements were approved by the Institute's Board of Directors.

Schedule of Expenses

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

SCHEDULE 1

	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2022 Actual
Research			
Grant competition/strategic research	\$ 920,000	\$ 617,857	\$ 647,448
Capacity building	300,000	300,000	245,000
	<u>1,220,000</u>	<u>917,857</u>	<u>892,448</u>
Infrastructure and Library			
Library and collections	140,000	140,000	140,000
	<u>140,000</u>	<u>140,000</u>	<u>140,000</u>
Research Linkages			
Events, colloquia	65,000	77,230	61,944
Communications, exchanges	15,000	12,914	11,408
	<u>80,000</u>	<u>90,144</u>	<u>73,351</u>
Research Administration			
Governance	20,000	15,659	10,331
Personnel costs	147,500	128,234	123,000
Professional fees	13,000	12,600	12,915
Administrative hub	20,000	12,982	12,968
	<u>200,500</u>	<u>169,474</u>	<u>159,214</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 1,640,500	\$ 1,317,475	\$ 1,265,014



Board of Directors

Currie, Dr. Cheryl

Cheryl Currie is an Associate Professor of Public Health in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Lethbridge. She completed a PhD in the School of Public Health at the University of Alberta in 2012. As a social epidemiologist, Dr. Currie's research is focused on the ways in which our social experiences, both positive and negative, get under the skin to shape our health, health-risk behaviour, and stress biology with a special focus on addictive behaviours including gambling and gambling problems. Dr. Currie joined the Institute Board on January 1, 2021.

Godley, Dr. Jenny

Jenny Godley is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and an Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences at the University of Calgary. Trained as a quantitative sociologist and a demographer, her major research areas are interdisciplinary research evaluation, social network analysis, gender, demography, and health. Dr. Godley has published both quantitative and qualitative articles in a variety of journals in sociology, public health, and evaluation science. She frequently works with interdisciplinary teams to conduct empirical examinations focusing on the social determinants of health using nationally representative data from Statistics Canada. Dr. Godley also has a strong interest in the ethics of human subjects research, and has served as the Chair of the Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board at the University of Calgary since July 2019. She is on the editorial board of the *Canadian Journal of Public Health* and an ad hoc reviewer for several other journals. Dr. Godley joined the Institute Board in May 1, 2018.

Lund, Dr. Anna

Anna Lund is an Associate 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. Dr. Lund is currently researching foreclosures and the variation in legal form of different incorporated organizations. Her book, *Trustees at Work: Financial Pressures, Emotional Labour, and Canadian Bankruptcy Law* was published by UBC Press in December 2019. Additionally, she has published articles in journals including the *University of Toronto Law Journal*, the *Canadian Business Law Journal*, and the *Alberta Law Review*. A member of the Law Society of Alberta, she continues to practice on a pro bono basis through the Edmonton Community Legal Centre. Dr. Lund joined the Institute Board on March 1, 2018.

Nicol, Dr. Christopher

Chris Nicol completed nine years as the University Librarian at the University of Lethbridge on June 30, 2021, and is now on Administrative Leave. He continues at the University of Lethbridge as a Professor of Economics, with a number of Leave projects underway. 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 was a member of the Board of The Alberta Library (TAL) and was Chair of the Board of the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries (COPPUL) while University Librarian. Dr. Nicol has also 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 March 2021 for a three-year term.

Stewart, Dr. David

David Stewart is a Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Calgary. He has taught at seven universities in the four western Canadian provinces. He was a member of the Department of Political Science at the University of Alberta from 1992 until 2000. Dr. Stewart moved to the University of Manitoba in 2000 and subsequently served as the Dean of Studies of St. John's College, Acting Head of Political Studies, and Associate Dean in the Faculty of Arts. He joined the University of Calgary in the summer of 2005 and has served as Head of the Political Science Department, Acting Head of Classics and Religion and as an Associate Dean in the Faculty of Arts. His research interests focus on Canadian politics. Dr. Stewart has an extensive teaching record in Canadian politics at both the undergraduate and graduate level and has frequently served as a media commentator on Canadian politics. He is currently serving as the President of The University of Calgary Faculty Association. Dr. Stewart joined the Board on July 1, 2019 and completed his tenure on June 30, 2022.

Tombe, Dr. Trevor

Trevor Tombe is a Professor and Graduate Program Director in the Department of Economics at the University of Calgary. He is also a Research Fellow at The School of Public Policy and co-director of Finances of the Nation, a new effort by academic researchers, in partnership with the Canadian Tax Foundation, to assemble Canadian public finance data and make it available to researchers, journalists, students, and the general public. Dr. Tombe's academic research explores a broad range of topics, but focuses mainly on international trade, macroeconomics, and fiscal federalism. In addition to this work, he actively contributes to public policy research and outreach in Alberta and Canada. Dr. Tombe joined the Institute Board in December 1, 2022.

Wesley, Dr. Jared

Jared Wesley is a Professor in the Department of Political Science and member of the Black Faculty Collective at the University of Alberta. He has a professional background in public policy and public administration, having served seven years in various positions in the Governments of Alberta and Manitoba. Dr. Wesley joined the Board on January 1, 2020.

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 education 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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