

CALGARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TASK FORCE REPORT ON
SCHOOL-BASED FUNDRAISING

May 31, 2006

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 BACKGROUND.....	1
1.2 DECISION MAKING PROCESS.....	1
1.3 STRUCTURE OF REPORT	3
2. GAMBLING IN ALBERTA	4
3. CHURCH’S POSITION ON GAMBLING	5
4. ROUNDTABLE ON FUNDRAISING	7
5. SCHOOL DATA ON FUNDRAISING	11
6. SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS	17
6.1 BACKGROUND.....	17
6.2 CHURCH TEACHING	17
6.3 IMPACT ON GAMBLING	18
6.4 IMPACT ON STUDENTS	19
6.5 ANALYSIS	20
7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	22
7.1 CONCLUSIONS.....	22
7.2 RECOMMENDATIONS.....	23
8. APPENDICES	24

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Background*

In October of 2005, the Board of Trustees of the Calgary Catholic School District directed administration to convene a roundtable on school-based fundraising. The purpose of the roundtable, and the report that was expected to emerge from it, was to provide the Board with the information that it needed to make an informed and conscientious decision on the role that gambling revenues should, or should not, play in school fundraising.

This review of school-based fundraising practices was prompted by trustee discussions with school council chairs during the May 2005 Family of Schools' School Council meetings. The chairs were seeking clarification of the Board of Trustees' position on the role of gambling in fundraising, given the stand of Bishop Henry on the topic. Bishop Henry has asked all parishes in the Diocese of Calgary to refrain from fundraising through gambling.

In subsequent meetings with the Board of Trustees, Bishop Henry requested that the Board establish a policy that would forbid all District schools from raising or receiving funds from bingos and casinos.

1.2 *Decision Making Process*

The Board of Trustees, elected by Catholic ratepayers, is authorized under the *School Act* to govern the Calgary Catholic School District. It is, therefore, the moral and legal right and responsibility of the Board of Trustees to make policy decisions that are in the best interest of its students, including those decisions affecting school-based fundraising.

When developing policy, trustees are required, under Board policy, to consult with appropriate stakeholders. Key stakeholders in this instance are the Bishop of Calgary, the parents and school administrations.

As previously noted, the Board has discussed the role of gambling in fundraising with the Bishop on several occasions. At the Board's request, he has also provided documents, including a pastoral letter from the Bishops of Alberta, for discussion at school council meetings and at the District Roundtable. On April 1, 2006, the Board held the Roundtable on Fundraising for school council representatives and school administrators, that was attended by trustees and District administration. Feedback

from the Roundtable, and data from a survey of school fundraising practices, were shared with trustees on May 12, 2006. These documents were also posted on the District's website four days later.

On May 17, 2006, at its regular public meeting, the Board passed a motion authorizing the creation of an all-trustee Task Force on Fundraising, to review the data that had been gathered and to bring a report to the May 31, 2006 Board meeting. This is that report.

The Board of Trustees is being asked to review fundraising, last dealt with seven years ago. This time, the focus is on the role that gambling plays as a method and source of fundraising by some school communities. Guided by its District pillars, the Board must decide whether it will permit, restrict or forbid the use of gambling activities and revenues by District schools.

The Calgary Catholic School District has developed statements that articulate its shared values. These values are referred to as the **District's Pillars** because they represent the philosophic foundation that guides individual and collective decision-making. These pillars speak to who we are and what we stand for, as a school system. They represent the criteria by which the Board of Trustees formulates and assesses policies that govern the way in which the Board and staff members are expected to act.

Catholicity represents the Gospel values of our faith that permeate the programs, services and culture of our schools. Catholic education recognizes the primary role of parents as the first and best teachers of their children. It also recognizes the partnership that needs to exist among home, school and parish, if students are to benefit fully from their Catholic education.

Instructional Focus represents the essential nature of the District's mandate. The Calgary Catholic School District exists to provide Catholic instruction to its students.

Accountability is the District pillar by which students, staff members and trustees hold themselves accountable for their own work. This District, through its Board of Trustees, is accountable to the public that it serves.

Fiscal Responsibility is the pillar that recognizes that this School District is entrusted with public monies. Cost effectiveness is used as a criterion in decision-making processes.

Dignity and Worth of the Individual expresses the District's belief in the sacredness of each person, and consciously fosters the dignity and self-worth of each individual. Schools are expected to cultivate a spirit of understanding, acceptance and support for all.

All five District Pillars need to be brought into this analysis of school-based fundraising. As is often the case, there is a natural tension among these pillars, as the values they represent compete with one another.

Before it can make any decision on this matter, the Board of Trustees must understand the current reality in this School District and province. The Board also has a duty to understand the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church on gambling and the position taken by the Catholic Bishops of Alberta. Equally important, the Board needs to hear the voice of the parents as expressed, together with school administrators, at the April 1 Roundtable on Fundraising. The Board also needs to examine the data on current fundraising practices, generated from a survey of all 96 schools. (It should be noted that there are now 97 schools in the District).

The current practice of the School District is to permit school communities to make their own informed decisions related to fundraising, by following a “check list” procedure, as required by the District. It should be understood, however, that the current “check list” does not focus on the issue of gambling per se.

1.3 *Structure of Report*

This report is divided up into seven major sections. Following this introduction, the next section will review data gathered on Gambling in Alberta. The role of government, the amount of money raised and how it is being used will be examined, together with the prevalence of gambling and problem gambling.

Section 3 of the report deals with the Church’s Position on Gambling: what the Catechism teaches and what the Bishops of Alberta have to say about gambling, and to some extent, its role in fundraising.

Feedback on the April 1, 2006 District Roundtable on Fundraising is reviewed in Section 4. This provides the perspective of parents and school administrators regarding the benefits of fundraising, responses to problem gambling, and the likely impact of a “no gambling” policy on these problems and school communities.

The results of a survey of the 96 schools are reported in section 5, School Data on Fundraising. This information deals with how much money is fundraised, how much through casinos and other forms of gambling, who raises it, and how it is spent.

In section 6 of the report, all of this data is analyzed and summarized. It is followed by the final section containing the Conclusions and Recommendations of this Task Force Report.

2. GAMBLING IN ALBERTA

The growth of gambling is an international phenomenon, characterized by a proliferation of casinos, bingos and lotteries. In this province, the Government of Alberta controls all forms of gambling, which currently generates approximately \$1.5 billion per year for the provincial treasury.

This control of, and support for, gambling was motivated, in large part, by the fear that if the province did not provide opportunities for gambling, revenues would be lost to other government jurisdictions. Government control also prevents the growth of illegal gambling and its ties to organized crime.

The Government of Alberta raises a significant amount of money each year from various sources of gaming. In 2004-2005, Charitable Gaming, which includes bingos, casinos, raffles and pull tickets, brought in \$238 million. During the same period, Provincial Lotteries, with revenues from VLTs, slot machines and ticket lottery sales, produced \$1.2 billion.

Revenue from Provincial Lotteries is placed in the Alberta Lottery Fund. Some of this money supports charitable, community and not-for-profit initiatives throughout the province. This Fund is also used to supplement the general revenues that go into various departments of government, including education. Indeed, this District and its schools benefit directly from educational grants that include gambling revenues.

Charitable groups that have a license granted by the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission conduct charitable gaming, which includes bingos, casinos, raffles and pull tickets. Profits raised through charitable gaming activities go directly to the charitable or religious organization conducting the activity and are used to support the organization's not-for-profit activities.

Over the years, gambling, like alcohol, has become part of our culture. Statistics provided by the Ministry of Gaming and the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (AADAC) indicate that 82% of adult Albertans (18 years and older) are engaged in various forms of gaming in Alberta. An estimated 5.2% of adult Albertans have a gambling problem: 3.9% are moderate risk gamblers and 1.3% are problem gamblers.

These figures are remarkably similar to those reported by AADAC with respect to the consumption of alcohol. It reports that 80% of Albertans, 15 years and older, consume alcohol and approximately 3.5% of the population is alcohol dependent.

3. CHURCH'S POSITION ON GAMBLING

The position of the Roman Catholic Church on gambling is set forth in the **Catechism of the Catholic Church**:

"Games of chance (card games, etc.) or wagers are not in themselves contrary to justice. They become morally unacceptable when they deprive someone of what is necessary to provide for his needs and those of others. The passion for gambling risks becoming an enslavement. Unfair wagers and cheating at games constitute grave matter, unless the damage inflicted is so slight that the one who suffers it cannot reasonably consider it significant." **(2413)**

The focus of the catechism is primarily on the moral responsibility of the individual to avoid the excess of gambling that put at risk the necessities of life for himself and his family. In their 1998 pastoral letter, entitled *The False Eden of Gambling*, the Catholic Bishops of Alberta expand upon this teaching in light of the proliferation of government-sponsored gambling.

"Traditionally, gambling has been looked upon with great suspicion in the Christian community. Marriages and families have been hurt or destroyed by compulsive gambling. The "fantasy" motivation of entering the lap of luxury through winning is suspect. And the use of time and money in ways that hardly model Christian virtue and character suggest that the practice reflects neither Gospel values nor Christian inspiration."

"Nonetheless, the Catholic tradition has never simply condemned gambling as such. Our own history in Alberta provides ample evidence of the use of gambling to raise funds for everything from the construction of churches to charitable work."

"Despite our history, there has also remained a deeper unease with compulsive gambling, ruinous gambling, and any gambling which detours the essentials of life, such as grocery money, away from their responsible use. This unease has at times in other Christian communities led to an understandable, complete moral condemnation of gambling in all forms."

"Following our Catholic tradition, it seems important for the bishops of Alberta to offer a more nuanced moral judgment of gambling and to issue a Gospel challenge to all Christians in the face of the increasing opportunities to gamble in our society."

The Bishops' pastoral letter specifically addresses the issue of the compulsive or addicted gambler. It calls upon government to ban the most addictive forms of gambling, to identify and treat problem gamblers before they "hit bottom", and to provide sufficient resources to help those who are addicted to gambling.

The pastoral letter also deals with the gospel-based response to gambling by posing the question: "If gambling is not to be decried as intrinsically evil, and if governments seem to think it is necessary to the economy, how should the Christian respond to this phenomenon?"

The answer is that it is not enough for the Christian to avoid misuse or abuse of funds for gambling. One has to meditate on the use of "disposable income" to address the needs of the poor, rather than for gambling purposes. The Bishops do recognize, however, that good causes can be the legitimate beneficiaries of gambling.

According to the Bishops, "The Christian challenge in the face of gambling is not to stop with a moral evaluation."

"However, as Christians we can examine our own actions regarding gambling. And we can continue to look out for those who are harmed by gambling. And we can lobby that gambling is not allowed to harm communities and neighbourhoods. And we can preach and live the Word that ought to make gambling irrelevant in our lives. And we can live the hope of our faith that unmask the false hope of greed."

In their December 19, 2005 letter to the Knights of Columbus, the Bishops of Alberta focus on the use of gambling for fundraising purposes. They refer to the growth of a "culture of gambling", driven by the emergence of the casino and the lure of easy money. They express a concern for the marginalized:

"Studies indicate that gambling attracts a disproportionate number of welfare recipients, pensioners and working poor, who see it as a way to end their financial worries."

The Bishops encourage the Knights to continue with their efforts to find other methods of fundraising other than gambling.

The Bishops of Alberta, however, have taken decidedly different approaches to the use of gambling for fundraising in their respective dioceses. In Calgary, Bishop Henry has asked all parishes to refrain from fundraising through casinos and bingos. He has said: "we will not knowingly accept even a government grant if it comes from VLTs or gambling revenue." In Edmonton, Archbishop Thomas Collins has been described as taking a softer approach. "Instead of issuing an order (against bingos and casinos), I am encouraging individuals and organizations to find new ways of fundraising," he said.

4. ROUNDTABLE ON FUNDRAISING

On Saturday, April 1, 2006, the Board of Trustees of the Calgary Catholic School District hosted a Roundtable on Fundraising. Each of the District's 97 school councils was asked to send its designated number of representatives (at least two) to participate. The focus of the discussion was the role of gambling as a method and source of school-based fundraising.

In order to plan for the Roundtable, the Board requested input from school council chairs and school principals. During the February Family of Schools' School Council meetings, the chairs and principals generated questions, concerns, ideas and perspectives for the Roundtable. This input guided the selection of resource materials that were pulled together in a pre-roundtable reading package.

School councils were asked to hold a meeting in March dedicated to discussing the resource materials. The intention was to help representatives build knowledge, develop understanding, and acquire skill in expressing their ideas.

A total of 313 people attended the Roundtable on Fundraising, seated at 44 tables, each with a facilitator and recorder. Each recorder gathered input from the conversation at the table, as each Roundtable question was posed and answered. It should be understood that the collated record of the conversation does not always have the numerical precision of an individual survey or questionnaire. Further analysis, however, has helped in some instances.

The feedback from participants at the Roundtable on Fundraising and their evaluation of the session were very positive. The following represents a summary of the important data that was also gathered from participants:

1. Fundraising

When asked: *"What are the benefits of fundraising to your school, your children, your community, and you?"*, respondents indicated that fundraising provides money that is not available from the Government or School District, for things such as fine arts, technology, program enhancement, playgrounds, charities, athletics, field trips and library enhancement.

Fundraising also provides an opportunity to build community, support low income families and create a level playing field among schools and school districts.

The District's current Fundraising Discussion Checklist is a tool that provides a District-wide framework that includes values, standards and parameters.

Roundtable participants were asked: *“Does this checklist facilitate your school community’s discussion and decision-making processes, at the local school level?”*

Of the responses recorded, 59 said “yes” and 20 said “no”.

Those who used the checklist, which deals with fundraising generally (and not gambling revenues), felt it brought the community together, was helpful as a guide, kept the focus on fundraising and stimulated discussion.

Of those who did not use the checklist, some did know it existed while others felt they did not need to use it.

2. Gambling in Alberta

Participants were asked: *What information from the ‘III Gambling in Alberta’ section of your materials, is of most interest to your school community?”*

Many of the respondents were surprised to learn 3.9% of Albertans are moderate risk gamblers and 1.3% are problem gamblers. This was lower than they had anticipated. Others were surprised to learn that 82% of Albertans gamble. Many found it interesting that gambling revenues also go into government’s general revenues and support education, health and transportation. Others wanted to know how much money goes into programs to help problem gamblers.

When asked: *“How might the District and school community support the provincial government’s efforts to prevent problem gambling and to assist those who are problem gamblers?”*, the largest number of responses indicated “through the education of students and parents.” Others said, “by donating to and supporting agencies, such as AADAC, that provide assistance to problem gamblers.” Still others said, “by lobbying the government to take more responsibility.”

3. Church’s Position on Gambling

Participants at the Roundtable were asked: *“What was your school council’s response to ‘IV. The Church’s Position on Gambling’ section of your resource materials?”* A few were in favour of the Church’s position and felt that it should be adhered to without question. Most others were respectful but asked questions about where the money would come from to replace lost gambling revenues.

Then, participants were asked: *“Given what we know about gambling in Alberta, if the Board of Trustees were to establish a policy forbidding schools from raising or receiving money from any form of gambling, what do you believe would be the impact on ...*

- i. the ‘culture of gambling’ in Alberta?*
- ii. the prevention of problem gambling?*
- iii. the rehabilitation of problem gamblers?”*

The answer from 40 of the 44 tables was that there would be “no impact” on any of these three concerns.

Next, the following question was posed: *“As Catholics, and in the context of the social justice teachings of the Church, how might the District and school communities support the Bishops of Alberta in addressing their concerns related to problems gambling.”*

Once again, the response was: “support agencies and organizations that help problem gamblers and those with other problems, and return a percentage of the proceeds from casinos to these organizations.” Others said, “focus on prevention through education of students.”

4. Impact of a “No Gambling Policy”

Participants at the Roundtable were asked: *If the Board of Trustees were to establish a policy forbidding schools from raising or receiving money from any form of gambling, what would be the impact on the general ability of District schools to ...*

- i. raise funds?*
- ii. continue their current projects and activities?*
- iii. compete with public schools, charter schools and private schools?*

First, all 44 tables believed there would be an impact; 29 tables indicated that the impact would be “very great”. Respondents felt that this would require schools to have many more smaller fundraising activities, causing a greater burden on parents.

Second, half of the tables reported that a “no gambling” policy would shut down school programs, or decrease them significantly.

Third, 35 people at 19 tables reported that they believed that student enrolment would decline and that we possibly “could lose our Catholic schools.”

Respondents from 18 tables felt that Catholic schools would lose their competitive edge and be at a distinct disadvantage.

Then Roundtable participants were asked: *“What would be the specific impact on the ability of schools in poorer communities and in wealthier communities, to continue to raise funds and to provide their students with enhanced educational opportunities?”*

There were 29 comments from 26 tables reporting that participants felt that poorer communities and smaller schools would suffer greatly. Another 25 tables reported that there would be huge disparity within the District between have and have not schools.

Participants were asked: *“What would be the impact on students, parents and families if other, more traditional forms of fundraising had to be used?”*

A total of 35 comments from 25 tables indicated that a much greater amount of volunteer time would be required of parents. This would create great stress on families, said 17 tables, while 10 indicated that there would be a financial burden on families. Another 17 comments from 15 tables expressed a concern that there would be a negative impact on families.

5. Concluding Question

The last question posed to Roundtable participants was a rather open-ended question: *What do you want trustees to consider as the Board makes its decision on the future of fundraising in the schools of this District?”*

In response, 25 tables called upon trustees to consider the financial costs, while 22 comments from 20 tables asked them to consider what is best for our children. They want the parents’ perspective taken into consideration when making the decision. Another 20 comments, coming from 17 tables asked trustees to consider that we would no longer be competitive with private, charter and CBE schools if gambling revenues are lost. They said: consider the ultimate decline and demise of Catholic education in Calgary if this happens. Maintain the current position, do not bring in a “no gambling” policy and continue to allow each school council to make its own decision, were the 19 comments coming from 12 tables.

5. SCHOOL DATA ON FUNDRAISING

In order to assist the Board in making its decision on fundraising, all 96 schools that were operational during the 2004-2005 school year were surveyed in February 2006. To assist them in completing the survey, school principals were given the following definitions to ensure a common understanding and meaningful data collection.

“Total Fundraising:

The value of all items and dollars that benefit the school.

- Does not include Scale of Issue
- Does not include Fee Collection
- Does not include dollars collected for textbooks, workbooks, etc.
- Does include School Council Contributions
- Does include Society contributions
- Does include cafeteria, vending machines, school store (clear profits should be recorded)
- Does include book fairs, sale of product (clothing, food, promotional items, etc.), recycling
- Does include activities such as penny carnival, raffles, auctions, charitable money fundraisers, etc.
- Does include donations, grants, gifts, etc.”

“Fundraising linked to gambling:

Dollars, goods or services benefiting the school and originating from gambling resources:

- Fundraising linked to Casinos
- Any dollars linked to lottery monies
- Raffles of any kind
- Gaming of any kind
- Government grants for funding linked to lottery monies.

Please note, thousands of Community initiatives receive funding each year through the Alberta Lottery Fund.”

In the context of these definitions, the principals provided the Board with data related to school-based fundraising. This information is presented in the following tables and commentary.

During 2004-2005, the 96 schools of the Calgary Catholic School District generated more than \$4 million using various methods of fundraising. As noted in Table 1, nearly half (47.2%) of this was raised or received from one form of gambling or another. Of the \$1.97 million from gambling, 65% came from casinos alone.

Table 1
Summary of School Revenue Data on Fundraising, Gambling and Casinos

School	(A) Total dollar value of cash and goods received	(B) Total dollar value received through any gambling	(C) Total dollar value received from Casino Only	(D) % of fundraising through gambling (% that B is of A)
Total	\$4,108,792.11	\$1,973,092.84	\$1,280,164.67	47.2%

Of the 96 schools that were operational at the time, 59 (or 61%) of them raised funds through the use of gambling methods or sources; 37 schools (or 39%) did not. Table 2 indicates that 33 schools (or 34%) obtain at least half of their fundraised revenues from gambling. Indeed, 21 schools (or 22%) use gambling for over 75% of their fundraising.

Table 2
Number of Schools by Percentage of Funds Raised Through Gambling

Percentage of fund-raising obtained through gambling	Number of Schools
0%	37
Up to 10%	9
11-25%	6
26-50%	10
51-75%	13
76-100%	21

Although schools used various sources of gambling revenue for fundraising purposes, including raffles, Alberta Lottery Fund grants, casinos and bingos, the prevalence of casinos, in particular, was investigated through the school survey. As noted in Table 3, 36% of schools benefited from a casino in 2004-2005. Schools with junior high and senior high grades benefit most from casinos.

Table 3
Schools Benefiting From Casinos in 2004-2005

Category of Schools	Number of Casinos	Number of Schools	Percentage Who Benefited from Casinos
K – 6	15	51	29%
K – 9	12	25	48%
7 – 9	3	6	50%
10-12	4	9	44%
Other*	1	6	17%
Total	35	96	36%

* Other schools with different grade configurations

The amount of money collected from casinos in 2004-2005 is illustrated, by school category, in Table 4. Of the 21 schools that raised between \$25,000 and \$50,000, 10 of them were K-6 schools, followed by seven schools with K-9 grades. More than half of the schools (60%) that raised \$50,000 - \$100,000 were K-9 schools. The one school that raised over \$100,000 from casinos was an elementary school.

Table 4
Amount of Money Collected From Casinos in 2004-2005 By School Category

Category of Schools	Under \$25,000	\$25,000 – 50,000	\$50,000 – 100,000	Over \$100,000
	# of Schools	# of Schools	# of Schools	# of Schools
K – 6	3	10	1	1
K – 9	2	7	3	0
7-9	0	2	1	0
10 –12	2	2	0	0
Other	1	0	0	0
Total	8	21	5	1

Note: In the case of casinos that may be held every few years, schools were asked to provide an average amount for a single year (e.g. $\$60,000 \div 2 \text{ yrs} = \$30,000$ for 2004-2005).

Table 5 displays data gathered on the number of schools by category and the amount of money obtained through gambling, other than casinos. Four schools, including two elementaries, raised \$25,000 - \$50,000 in 2004-2005. Five schools, including three elementaries, raised between \$50,000 and \$100,000. One high school raised over \$100,000 from gambling, other than casinos.

Table 5
Number of Schools by Category and Amount of Money Obtained Through “Gambling” Other than Casinos

Category of Schools	Under \$1000	\$1000-10,000	\$10,000-25,000	\$25,000 – 50,000	\$50,000-100,000	Over 100,000
	# of Schools	# of Schools	# of Schools	# of Schools	# of Schools	# of Schools
K – 6	9	7	1	2	3	0
K – 9	0	5	2	1	1	0
7-9	0	1	0	0	0	0
10 –12	0	0	1	1	1	1
Total	9	13	4	4	5	1

Parents play the key role in school-based fundraising, directly through their school council or as members of a society, legally constituted under the *Societies Act*. A society has an “arms length” relationship with the school, which is the beneficiary of its fundraising efforts.

Table 6 shows that 78% of schools reported that their school council was involved in fundraising, 45% had a society supporting them, and 19% indicated their student council was also involved in fundraising.

Table 6
School-Related Organizations That Do the Fundraising

	School Council	Society	Student Council	Other*
Number of Schools	75	43	18	16
% of Total Number of Schools	78%	45%	19%	17%

* Other groups such as bandparents, grad committee, athletic teams, etc.

Finally, the school survey also sought to determine the type of projects that were being financially supported by gambling revenues, acquired through fundraising. As can be noted from Table 7, the projects and activities reported are curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular in nature. Schools, of course, would typically have projects and activities in several different categories. It should be noted that these projects and activities represent enhancements to the basic school offerings. In other words, the projects and activities in question have not been, nor are they ever likely to be, funded by Alberta Education or school boards.

Table 7
Projects Supported By “Gambling” Funds

Project Categories	Number of Projects
Fine Arts *	50
Technology	43
Individual School Projects **	23
Field Trips	22
Catholicity / Charities	22
Program Enrichment	21
Athletics	16
Playground	15
Library	15
Student Recognition and Classroom Incentives	9

* Music, Band, Art.

** Outdoor projects, spell-a-thon, recycling, lunches, etc.

6. SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

6.1 Background

This review of the Calgary Catholic School District's school-based fundraising practices was prompted by a request from school council chairs. They were seeking clarification of the Board of Trustees' position on the role that gambling should, or should not, play in school fundraising, given the position of Bishop Henry.

Bishop Henry has asked all parishes in the Diocese of Calgary to refrain from fundraising through gambling. Subsequently, in meetings held with the Board of Trustees, Bishop Henry has requested that the Board establish a policy that would forbid all District schools from raising or receiving funds from bingos and casinos.

It is the moral and legal right and responsibility of the elected Board of Trustees to make policy decisions that govern the operation of the School District, including those decisions affecting school-based fundraising.

Under Board policy, trustees are required to consult with appropriate stakeholders when developing policy. Key stakeholders in this instance are parents, school administrators and the Bishop of Calgary. The Board held a Roundtable on Fundraising for school council representatives and school administrators on April 1, 2006. The Board also met with Bishop Henry on this matter.

In reviewing the District's practices on school-based fundraising, in the context of concerns about gambling, the Board of Trustees had to address three key questions:

- a) What is the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church on the issue of gambling?
- b) What is the likely impact of a "no gambling" policy on the gambling problems identified by the Bishops of Alberta?
- c) What is the likely impact of a "no gambling" policy on the students, parents and schools of this District?

6.2 Church Teaching

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "Games of Chance (card games, etc.) or wagers are not in themselves contrary to justice. They become morally unacceptable when they deprive someone of what is necessary to provide for his needs and those of others. The passion for gambling risks becoming an enslavement." (2413)

Simply put, Church teaching does not forbid Catholics from gambling, owning a gambling establishment, working in a casino or bingo operation, or raising or receiving revenues from any source of gambling. It does address, however, the moral responsibility of the problem gambler and, by implication, those who knowingly contribute to his addiction.

In their 1998 pastoral letter, entitled, *The False Eden of Gambling*, the Catholic Bishops of Alberta do not condemn gambling as such, but “offer a more nuanced moral judgment” of it. They have issued a Gospel challenge to Christians to examine their own motivation and actions regarding gambling.

The letter reviews the social cost of gambling, particularly for compulsive and addicted gamblers and their families. It calls upon Christians to look out for those who are harmed by gambling, and to lobby government to assume its responsibilities for assisting them.

Most significantly, the Bishops’ letter calls upon the government to ban the most addictive forms of gambling, to identify and treat problem gamblers before they “hit bottom”, and to provide sufficient resources to help those who are addicted to gambling.

The Bishops, in their 2005 letter to the Knights of Columbus, focus on the use of gambling for fundraising purposes. Decrying the growth of a “culture of gambling”, they encourage the Knights to disassociate themselves from it, whatever the motives of gamblers.

6.3 Impact on Gambling

The growth of gambling is an international phenomena characterized by a proliferation of casinos, bingos and lotteries. There are also television programs dedicated to it, and anyone can gamble on-line, using their home computer and a credit card.

In this province, the Government of Alberta controls all forms of gambling, which currently generates approximately \$1.5 billion per year. Through its control of gambling, the Government makes it possible for charities and other non-profit organizations to fundraise if they make application and provide volunteers to work bingos and casinos. They may also apply for government grants which are funded by gambling revenues.

Some of the receipts from gambling also become part of the Government’s own general revenues. For example, revenues from the Alberta Lottery Fund are used by Alberta Education to provide grants to school boards throughout the province. Needless to say, the Board cannot turn back this money simply because part of it comes from gambling.

In our society, people have a choice and, rightly or wrongly, they are choosing to gamble in one form or another. Indeed, 82% of adults, 18 years and older, engaged in it. An estimated 5.2% of adult Albertans have a gambling problem: 3.9% are moderate risk gamblers and 1.3% are problem gamblers.

Participants at the April 1, 2006 Roundtable on Fundraising were asked what impact a “no gambling” policy would have on gambling problems identified by the Bishops of Alberta. The vast majority expressed the view that such a policy would have “no impact” on the “culture of gambling”, the prevention of problem gambling and the rehabilitation of problem gamblers in this province.

6.4 *Impact on Students*

In order to respond to the third key question, dealing with the likely impact of a “no gambling” policy on the students, parents and the schools of the District, extensive information was gathered. Given that \$2 million, which is nearly half of all funds raised by schools in 2004-2005, came from one form of gambling or another, the negative impact of such a policy would be very significant. It would directly affect 59 of the District’s 96 schools.

At the Roundtable, participants were asked about the impact of a “no gambling” policy on the ability of schools to fundraise, to continue current projects, and to compete with public, private and charter schools. Virtually all agreed there would be an impact; 70% of the groups said it would be very great. Many indicated that it would cause those schools currently accessing gambling revenues to turn to many smaller fundraising activities, resulting in a greater burden on parents. It was also felt that some schools would be forced to cut programs and activities, or scale them back significantly. Participants were concerned that this loss of school extras would result in a decline in student enrolment, possibly impacting the future of Catholic schools.

In response to other questions, Roundtable participants expressed the belief that a “no gambling” policy would impact poor and small schools greatly, increasing the disparity between the haves and have-nots. They also said that more traditional forms of fundraising would increase stress on families, who would be required to provide even more volunteer time.

An analysis of the data from both the Roundtable and school survey indicates that the \$4 million fundraised in 2004-2005 is being used to enhance student learning and development, through curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular opportunities. This money is not being used to address basic educational needs.

The fundraising efforts of schools, through their school councils and societies, are providing additional opportunities for students in the fine arts, technology, program enhancement, playgrounds, charities, athletics, field trips, etc.

School activities, made possible by fundraising, enrich the educational experience of students and broaden their interests, which will last a lifetime. Indeed, it is playgrounds, athletic teams, school bands and drama productions that help students bond and learn self-discipline, team-work and leadership skills. It is healthy relationships that grow out of such interests that are most likely to keep students away from the pursuit of alcohol, drugs and gambling.

Fundraising also permits the school to address the needs of low income families by waiving school fees and subsidizing student participation in school activities that they could not otherwise afford.

6.5 Analysis

What do we now know? First, we know that the teaching of the Church does not forbid Catholics from raising or receiving money from gambling. Second, we know that the adoption of a “no gambling” fundraising policy by the Board would likely have no impact on the “culture of gambling”, the prevention of problem gambling and the rehabilitation of problem gamblers in Alberta. Third, a “no gambling” policy would have a profoundly negative impact on the ability of schools to raise money and to provide program enhancements for students.

Students from low income families, as well as schools in lower socio-economic communities, would be particularly disadvantaged.

In the *False Eden of Gambling*, the Bishops pose the following key question of their own: *If gambling is not to be decried as intrinsically evil, and if governments seem to think it is necessary to the economy, how should the Christian respond to this phenomenon?*

The Bishops answer the question this way:

- a. “... as Christians we can examine our own actions regarding gambling.”
- b. “And we can continue to look out for those who are harmed by gambling.”
- c. “And we can lobby that gambling is not allowed to harm communities and neighbourhoods.”
- d. “And we can preach and live the word that ought to make gambling irrelevant in our lives.”
- e. “And we can live the hope of our faith that unmask the false hope of greed.”

Mindful of the Board's own District Pillars, the Task Force sought to apply the advice of the Bishops to the issue of gambling in the context of school-based fundraising. The following direction emerged:

First, the Task Force recognizes that there is a need for more guidelines and accountability to support school communities making decisions about fundraising. There is also a need to improve the capacity of school communities to exercise self-discipline and reflective judgment in making these decisions.

Second, recognizing the dignity and worth of each individual, there needs to be explicit action taken to address the plight of compulsive and addicted gamblers. What is called for is education to prevent problem gambling, early identification and intervention before the problem gambler "hits bottom", and sufficient resources to help those who are addicted to gambling.

Third, Catholic individuals and organizations have an obligation to speak out and lobby government to ban or restrict the most addictive forms of gambling and to take all necessary measures to minimize those conditions that give rise to problem gambling.

Fourth, through religious education and other programs, and through the numerous school-based social justice projects, we can continue to share the Gospel message in both word and deed.

Fifth, in our personal lives, each of us can live out our faith, committed to the needs of others, particularly the marginalized, who suffer from addictions.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 *Conclusions*

The elected Board of Trustees is morally and legally responsible for making policy decisions that govern fundraising by District schools.

Neither the Catechism of the Catholic Church nor the Bishops of Alberta regard gambling as intrinsically evil. Yet the Bishops are concerned with the growth of a “culture of gambling” and especially with those who are addicted to gambling.

Whatever policy the Board of Trustees adopts with respect to fundraising, it should reflect these concerns of the Bishops, as expressed in their pastoral letter, *The False Eden of Gambling*, as well as the Board’s own District Pillars.

It is evident that a “no gambling” policy would have no impact on the prevention of problem gambling, on the rehabilitation of problem gamblers or on the “culture of gambling”. While a “no gambling” policy for other organizations might serve their strategic interests, it would have a profoundly negative impact on our students, their families and their school communities. Particularly disadvantaged by such a policy would be students from low-income families and those attending schools in lower socio-economic communities.

In addition to undermining the ability of our schools to respond to the needs of their students, a “no gambling” policy, by denying parents the right to support their school in the most time effective way possible, would also adversely affect their competitiveness, possibly impacting enrolments.

The Board of Trustees believes that school communities are in the best position to determine what their needs are, and to make the decision as to whether or not they will participate in a bingo, casino or apply for a government grant.

Finally, in a pluralistic society, it is the responsibility of Catholics and other Christians to engage the modern world in a thoughtful way. They will, at times, be called upon to be counter-cultural; at other times, pragmatic and strategic. The challenge is discerning when each response is most appropriate.

7.2 Recommendations

The Task Force on School-Based Fundraising makes the following recommendations:

1. That the Board of Trustees develop and adopt a policy governing school fundraising.
2. That Board policy permit school communities to continue to make their own decisions on fundraising methods, utilizing new guidelines and accountability structures, developed by the District in consultation with school councils and school principals.
3. That school communities be encouraged to develop a range of alternative fundraising methods, giving parent choice.
4. That Board policy require any school that is in receipt of monies raised through a casino or bingo, make a donation, equivalent to 5% of the amount received, to a charity that provides services for the treatment of gambling addiction.
5. That the District seeks funding with which to commission the preparation of educational materials, for both students and parents, designed to address the prevention of problem gambling. These materials, which will be based on the theme of “healthy choices”, will be shared with other jurisdictions.
6. That the District encourage schools to consider, as an option, a social justice project that supports the treatment and rehabilitation of problem gamblers.
7. That the District works with the Diocese, the Alberta Catholic School Trustees Association, other Catholic school jurisdictions and community interest groups to lobby Government to address, in a meaningful way, the prevention and treatment of gambling addiction, particularly among students.

8. APPENDICES

- 8.1 Appendix 1:
Roundtable on Fundraising: School Council Chair's Input to Planning.
- 8.2 Appendix 2:
Roundtable on Fundraising: Discussion Summary.
- 8.3 Appendix 3:
February 10, 2006 letter to Bishop Henry from Cathie Williams, Chair,
Board of Trustees
- 8.4 Appendix 4:
February 15, 2006 memo to principals from Superintendents, re.
Fundraising Roundtable.
- 8.5 Appendix 5:
February 27, 2006 memo to school principals and school council chairs
from Dr. Jeremy Simms, Chief Superintendent, re. Preparation for
Roundtable on Fundraising.
- 8.6 Appendix 6:
Roundtable on Fundraising, April 1, 2006.
- 8.7 Appendix 7:
Report on Discussion: Roundtable on Fundraising, April 1, 2006.
- 8.8 Appendix 8:
Roundtable on Fundraising: Evaluation and Feedback.
- 8.9 Appendix 9:
School Data on Fundraising, 2004-2005, collected in February, 2006.

Calgary Catholic School District

Roundtable on Fundraising

School Council Chairs' Input to Planning

The School District's Roundtable on Fundraising will be held on Saturday morning, April 1, 2006, at the Coast Plaza Hotel. Each school council in the District will be asked to send two spokespersons to represent the ideas and concerns of their school community, related to fundraising.

In planning for the Roundtable, our goal is to ensure that participants can engage in an informed conversation. To this end, the District will be providing documentation and information for school councils to discuss at their own table, prior to the April 1, District Roundtable.

To guide the Roundtable planning committee's work, the District is asking school council chairs and school principals to identify questions, concerns, ideas or perspectives that they would like to have addressed, in materials that will be circulated to school councils, before the Roundtable and dealt with by participants at the Roundtable.

Your input into the planning of this Roundtable is important and very much appreciated.

CALGARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

ROUNDTABLE ON FUNDRAISING

Discussion Summary

Questions, concerns, ideas and perspectives for the April 1, 2006 Roundtable on Fundraising, as identified by school council chairs:

NB Numbers at the end of statements indicate similar responses

Gambling / Fundraising in General (31):

Three major issues emerged regarding gambling in general:

- What constitutes gambling? Is there a difference between collecting money from casinos as opposed to lotteries, grants and other government funding?
- What are the proceeds from fundraising activities used for?
- What percentage of participants at a casino are addicted and how many are there for entertainment? If we stop using gambling money, does this make any difference to the big picture? Those who gamble responsibly are happy that some funds are directed to education.

Replacing Revenue (28):

The major concern here is how the current revenue obtained from casinos and other fundraising projects be replaced, especially for big-ticket items?

Moral / Catholic Issue (21):

Responses indicated that the participants would like to hear Bishop Henry's stance on this issue of gambling and have an opportunity to discuss it.

Inequity within the District (19):

There are schools within the District that would suffer from inequity because of the size or economic status of the community.

Competitive Edge (16):

If Calgary Catholic did not have fundraising, there would not be the same competitive edge with the public, private and charter schools.



Office of the Board of Trustees

Chair
Cathie Williams

February 10, 2006

Vice-Chair
Marge Belcourt

Most Rev. Frederick Henry
Bishop of Calgary
Catholic Pastoral Centre
120 – 17 Ave. S.W.
Calgary, AB T2S 2T2

ois Burke-Gaffney

Dear Bishop Henry:

Maureen Emond

Michael O'Malley

The Board of Trustees is in the process of planning the District's Roundtable on Fund-raising to be held on April 1, 2006. This opportunity to consult with school council representatives and school administrators involves the preparation of materials to be read and discussed by school councils, prior to the Roundtable.

Serafino Scarpino

Linda Wellman

It is important that materials be provided to these participants that address all dimensions of this very broad and complex question. We currently have on hand the December 19, 2005 letter from the Bishops of Alberta to the Knights of Columbus, which deals with gambling. We also have the excerpt from the Catholic Catechism which addresses this same topic. The Board would like to know if you wish to provide any other statements that would represent your concerns related to this matter to this dimension of the broader topic of fund-raising. If so, would you please forward this to my attention prior to February 24, 2006, to permit distribution to, and discussion by participants.

Thank you for your interest in this matter and your support for our consultation process.

Sincerely,

Cathie Williams
Chair
Board of Trustees

cc: Trustees

Ref:0208-06la



MEMORANDUM

TO: Principals

FROM: Judy MacKay, Superintendent, Instructional Services
Gary Strother, Superintendent, Educational Services, Area A
Pat Dorney, Superintendent, Educational Services, Area B
Andra McGinn, Ph.D., Superintendent, Educational Services, Area C

DATE: February 15, 2006

SUBJECT: Fund-raising Roundtable

School Councils are requested to allocate time at a School Council Executive and/or a School Council Meeting between now and April 1, 2006 to discuss the topic of fund-raising.

The Fund-raising Roundtable will be held on April 1, 2006 at the Coast Plaza Hotel from 8:30 – 12 noon.

Should there be no School Council Meeting scheduled for this time period, schools are requested to hold a special School Council Executive Meeting and/or a School Council Meeting to discuss this topic and review the materials that the District will provide by February 28, 2006. If there is a School Council Meeting between now and April 1, 2006, please make the topic of fund-raising the major item on your agenda.

Please ensure that you forward to your area office by March 17, the names of the parents and any school administrator who will be attending the April 1, 2006 Fund-raising Roundtable. Each Elementary/Junior High School may submit the names of two parents – ideally the School Council Chair and one other parent who has an understanding of the fund-raising role and can represent your school community's perspective on fund-raising. Senior High Schools may submit three parent names: The School Council Chair and two parents who have an understanding of the role of fund-raising within your school and who can represent your school community's perspective.

School Administration's presence is encouraged on a voluntary basis. If a principal is unable to attend, it is appropriate for a Vice Principal or Assistant Principal to attend, if they wish.

The Fund-raising Roundtable is a significant activity for our District. For this reason, it is important that representative voices from each school community are a part of this day. Your support in this venture is greatly appreciated.

Please e-mail names to:

bev.hildebrand@cssd.ab.ca

wendy.wyrostok@cssd.ab.ca

maureen.uniacke@cssd.ab.ca

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

AM/GS/PD/mu

MEMORANDUM

TO: School Principals
School Council Chairs

FROM: Jeremy Simms, Ph.D.
Chief Superintendent

DATE: February 27, 2006-06-01

RE: PREPARATION FOR ROUNDTABLE ON FUNDRAISING

Tomorrow, Tuesday, February 28, 2006, your school will receive five (5) copies of the resource materials package that has been assembled in preparation for the April 1 Roundtable on Fundraising.

This package, which is being distributed through the PONY, should be duplicated as needed, and made available to school council members, prior to their attending your March school council meeting on fund-raising. If small schools have any concerns related to photocopying this package, please contact your Area Superintendent.

As outlined in the "Message from the Board Chair," it is important that school councils build their own knowledge as they prepare their representatives to attend the April 1 Roundtable.

Please note that each elementary, elementary-junior and junior high school is asked to send two (2) parent representatives to the Roundtable. Schools with high school grades may send three (3) parents. Ideally, one of these representatives should be the school council chair.

Delegates to the Roundtable are asked to bring their resource material package to the April 1 meeting. To fully understand the intent and organization of this process, please carefully read the Chair's message.

Thank you for your cooperation and help in making this forthcoming Roundtable a meaningful event based on a reflective process.

cc: Trustees
Superintendent



CALGARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

**ROUNDTABLE ON
FUND-RAISING**

APRIL 1, 2006

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
I. Message From the Board Chair	1
II. Fund-raising Within CCSD	6
III. Gambling in Alberta	16
IV. Church Positions on Gambling	23
V. Impact of a “No Gambling” Policy	36

I. Message From the Board Chair

On Saturday, April 1, 2006, the Board of Trustees of the Calgary Catholic School District will host a Roundtable on Fund-raising, at the Coast Plaza Hotel (1316 – 33 Street N.E.). Each of our 97 school councils is asked to send its designated number of representatives (at least two) to participate in this important discussion. They will be joined by trustees, District staff and some school administrators.

This Roundtable on Fund-raising was prompted by discussions with school council chairs during the May 2005 series of Family of Schools' School Council meetings with trustees. The focus of their interest has been Bishop Henry's position against Catholic parishes, organizations and schools raising funds through gambling (eg. casinos, bingos), or receiving funds that have been generated by gambling (eg. Provincial lotteries, VLT's). Bishop Henry has also discussed his views with the Board of Trustees in meetings that were held last year.

The current practice of the School District is to permit school communities to make their own informed decisions related to fund-raising, by following a "check list" procedure required by the District. After appropriate consultation and reflection, school councils may choose to have a casino or seek grants funded from Provincial Lotteries, such as Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) for playgrounds, and numerous other grants.

A significant amount of money is raised by our school communities each year, much of it involves gambling. These funds are used to enhance curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular opportunities for our 44,000 students. We are conscious of the fact that a loss of this revenue from gambling may have an impact on the ability of some schools to raise funds and to continue to provide program enhancements for students.

The Board of Trustees is being asked to review fund-raising, last dealt with seven years ago. The focus this time, however, is primarily on the role that gambling plays as a method and source of fund-raising by some school communities. Guided by its District pillars, the Board must decide whether it will permit, restrict or forbid the use of gambling activities and revenues by District schools. (See attached Board Policy GP-2, Shared Values.)

Before it can make any decision on this matter, the Board of Trustees must understand the current reality within the District and province, as well as what impact a "no gambling" policy might have on its students. The Board also has a duty to understand the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church on gambling, and the position taken by the Catholic Bishops of Alberta. The Bishops' concern is with the culture of gambling, especially the impact on gambling addicts, who are its victims.

If school council representatives are to come to the April 1 Roundtable on Fund-raising prepared to engage in mutual influence with their colleagues and others, they too must have any opportunity to build knowledge, develop understanding and express their ideas. Consequently, it is our hope that your school council will dedicate a meeting in March to explore this complex, but very important topic. We would ask that you begin by reading, discussing and responding to the resource materials found in this package. These materials have been prepared or selected specifically to address those questions, concerns, ideas and perspectives identified by school council chairs and principals during the most recent round of Family of Schools' School Council meetings. (See attached "Discussion Summary".)

With this information as background, the Board would ask that your school council then reflect on its goals for fund-raising, its experience raising funds, as well as the impact that a change in District policy might have on your school.

As we prepare for the Roundtable, it is important that school councils in particular, and parents in general, understand the following points:

1. It is the moral and legal right and responsibility of the elected Board of Trustees to make policy decisions including those decisions that govern fund-raising by District schools;
2. The Board of Trustees has not made, and will not make, any decisions related to this review of fund-raising, prior to the April 1 Roundtable;
3. When the Board of Trustees does make its decisions with respect to school-based fund-raising, it will do so fully mindful of the input of parents, the teachings of the Church and the views of the Bishops of Alberta, including our Bishop Fred Henry.

I would like to close by expressing the appreciation of the Board for your school council's cooperation and support in preparing for, and participating in, the Roundtable on Fund-raising. The Board is grateful as well for the role that school council chairs have played in identifying fund-raising as an issue, and by giving focus to our planning for the Roundtable by posing questions and concerns at their Family of Schools' School Council meetings. The Board also wishes to thank those chairs who are members of the District Advisory Council (DAC), for their input on the timing of the Roundtable. We look forward to meeting your school council's representatives on Saturday morning, April 1, from 8:30 to 12:00 noon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cathie Williams', with a stylized, flowing script.

Cathie Williams, Chair
Board of Trustees

CALGARY ROMAN CATHOLIC SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 1
BOARD POLICY STATEMENT

Policy Name: Shared Values (District Pillars)
Policy Type: Governance Process

Number: GP-2
Date Reaffirmed: February 8, 2006

The School District has developed statements which articulate its shared values. These values are referred to as the District's Pillars because they represent the philosophic foundation that guides individual and collective decision-making. These pillars speak most directly to who we are, and what we stand for, as a school system.

The first pillar is **Catholicity**. It represents the values of our faith which permeate the programs, services and cultures of our schools:

A Catholic school is not simply a place where lessons are taught; it is a centre that has an operative education philosophy, attending to the needs of today's youth and illuminated by the Gospel message. (*Religious Dimensions of Religious Education in Catholic Schools, Roman Documents, 1988*).

In our schools, each student is recognized as a child of God, whether in the classroom, during recreation or in religious celebrations.

Catholic education recognizes the primary role of parents as the first and best teachers of their children. It also recognizes the partnership that needs to exist among home, school and parish, if students are to benefit fully from their Catholic education.

The second pillar is **Instructional Focus**, which is the essential nature of the District's mandate. The Calgary Catholic School District exists to provide Catholic instruction to its students. It believes that a comprehensive liberal arts approach to teaching and learning will best prepare students for a post-secondary education, the world of work, and the ability to solve complex problems in their daily living. In this learning environment, each student is expected to be challenged and to experience success.

Accountability is the District's third pillar. Students, staff members and trustees hold themselves accountable for their own work. As members of a learning organization, we also hold each other accountable, and support each other in achieving the goals of this school district. This District, through its Board of Trustees, is accountable to the public that it serves.

The fourth pillar is **Fiscal Responsibility**. The Calgary Catholic School District is entrusted with public monies. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the Board and each employee to be sensitive to the need to be fiscally responsible. Cost effectiveness is used as a criterion in all decision-making processes.

Finally, the fifth principle or pillar of the District is the **Dignity and Worth of the Individual**. Consistent with its vision statement, the Calgary Catholic School District believes in the sacredness of each person, and consciously fosters the dignity and self-worth of each individual. Schools are expected to cultivate a spirit of understanding, acceptance and support for all.

These five pillars represent the criteria by which the Board of this District formulates and assesses policies which govern the way in which the Board itself, and the staff members are expected to act.

CALGARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

ROUNDTABLE ON FUND-RAISING

Discussion Summary

Questions, concerns, ideas and perspectives for the April 1, 2006 Roundtable on Fund-raising, as identified by school council chairs:

NB Numbers at the end of statements indicate similar responses

Gambling / Fundraising in General (31):

Three major issues emerged regarding gambling in general:

- What constitutes gambling? Is there a difference between collecting money from casinos as opposed to lotteries, grants and other government funding?
- What are the proceeds from fundraising activities used for?
- What percentage of participants at a casino are addicted and how many are there for entertainment? If we stop using gambling money, does this make any difference to the big picture? Those who gamble responsibly are happy that some funds are directed to education

Replacing Revenue (28):

The major concern here is how the current revenue obtained from casinos and other fundraising projects be replaced, especially for big-ticket items?

Moral / Catholic issue (21):

Responses indicated that the participants would like to hear Bishop Henry's stance on this issue of gambling and have an opportunity to discuss it.

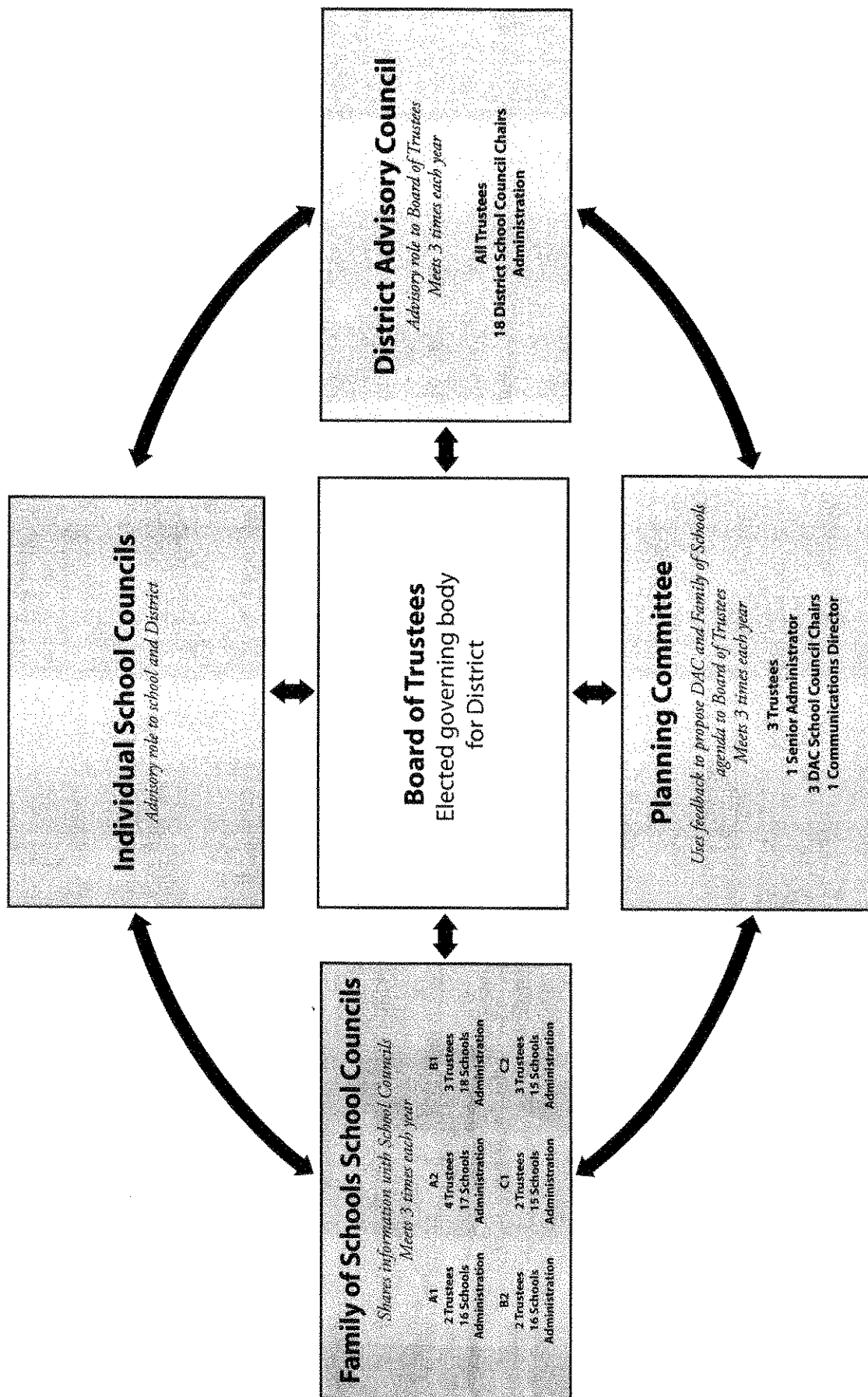
Inequity within the District: (19)

There are schools within the District that would suffer from inequity because of the size or economic status of the community.

Competitive Edge (16):

If Calgary Catholic did not have fundraising, there would not be the same competitive edge with the public, private and charter schools

School Council Advisory Structure to the Board of Trustees



Advisory Structure formalizes opportunities for parent representatives to engage in mutual influence with the Board of Trustees.
Individual parents may contact trustees directly at any time.

II. Fund-raising within CCSD

1. What is the current position of the Calgary Catholic School District (CCSD) on school-based fund-raising?

The District, following the 1999 Roundtable on Fund-raising, has taken the position that fund-raising is a local school decision. It has established principles and a protocol to guide decision-making on fund-raising. (Please see attached information)

2. What fund-raising methods are being used by schools within the CCSD?

Fund-raising methods include such examples as book fairs, coupon book sales, concessions, cafeterias, partnerships, vending machines, spellathons, mathathons, auctions, casinos, soliciting of donations application for grants such as: CFEP, Community Project Grants, Artists in Residence etc.

3. What organizations associated with the school do the actual fund-raising?

The most common organizations that fund-raise include the School Council, Societies and the Student Council.

4. How much is fund-raised by the schools of the CCSD?

Schools receive approximately \$4 million in cash and goods as the result of school-based fund-raising.

5. What constitutes gambling?

Gambling is the act of risking money, property or something of value on an activity with an uncertain outcome. Gambling includes not only licensed formats (e.g., casinos, bingo's, VLT's, scratch tickets, horseracing) but also informal wagering (e.g., people making bets among themselves).

6. Of all the money fund-raised by the District's schools, how much of this has been raised from various sources of gambling? What is this as a dollar value, and what is it as a percentage of the total amount fund-raised?

Approximately \$2 million is raised through various sources of gambling. This is approximately 47% of schools total fundraising dollars.

7. How is money fund-raised by District schools, used by the schools?

Fund-raised money is used for athletic equipment and uniforms, music instruments and sheet music, scholarships, computer and other technology, science Olympics and science fairs, liturgical and religious materials, library books, field trips, student awards, theatre, presentations, drama productions and workshops, art materials and Artist in Residence, playground equipment, teacher and student program support materials, Community of Caring activities, student fees subsidies and student retreats.

January 29, 1999

District Roundtable on Fund-raising

In response to a request by school council chairpersons during the 1997-98 school year, a fund-raising roundtable was held at the Red and White Club on January 29, 1999. The roundtable discussion focused on the issue of fund-raising and generating funds at the school level.

As a result of the 1999 roundtable, discussions are now held at school council meetings that go beyond simply organizing fund-raising events to considering the consequences and broad implications of fund-raising. The consciousness of the District has been raised regarding fund-raising and gambling, whether or not fund-raising is necessary, and if equity issues exist within fund-raising.

We acknowledge that society has a moral and legal obligation to adequately fund public education. As well, fund-raising is not inherently wrong. Fund-raising which involves activities that build community, secure supplementary funding for charitable purposes, and address the costs of valuable co-curricular and extra-curricular activities is appropriate.

The following principles were the result of the analysis of the input from the 1999 District Fund-raising Roundtable, in light of our Mission statement and District pillars.

In considering fund-raising, school communities must discuss the following principles:

- Fund-raising which distracts staff and students from the school's primary focus on teaching and learning is unacceptable;
- Fund-raising activities which marginalize and student are socially destructive and therefore unacceptable;
- School communities have an obligation to manage the expectations of parents, students and staff. Ever increasing expectations may cause dependency on fund-raising through gambling.

In considering the use of the above principles, it is important to recognize the value of open, frank dialogue on the subject of fund-raising. It is equally important to understand that the complexity of the issues and the significance of the potential consequences make on-going dialogue imperative. Fund-raising is not a topic, which lends itself to a "one-time" decision. Therefore, it is recommended that local school decisions regarding fund-raising must be formed and informed by careful consideration of the above guidelines, on a regular basis.

To this end, the District created a Fund-raising Discussion Checklist, which is to be used by school communities when making decisions on this matter. The Checklist, which is attached, is also to be found in the School Council Handbook.



FUNDRAISING DISCUSSION CHECKLIST

The complexity of the issues and the significance of potential consequences of fundraising make ongoing dialogue on this topic imperative. Local school decisions regarding fundraising must be formed and informed by careful consideration of the following discussion items on a regular basis.

Fundraising initiatives should always be undertaken following extensive dialogue among members of the school community, including school council members (all parents) and school staff.

Background and Recommendations Regarding Fundraising

It is highly recommended that schools have an annual overview plan for fundraising when the school year begins, with flexibility to allow for some additions or changes.

If schools choose to fundraise in order to enhance the curriculum – that is, to provide activities and resources beyond what the District provides – the issues of equity and constantly rising expectations need to be addressed and managed with sensitivity at the local school level. The term “equity” means taking into consideration and being sensitive to the capacity of any particular student(s) and/or family(ies) in your school community to fundraise. Fundraising should be undertaken in a manner which does not exclude certain students or affect the self-esteem of any student. For example, awarding prizes to the highest fundraisers may create a competitive environment and may appear to discount the efforts of other students.

Schools should always be sensitive to the number of times fundraisers are held per year. There are also times when financial constraints for families are greater, such as September and before and after Christmas. Obviously, these are not optimal times to conduct a fundraiser.

Is Fundraising Necessary?

It is important to bear in mind that fundraising is **always** optional. The School Council and school administration should frequently ask themselves the question, "Just because we can fundraise, should we?"

In discussions regarding fundraising, school council and administration members should take care to focus on **needs** rather than **wants**. Needs and wants differ from school to school; these terms have to be defined and redefined in each school during fundraising discussions.

Purpose and Use of Checklist:

The following checklist is intended to:

- generate appropriate reflection and dialogue prior to making final decisions about fundraising initiatives;
- guide decision making at the local school level regarding fundraising;
- balance local school flexibility on fundraising with alignment to the District's mission statement* and pillars*, Catholic philosophies and existing guidelines and regulations regarding fundraising.

It is important to note that this discussion checklist is an alternative to the inflexibility that would result if a formal school board policy or regulation were in place. The purpose of this list is to provide a context that will allow local school communities to sensitize themselves to

* *The District's Mission Statement and Pillars can be found in the INTRODUCTION section of the District's School Council Handbook.*

the issues related to fundraising, and that will encourage a complete discussion on fundraising that enables the group to come to a consensus on their fundraising purpose and goals.

It is the expectation of the District that the following guiding statements on the checklist – which are neither policies nor regulations – be discussed in-depth by the School Council and staff before undertaking any fundraising initiative. That is all that is expected.

Can your group affirm that these points have been discussed, and that you have made an informed decision? In other words, schools are not expected to check off “YES” to each point; however, they are expected to ensure that their group has discussed the points and has come to a consensus either to proceed or not to proceed with the fundraiser for reasons the group and its school community can feel comfortable with and can justify.

This discussion checklist can be used for every school fundraiser being considered (excluding small class, grade or division fundraisers that may arise from time to time, which are approved and monitored by school administration). These guidelines apply, no matter how big or small the fundraiser.

After Completing the Checklist:

After these statements have been discussed in-depth, the fundraising checklist should be completed, signed, and kept on file at the school by the principal. If after completion of the fundraising checklist, the decision is made to undertake the initiative, the next step would be to refer to the Calgary Catholic School Board regulations on fundraising. [See Regulation JJE, JJE-R, in APPENDIX 3 of the District’s School Council Handbook.]

FUNDRAISING DISCUSSION CHECKLIST

School: _____

Proposed Fundraiser: _____

Purpose of Fundraiser: _____

Suggested Date of Fundraiser: _____

_____ Supported / _____ Not supported by School Council

The following issues and guiding statements have been discussed:

[Check off to indicate discussion has occurred on each item]

- ☐ Does this fundraising initiative comply with the **Mission Statement** of the Calgary Catholic School District?
- ☐ Does this fundraising initiative comply with each of the following District Pillars of the Calgary Catholic Learning Organization?
 - Catholicity
 - Instructional Focus
 - Accountability
 - Fiscal Responsibility
 - Dignity and Worth of the Individual

[NOTE: For more details on the District Pillars, refer to page 5 of the "INTRODUCTION" tab in the District's School Council Handbook for the Learning Organization Wheel.]

- ☐ Does this fundraising initiative distract staff and students from the school's primary focus on teaching and learning? (i.e. Is this initiative sensitive to the demands of time and effort on students and staff; does it take away from instructional time?)
- ☐ Does this fundraising initiative support activities above and beyond basic funding provided by the District?
- ☐ Does this fundraising initiative reflect an understanding of **Regulation JJE: Student Fund Raising Activities?**
- ☐ Does this fundraising initiative have reasonable goals, and balance or satisfy the sometimes conflicting expectations of your school community?

- ☐ Does this fundraising initiative marginalize any student ? (i.e., exclude any student, or create an unhealthy competitive environment that will negatively impact students' self-worth or self-esteem).
- ☐ Is this fundraising initiative sensitive to the demands of time and finances that are placed on parents?
- ☐ Does this fundraising initiative meet the District's expectations regarding student safety and liability, as outlined in District regulations?
- ☐ Does this fundraising initiative help build a positive school community?

The following items should be discussed only if they apply to the fundraiser being considered:

- ☐ Does this fundraising initiative have a charitable dimension? (If so, clarify for your school's future reference.)

- ☐ Have you explored alternate sources of funding? (i.e., partnering programs, etc.)

Feel free to add other questions you wish to use in screening your school's proposed fundraisers. For example, you may wish to refer to other District policies and regulations prior to making fundraising decisions.

The guiding statements on this fundraising checklist were discussed in detail with the school staff and School Council.

Principal:

Signature:

Date:

School Council Chair:

Signature:

Date:

[NOTE: This checklist was compiled and revised following a review of the feedback reports received from both April 1999 and November 1999 sessions with Principals and School Council Chairs.]

FUNDRAISING CHECKLIST

School: _____
Proposed Fundraiser: _____
Purpose of Fundraiser: _____
Suggested Date of Fundraiser: _____
_____ Approved / _____ Not approved by School Council

The following guiding statements have been discussed:

- o This fundraising initiative complies with the **Mission Statement** of the Calgary Catholic School District.

This fundraising initiative complies with each of the following District Pillars of the Calgary Catholic Learning Organization:

- o Catholicity
- o Instructional Focus
- o Accountability
- o Fiscal Responsibility
- o Dignity and Worth of the Individual
- o This fundraising initiative has been considered in the light of the April 1999 document entitled "Fundraising in the Calgary Roman Catholic Separate School District #1."
- o This fundraising initiative does not distract staff and students from the school's primary focus on teaching and learning.
- o This fundraising initiative supports co-curricular activities.
- o This fundraising initiative has a charitable dimension.
- o This fundraising initiative has reasonable goals and manages expectations.
- o This fundraising initiative does not marginalize any student.
- o This fundraising initiative is sensitive to other demands that are placed on parents.
- o This fundraising initiative builds community.

The guiding statements on this fundraising checklist were discussed in-depth with the school staff and School Council.

Principal: _____
Signature: _____
Date: _____

School Council Chair: _____
Signature: _____
Date: _____

III. Gambling in Alberta

1. *How much money does the Government of Alberta raise from various sources of gaming?*

**a) Charitable gaming (bingos, casinos, raffles and pull tickets)
\$238 million (2004-2005)**

**b) Provincial lotteries (VLT's, slot machines, ticket lottery sales)
\$1.2 billion (2004-2005)**

2. *How does the Government of Alberta use revenues from various sources of gaming?*

Provincial lotteries revenue is placed in the Alberta Lottery Fund and supports charitable, community and not-for-profit initiatives throughout the province. This Fund also assists many government department programs, including education, health, transportation, etc.

3. *How many people are engaged in various forms of gaming in Alberta?*

82% of adult Albertans (18 years and older) are engaged in various forms of gaming in Alberta.

4. *Of those who gamble in Alberta, what percentage of these people are addicted to gambling?*

An estimated 5.2% of adult Albertans have a gambling problem: 3.9% are moderate risk gamblers and 1.3% are problem gamblers.

Note: Attached please find related documents from the Ministry of Gaming and the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (AADAC).

Where Gaming Profits Go

A large percentage of gaming revenue is collected by the provincial government and put back into Alberta communities.

Gaming revenue is generated from two types of gaming activities in Alberta:

- Charitable gaming
- Provincial lotteries

Charitable Gaming

Charitable gaming (bingos, casinos, raffles and pull tickets) is conducted by charitable groups that have a licence granted by the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC).

Profits raised through charitable gaming activities go directly to the charitable or religious organization conducting the activity and are used to support the organization's not-for-profit activities.

In 2003/2004, charitable gaming revenue was \$226 million.



Last year, more than 9,000 groups were eligible to hold gaming events such as bingos and casinos. The funds raised from these events help deliver services that improve the lives of millions of Albertans each day.

Gaming operated by the Alberta government or its agents (Provincial Lotteries)

Provincial lotteries revenue (generated from VLT's, slot machines and ticket lottery sales) also benefits Albertans.

Revenue from those gaming activities is placed in the Alberta Lottery Fund and supports charitable, community and not-for-profit initiatives throughout the province. All lottery fund expenditures are approved by the Alberta government.

In 2005/2006, provincial lotteries are forecasted to generate over \$1.2 billion for the Alberta Lottery Fund.

http://www.gaming.gov.ab.ca/what/gaming_profits.asp?Print

10/02/2006

~~Not for Release~~

Thousands of community initiatives receive funding each year through the Alberta Lottery Fund.

Examples include:

- * libraries*
- * museums*
- * sports and athletic events*
- * agricultural societies and exhibitions*
- * arts and culture groups*
- * wildlife and conservation projects*
- * public athletic facilities*
- * churches*
- * health initiatives*
- * seniors' groups*
- * recreation*
- * tourism*
- * historical societies*

The Alberta Lottery Fund also assists many government programs including education, health, transportation, economic development, and environmental protection.

The user agrees to the terms and conditions set out in the Copyright and Disclaimer statement.
© 2006 Alberta Gaming

http://www.gaming.gov.ab.ca/what/gaming_profits.asp?Print

10/02/2006

Gaming in Alberta — Quick Facts (January 2006)

Who participates?

- 82% of adult Albertans (18 years and older).*
- Most Albertans participate in gaming activities as a form of entertainment.
- The most common gaming activities are purchasing lottery and scratch and win tickets, and participating in raffles and fundraising draws.

Types of legal gaming in Alberta

- Charitable gaming
 - bingo, casinos, raffles, pull tickets
- Provincial lotteries
 - VLTs, slot machines and ticket lotteries
- Pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing

Gaming revenue (Excludes horse racing)

- The Alberta government's share of net proceeds from VLTs, slot machines and ticket lotteries is placed in the Alberta Lottery Fund.
- In 2004/2005, over \$1.2 billion was placed in the Alberta Lottery Fund.
- Licensed charitable groups earn proceeds from charitable gaming activities.
- In 2004/2005, \$238 million was raised by charitable and religious groups conducting gaming events.
- Other than licensing fees, the government receives no revenue from the charitable gaming activities it regulates (bingo, casino table games, raffles, pull tickets), or from horse racing.

Charitable gaming revenue (fiscal 2004-2005 actual)

- Charities earned the following net revenue from licensed gaming activities:

➢ bingo	\$ 41 million
➢ casinos	\$ 147 million
➢ pull tickets	\$ 8 million
➢ raffles	\$ 42 million
TOTAL	\$ 238 million

Alberta Lottery Fund revenue (2005-2006 estimates)

- The government's portion of net proceeds from VLTs, slot machines and ticket lotteries goes into the Alberta Lottery Fund.
- The Alberta Lottery Fund supports thousands of charitable, not-for-profit, public and community-based initiatives annually.

Alberta Lottery Fund sources:

➢ VLTs	\$ 575 million
➢ Slot machines	\$ 575 million
➢ Ticket lotteries	\$ 198 million
➢ Subtotal	\$ 1.348 billion
➢ Operating expenses	\$ 147 million
➢ Subtotal	\$ 1.201 billion
➢ lottery fund interest	\$ 6 million
TOTAL	\$ 1.207 billion

Eligible charitable groups in Alberta

- There are over 9,700 groups eligible to conduct charitable gaming activities (bingos, casino events, pull-tickets and raffles) in the province of Alberta.

Gaming venues (as of January 16, 2006)

- Bingo association halls – 49
 - 26 halls have DIGI bingo (with over 1,525 DIGI units)
- Charitable casino facilities – 17 (with 7,719 slot machines)
- Ticket lottery centres – 2,203
- VLT locations – 1,080 – (including VGERs), the maximum number of VLTs in province limited to 6,000
- Horserace tracks – 5
- Racing entertainment centres – 3 (with 686 slot machines)

Gaming research

- The Alberta Gaming Research Institute was created in response to a recommendation of the Alberta Lotteries and Gaming Summit '98 that more government resources be dedicated to gaming research.
- The Institute, a consortium of the Universities of Alberta, Calgary and Lethbridge, came into effect on November 26, 1999, after signing a three-year agreement with the Government of Alberta.
- The Institute sponsors research into gaming-related topics such as the social and economic costs and benefits of gaming, aboriginal gaming issues, and gaming trends.
- The Institute works in partnership with the Alberta Gaming Research Council, which was established in August 1999 to guide the research activities of the Institute.
- A budget of \$1.5 million a year has been allocated to the Institute from the Alberta Lottery Fund.

Problem gambling

- An estimated 5.2% of adult Albertans have a gambling problem.
 - An estimated 3.9 % of adult Albertans are moderate risk gamblers and 1.3% are problem gamblers.*
- The Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission's (AADAC's) problem gambling prevention, education and treatment programs are funded by the Alberta Lottery Fund through Alberta Health and Wellness.
 - Initiatives include TV advertisements, an interprovincial think tank on youth and gambling, and a problem gambling program for industry staff to raise awareness and train senior staff to discretely refer individuals to AADAC programs and services.

AADAC problem gambling toll-free help line:

1-866-33AADAC
(1-866-332-2322)

**Source: Canadian Problem Gambling Index Survey (2002)*



www.gaming.gov.ab.ca

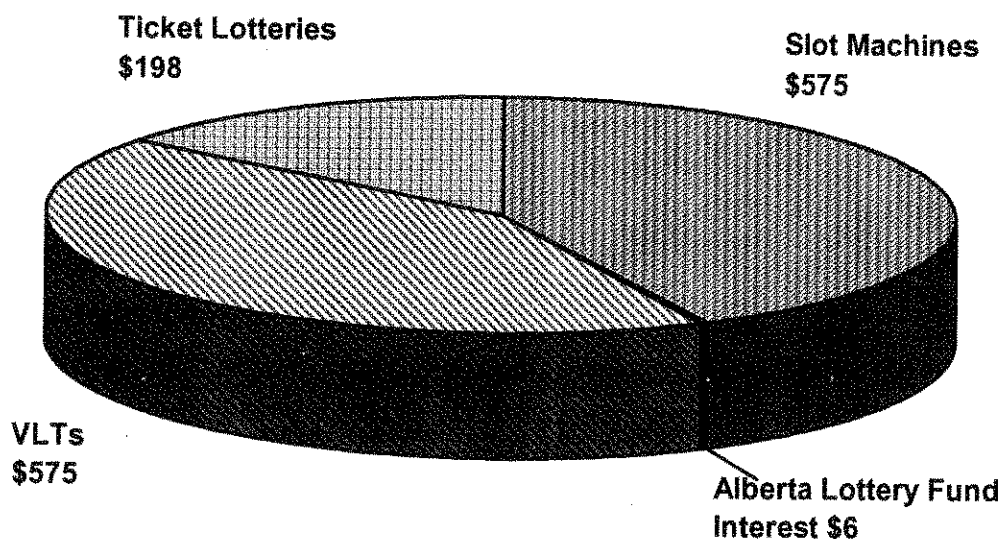




Where the Money Comes From

Alberta Lottery Fund dollars are made up of the government's share of net revenues from provincial lotteries, namely VLTs, slot machines, and ticket lotteries (i.e., Lotto 6/49).

**Alberta Lottery Fund Revenues
2005/2006 Budget (\$Millions)**



TOTAL \$1.207 BILLION

Less \$147 million for gaming and lottery operations of the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission.

** Diagram altered for the purpose of black and white printing.*

ADULT GAMBLING AND PROBLEM GAMBLING IN ALBERTA

December 2003

In 2001, the Alberta Gaming Research Institute funded a provincial study of gambling and problem gambling. The purpose of the study was to measure gambling participation and the prevalence of problem gambling in Alberta and validate a new instrument, the Canadian Problem Gambling Index (CPGI). Telephone interviews were completed with 1,804 Albertans (18 years of age or older) from across the province.

How many Albertans gamble?

In 2001, 82.0% of Alberta respondents had gambled in the previous year. Men and women are equally likely to gamble and gambling is popular among all age groups. Compared to previous gambling studies conducted in the province, gambling prevalence has declined since 1994 (90.3%). In comparison to other Canadian provinces, the prevalence of gambling in Alberta is lower than Saskatchewan (86.6%), British Columbia and Manitoba (85.0%), and Ontario (83.2%), but higher than New Brunswick (80.2%).

What gambling activities are most widespread?

The most frequently cited gambling activities among Albertans in 2001 were the purchase of lottery tickets (61.8%), raffle or fund-raising tickets (49.5%), and instant-win or scratch tickets (29.2%). While the proportion of Albertans engaging in these activities decreased since 1998, slot machine (15.9%) gambling increased. This may be due to increased availability of machines since 1998. Most common reasons given for gambling are to win money, for fun and entertainment, and to support worthy causes.

How many problem gamblers are there?

The Canadian Problem Gambling Index (CPGI) differentiates non-problem, low risk, moderate risk and problem gamblers. Figure 1 shows the prevalence of problem gambling among adult Albertans (aged 18+) in 2001. About 5% or 111,000 Albertans experience moderate to severe problems as a result of their gambling.

The prevalence of problem gambling in Alberta has been consistent (at about 5%) since 1994.

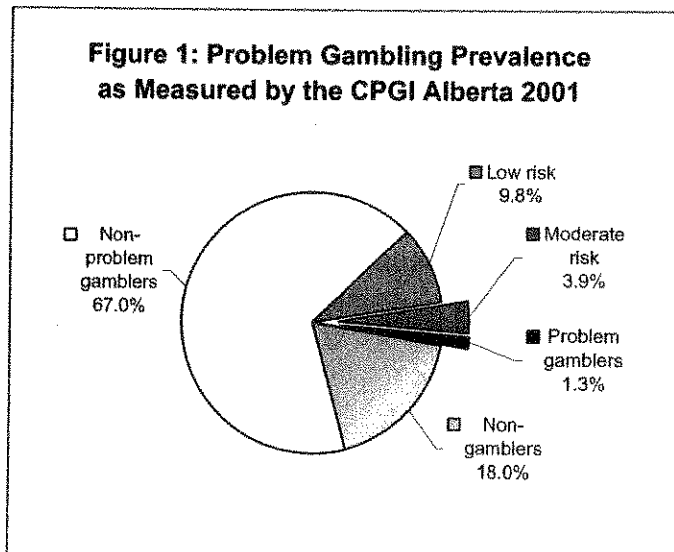


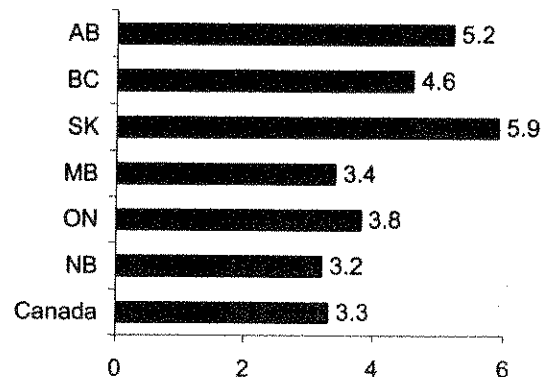
Figure 2 shows that when compared to other provinces, Alberta has a higher proportion of moderate risk and problem gamblers. The exception is Saskatchewan where a slightly higher proportion of the population experience gambling problems.

What else did this research show?

Moderate risk and problem gamblers are found throughout the province in both rural and urban settings. Young single males and Aboriginal people are more at risk than other groups of becoming problem gamblers.

Overall, problem gamblers are more likely to participate in almost all types of gambling. However, the activities most closely associated with problem and at risk gambling, in order, are VLT's, slot machines, Sport Select, sports pools, horse racing and games at casinos.

Figure 2: Moderate Risk/Problem Gambling: Comparison by Jurisdiction



Moderate risk and problem gamblers are also more likely than other gamblers to (1) bet more than they can afford to lose and bet more than intended, (2) increase wagers to maintain a heightened level of excitement, (3) chase gambling losses, (4) borrow money to finance gambling, (5) lie to family and hide evidence about gambling and (6) gamble to escape personal problems.

The study also found that moderate risk and problem gamblers are more likely than other gamblers to experience negative social consequences. For example, they reported having their gambling behaviour criticized, feeling guilty because of excessive gambling, having personal or household financial difficulties, jeopardizing relationships with family or friends, and/or endangering or losing a relationship, job, school or career opportunity.

As reported by survey participants, the negative personal consequences of gambling may include (1) health problems including stress or anxiety, (2) difficulty sleeping and (3) feelings of irritability or restlessness, (4) use of alcohol and drugs on a regular basis when gambling, (5) depression, or (6) thoughts of or suicide attempts. Problem gamblers are also significantly more likely to report that they want to stop gambling but do not think they can or attempt to quit gambling but are unsuccessful.

For a copy of the complete report, contact the Alberta Gaming Research Institute (www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca). For more information about this report, please contact Susan Hutton at AADAC Policy and Business Planning (780) 415-0766.

IV. Church Positions on Gambling

1. What is the position of the Roman Catholic Church on gambling?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that: "Games of Chance (card games, etc.) or wagers are not in themselves contrary to justice. They become morally unacceptable when they deprive someone of what is necessary to provide for his needs and those of others. The passion for gambling risks becoming an enslavement. Unfair wagers and cheating at games constitute grave matter, unless the damage inflicted is so slight that the one who suffers it cannot reasonably consider it significant."

(Catechism of the Catholic Church 2413)

2. What is the position of the Catholic Bishops of Alberta on gambling?

Attached please find the following resource materials which outline the Position of the Catholic Bishops of Alberta:

- **The False Eden of Gambling, dated January 12, 1998**
- **Newspaper article taken from the Western Catholic Reporter, dated October 13, 2003**
- **Letter to the Knights of Columbus of Alberta/NWT, dated December 19, 2005**

The False Eden of Gambling

Alberta bishops address the increasing amount of gambling

January 12, 1998

The proliferation of government-sponsored gambling in our society has become a significant concern both for our Catholic community and our society. With government backing, the implication seems to be given that what is legal is therefore moral.

Governments and other gambling proponents argue that gambling provides significant benefits to society. Obviously, they point out, people wish to gamble. It has become a form of entertainment, often, even if not always, innocuous. In meeting this desire of many people, the government argues that it can best regulate the provision of gambling services, treating the income as a form of "voluntary taxation."

Furthermore, besides providing jobs, the monies raised are almost always earmarked either for "charitable causes" or general government expenses. And, finally, if there are people who become addicted to gambling, then part of the proceeds can be put aside to treat the addiction problem.

This burgeoning fact of modern society deserves a commentary based on our Christian faith.

Traditionally, gambling has been looked upon with great suspicion in the Christian community. Marriages and families have been hurt or destroyed by compulsive gambling. The "fantasy" motivation of entering the lap of luxury through winning is suspect. And the use of time and money in ways that hardly model Christian virtue and character suggest that the practice reflects neither Gospel values nor Christian inspiration.

Nonetheless, the Catholic tradition has never simply condemned gambling as such. Our own history in Alberta provides ample evidence of the use of gambling to raise funds for everything from the construction of churches to charitable works. While most of this practice has been associated with the involvement of local communities in such things as raffles, bingo and draws, the presence and fact of gambling has not been lost in the public perception.

"Games of chance or wagers," says the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "are not in themselves contrary to justice. They become morally unacceptable when they deprive someone of what is necessary to provide for his needs and those of others" (no. 2413).

The Catechism, of course, does not address the more profound questions associated with an elaborate system of gambling.

Despite our history, there has also remained a deeper unease with compulsive gambling, ruinous gambling, and any gambling which detours the essentials of life, such as grocery money, away from their responsible use. This unease has at times in other Christian communities led to an understandable, complete moral condemnation of gambling in all forms.

Following our Catholic tradition, it seems important for the bishops of Alberta to offer a more nuanced moral judgment of gambling and to issue a Gospel challenge to all Christians in the face of the increasing opportunities to gamble in our society.

The morality of gambling

The "harmless" entertainment of gambling can simply be immoral if the necessities of family life are sacrificed. These necessities are not simply monetary. When gambling steals time and attention from spouse, children and family responsibilities, it is immoral.

Gambling, of course, can also become an addiction. While the mechanisms of who gets addicted are not always clearly understood, it is estimated that between three and five per cent of gamblers will have a serious problem beyond their ability to control. A simplistic solution to this problem would be to suggest that anyone in danger of an addiction avoid gambling completely.

Since this problem usually surfaces after recreational gambling or at the end of long-term gambling, recognition and remedies must become more than the responsibility of the individual gambler. Programs to deal with the admitted gambler need to be complemented by efforts to identify and aid the compulsive gambler before disaster takes over.

To associate all the evils of gambling with personal choice is to overlook the complicity of a system that needs gamblers in order to flourish. Thus, a major portion of an ethical response to gambling must come from a challenge to those who control the trade.

First, problem gamblers need to be identified within the system and assisted before they "hit bottom."

Second, those who are addicted need sufficient resources to help them.

Third, those who commit crimes, especially theft, in order to feed a suddenly uncontrolled gambling habit should not be the only ones blamed for their crimes or be held solely responsible for restitution. When institutions are all-too-willing to take all the money a gambler throws away, ignoring the problems caused is not acceptable.

Fourth, anything that contributes significantly to addictive forms of gambling - and video lottery terminals, which are proven to add the addictive power of television to that of gambling, must be mentioned here - should be banned or substantially altered in order to diminish the addictive power.

Finally, if gambling is to be a personal choice, governments ought to restrict all promotion that serves to create a need as opposed to advertising services. One need only look at the glitter associated with gambling to recognize the temptation to make gambling a self-serving, "growth" business.

Governments need an ethical perspective on their involvement in gambling.

First, studies ought to be done on where money that goes to gambling comes from. In other words, is this really disposable income or are such things as essential family needs or charitable donations or support for productive business being forfeited in favor of the easier, but less value-added dollar?

Second, as the major receivers of gambling monies, governments must take responsibility for programs to aid addicts and to deter addictions. They also need to avoid seeing gambling as a cash cow to be milked for ever-increasing monies as pressure is liable to move gambling beyond entertainment.

A Christian Vision

If gambling is not to be decried as intrinsically evil, and if governments seem to think it is necessary to the economy, how should the Christian respond to this phenomenon?

To begin with, a negative attitude of "not doing anything wrong or harmful" is scarcely adequate as a Gospel-based response. Of course, the Christian should avoid misuse or abuse of funds for gambling.

However, the idea that gambling is simple entertainment needs to be challenged as well, for the involvement is often not simple. An intrinsic part of the Christian tradition regards the monies available for gambling as the monies of the poor. That is to say, if those who gamble are wealthy enough to put money into games of chance, then a glance at Jesus' teaching in the Gospels suggests that they use the money to help the poor.

The same could be said for much of the money and time most of us spend on various entertainments, so this is a meditation for all who have what is euphemistically referred to as "disposable income."

One might argue that the good causes to which wagered money is contributed fulfils this Christian challenge, as is often the case in local or community fundraising events that use gambling. Many people do take advantage of such opportunities to donate to a good cause.

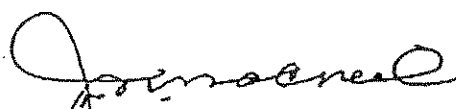
However, when one participates in more serious "gambling for entertainment," it becomes important to examine one's motivations. Donating to a good cause can often be completely lost track of in the thrill of gambling, in the escape from responsibility, in the almost anti-social atmosphere of commerce with a machine for hours.

If there is money for gambling, perhaps we have simply not looked seriously enough at the gift of extra monies that God has given us to be used for good purposes. And if there is time for gambling, perhaps we need to look at whether we are allowing boredom to push us, not into concern for others, but into the bright lights and action that will fill our hours for a price.

The Christian challenge in the face of gambling is not to stop with a moral evaluation. Rather it is to look into the face and heart of Christ and see how Love motivates us to love our neighbor. Perhaps we cannot make this demand of governments, although if the poor are neglected because of gambling, then we must all raise our voices to demand at least a morally responsible control.

However, as Christians we can examine our own actions regarding gambling. And we can continue to look out for those who are harmed by gambling. And we can lobby that gambling is not allowed to harm communities and neighbourhoods. And we can preach and live the Word that ought to make gambling irrelevant in our lives. And we can live the hope of our faith that unmasks the false hope of greed.

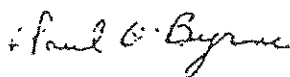
We are the Body of Christ, living and carrying out His Will in our world. How Christ might respond in our place ought to be a constant reminder that we are standing, by His grace, in His place.




Joseph N. MacNeil
Archbishop of Edmonton
President, Alberta Bishops' Conference



Henri Goudreault, OMI
Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan



Paul J. O'Byrne
Bishop of Calgary



Thomas Collins
Bishop of St. Paul



Denis Croteau, OMI
Bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith



Lawrence Huculak, OSBM
Eparch of Edmonton

<http://www.wcr.ab.ca/bin/gamble.htm>

2/27/2006



Last Updated: Thursday - 10/09/2003

Search for:

About

Go

Week of October 13, 2003

Catholic gambling in question

Calgary Diocese issues gambling ban

By RAMON GONZALEZ
WCR Staff Writer

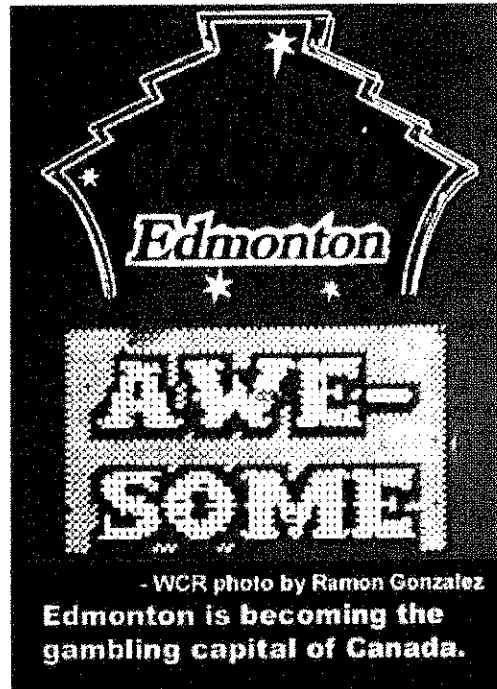
Concerned about the spread of gambling in the province, some Alberta bishops are, once again, calling on Catholic groups to look for fundraising methods that do not involve games of chance.

"We cannot continue contributing to the culture of gambling," says Calgary Bishop Fred Henry, who recently asked parishes to refrain from fundraising through casinos and bingos. "We can survive without gambling. We did it before and we can do it now."

Edmonton Archbishop Thomas Collins has taken a softer approach. "Instead of issuing an order (against bingos and casinos), I'm encouraging individuals and organizations to find new ways of fundraising," he said.

Alberta dioceses began cracking down on bingos and casinos as fundraising methods about a decade ago, arguing that these activities have become more than entertainment and are a threat to people's livelihoods.

In their 1998 pastoral letter on gambling, *The False Eden of Gambling*, the bishops said gambling reflects neither Gospel values nor Christian inspiration as many marriages and families have been



Exploring the Catholic Catechism

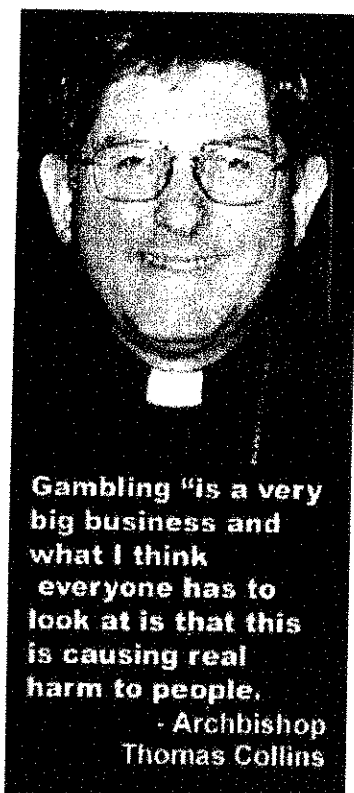
hurt or destroyed by the practice.

While some Catholic organizations have heeded the bishops' call, others, namely the Knights of Columbus, a number of parent advisory committees from Catholic schools and a handful of parishes, continue to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars through casinos and bingos.

These groups are among about 9,000 licensed charitable and religious organizations in Alberta that raise funds through legal gaming activity.

Last year Alberta charities earned more than \$200 million through gaming, including \$114.4 million from casinos and \$50.4 million from bingo. The provincial government received \$1.2 billion in gambling revenue last year.

More than 80 per cent of Albertans participate in some gambling activity. Of these, an estimated 5.2 per cent are considered to be at a moderate or high risk of developing a gambling problem.



Last January, St. John Bosco Parish raised about \$65,000 in two days at an Edmonton casino and Father Romano Venturelli, the pastor, isn't losing any sleep over it.

"It's not that I agree with it but the impression that I have is that the people who go to casinos are people who have money to throw away," he said. "And we certainly need that money." Funds raised through the collection plate aren't enough to cover all the parish expenses, from operating costs to roof repairs, the priest explained.

Venturelli has less difficulty with casinos than with VLTs, which he says are available in every neighbourhood and are more addictive. Casinos, on the other hand, are away from neighbourhoods and people have to go out of their way to get to them.

St. John Bosco will stop casino fundraising if the archbishop says so. "If he doesn't, we will continue," Venturelli said. "I have many questions about this but they are not enough to make me think we should stop right now."

The school advisory council of Bishop Greschuk School, one of several parent councils in Edmonton that use casinos to raise funds, worked a casino Feb. 6 and 7. Principal Cori Chuippi didn't know the figure raised but said casinos are unbeatable as fundraisers.

"Nothing else raises the same amount of money." Chiuppi declined to comment about the ethical implications of casinos as fundraisers.

According to the school newsletter, the profits from the casino were used to "support the school goals in a number of invaluable ways - especially in the area of literacy and technology."

In the Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith parishes, schools or diocesan organizations are simply not allowed to fundraise through gambling activity. That's because in 1993 Oblate Bishop Denis Croteau, describing gambling as a source of misery and suffering for the native communities in the North, banned bingo and other forms of gambling as fundraising methods.

Since then, the Diocese of Mackenzie Fort-Smith has not accepted any form of gambling revenue. Croteau once even turned down a large donation from the Knights of Columbus because it came from gambling profits. Other bishops are now trying to follow in his footsteps.

A few months ago Calgary's Bishop Henry asked all Church organizations to refrain from using bingos and casinos for fundraising. He thinks his diocese will become a gambling-free zone within two years. He gave two parishes that rely on bingo for operating revenues until 2005 to fall in line.

"This is one of the things we have to do to protect our own integrity as Roman Catholics," Henry said referring to the gambling ban. "If a parish really cannot sustain itself without bingo revenues then we have to begin to look at whether or not it really is a viable parish."

Archbishop Thomas Collins has not ruled out an outright ban on bingos and casinos. But for now he's talking to groups, urging them to find new ways of fundraising. "I really think that's the direction in which they should go."

About a year ago, Saskatoon Bishop Albert LeGatt and Ukrainian Eparch Michael Wiwchar gave the Saskatoon Knights of Columbus, who own and operate a bingo hall in the city, a year to come up with alternative ways of fundraising and with ways to limit the damage or danger of gambling addiction that might be present in the bingo hall.

"If there is harm being done then we should either try to limit or end the harm," LeGatt said. "And if that means trying to find other ways



"If a parish really cannot sustain itself without bingo revenues then we have to begin to look at whether or not it really is a viable parish."

-Calgary Bishop Fred Henry

of raising funds for charitable purposes then that's what I believe we should be doing."

The year is now up and right now LeGatt and Wiwchar are waiting for the Knights' response. Any decision regarding the bingo hall will be taken in conjunction with the Knights, LeGatt stressed.

Several parishes in the Saskatoon Diocese still hold bingo in their halls but LeGatt made it clear he is not considering a crackdown.

"That's not my intention," he said, adding the Saskatoon Knights had been singled out simply because they own and operate a bingo hall.

"There is a difference between recreational bingos and bingo that is of such a nature that it really becomes part of the gambling industry," he noted. "To own and operate a bingo hall is to be part of the gambling industry."

"And this is not just a question to the Knights. It's a question to society as a whole because our provincial governments do the same thing. Is this the way we should be raising money for needed programs and services in our society?"

The Knights of Columbus of Alberta and Northwest Territories agree with the bishops' stance but are concerned an outright ban on casinos and bingos would mean a substantial loss in revenue for them, said state deputy Mickey Casavant.

"We generate quite a bit of money, all of which goes to charity and to help out different parishes," he said, noting that more than 70 per cent of the over \$2.1 million the Knights gave to charity in 2002 came from casinos and bingos.

A crew of about 30 volunteer Knights can raise as much as \$50,000 on a weekend in one of Edmonton's major casinos. "It's big money and quick money."

The revenue generated by activities like breakfasts, dinners, socials and raffles - some of the alternative methods being considered - "is nothing compared to what we get from casinos and bingos," Casavant noted.

"Our long-term goal is to get away from raising funds through casinos and bingos in response to the wishes of the bishops. But we have some financial commitments for specific projects that we have in the community and in the parishes and so we have to meet those financial commitments. So there is no way we can stop immediately from getting funds through bingos and casinos."

Casavant said the Knights don't have any statistics that families are suffering as a result of gambling addiction but they suspect some are. He also suspects that if the Knights abandon their bingo licences and move away from the practice, the addicted will continue gambling.

"These people will not stop as long as there are casinos," he pointed out.

Henry agrees revenue from bingos and casinos is quick and easy but he said it is not necessarily morally correct. "People look for easy money and that sort of thing and you can probably end up on a street corner selling crack cocaine if you want quick and easy money but that doesn't mean it's morally correct to do," he said.

Henry noted bingos have changed over the years and they are no longer the social events they once were when parishes had bingos downstairs in the church hall.

"It used to be a very nice social event but most of our bingos right now are mega-bingos, they are money-raising ventures," he lamented. "Private enterprises have gotten into that. The government has gotten into that and we are complicit by reason of our participation in such a thing. We should be distancing ourselves from that involvement."

Added Henry: "That said, a simple little wager, a raffling off a quilt by the CWL, is a morally different act. But when you get into something in which we end up targeting the senior citizens and we end up with big jackpots in which welfare cheques become available and so on we are simply trying to take advantage of the weakness of some people and we can't do that. That's morally wrong."

Henry said his diocese recently adopted a policy that "we will not knowingly accept even a government grant if it comes from VLTs or gambling revenues."

Collins doesn't have difficulty with small-scale gambling for entertainment that doesn't involve a person's food money. "But very often gambling is much more than that - it causes real grief.

"I'm very concerned that Edmonton is becoming the gambling capital of Canada. Every year, many millions of dollars are taken out of the community through gambling. It's a very big business and what I think everyone has to look at is that this is causing real harm to people. And if it is, we shouldn't be doing it."

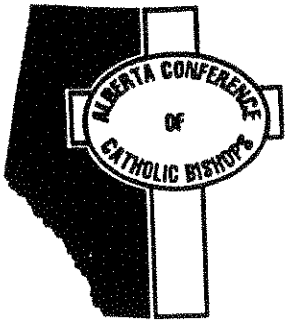
In Collins' view, anyone can become addicted to gambling, including the government and the Church.

"So what I'm basically doing is talking to the different groups in the archdiocese and asking them to consider this reality, to discuss this on their own. And I think if the groups reflect upon it and look at the issues involved, they will come to the conclusion that we should never do something to raise money for a good cause if in the process of doing it we are causing harm to people."

Copyright © 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 -- Western Catholic Reporter

The Mission of the Western Catholic Reporter is

"To serve our readers by helping them deepen their faith through accurate information and reflective commentary on events and issues of concern to the church."



8421 - 101 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta Canada T6A 0L1
Tel. (780) 469-1010 Fax (780) 465-3003



December 19, 2005

Dear Brother Knights of Columbus of Alberta/NWT:

As your bishops we want to commend you for adopting the threefold 2004 resolution: not to sponsor or work at casinos to raise funds for any charitable initiatives not currently undertaken or committed to; to replace or withdraw existing casino funding to any of their projects in a timetable and manner that minimizes the charitable impact of current commitments; and to strongly urge affiliated clubs and societies to adopt policies and resolution with similar intention..

We are also pleased to learn of the progress that has been made to creatively implement alternative fund-raising ventures that are not morally problematic.

For our part we have encouraged pastors and parishes and various diocesan offices/initiatives to free Councils of the Knights of Columbus from previously made commitments in order to facilitate disengagement from gambling. We either have or are in the process of weaning ourselves from all dependency on gambling revenues.

We would also like to re-iterate the teaching from our 1998 pastoral letter on gambling, the False Eden of Gambling, as gambling reflects neither Gospel values nor Christian inspiration as too many marriages and families have been hurt or destroyed by the practice.

To witness to the teachings and values of Jesus Christ requires sound moral reflection and judgment. This is especially true in our technological world where there is an ever-increasing danger of reducing persons to objects. Given that there are so many worthwhile projects and so few monetary resources, the revenues from casinos can look like a "gift." Nevertheless, we must adhere to the moral principle that "the end does not justify the means," nor can we allow ourselves to become accomplices in promoting the proliferation of evil within our communities.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church succinctly expresses Catholic teaching as follows:

"Games of chance (card games, etc.) or wagers are not in themselves contrary to justice. They become morally unacceptable when they deprive someone of what is necessary to provide for his needs and those of others. The passion for gambling risks becoming an enslavement. Unfair wagers and cheating at games constitute grave matter, unless the damage inflicted is so slight that the one who suffers it cannot reasonably consider it significant."
(2413)

In our culture, until very recently, there was societal consensus that lotteries (including various pools), should be restricted as much as possible but modest betting was not considered illicit. In fact, sharing in lotteries and raffles for charitable causes with proper motivation was considered a good work. There is nothing wrong with "fun money" events where the focus is on entertainment and community and not profit. However, the landscape of our society is changing rapidly and we are witnessing the growth of a "culture of gambling". One of the major engines driving this culture is the emergence of the casino and the lure of easy money.

Casinos tend to cannibalize local economies, prompting job losses in other sectors and inhibiting economic development by redirecting discretionary spending away from established businesses, traditional charities and alternative forms of entertainment.

The gambling industry promotes the "product" to consumers and maximize revenues. The only way to do this on an ongoing basis is to recruit new players, broaden the base of charitable volunteer workers, and/or generate more usage among exiting players. The marketing strategy is based on greed. In addition to being unabashedly materialistic, the advertising of gambling tends to be exploitive.

Studies indicate that gambling attracts a disproportionate number of welfare recipients, pensioners and working poor, who see it as a way to end their financial worries.

The emergence of casino gambling is not a good news story. As disciples of Jesus we are called to be salt and light and leaven in our society, at times counter cultural, and concerned about the overall quality of life in Alberta/NWT.

To solve the challenges facing the charitable sector requires a willingness to question the status quo, look at problems from a different perspective, and risk trying new solutions. In short, a spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship and partnership is called for. Although there is still much to be done, we applaud and thank you for your leadership and the modeling of responsible stewardship.

+ Thomas Collins

Thomas Collins
Archbishop of Edmonton

+ Frederick Henry
Frederick Henry
Bishop of Calgary

Rev. Charles Lavoie

Charles Lavoie
Vicar-General of Grouard-McLennan

+ Lawrence Huculak
Lawrence Huculak, OSBM
Eparch of Edmonton

+ Denis Croteau, OMI
Denis Croteau, OMI
Bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith

+ Luc Bouchard
Luc Bouchard
Bishop of St. Paul

V. Impact of A “No Gambling” Policy

If the Board of Trustees were to establish a policy forbidding schools from raising, receiving or utilizing revenues from any form of gambling...

- (a) What would be the impact on the general ability of District schools to raise funds?
- (b) What would be the impact on the general ability of District schools to continue their current projects and activities?
- (c) What would be the impact on the general ability of District schools to compete with public schools, charter schools and private schools?
- (d) What would be the specific impact on the ability of schools in poorer communities and in wealthier communities, to continue to raise funds and provide their students with enhanced educational opportunities.
- (e) What would be the impact on students, parents, and families if other forms of fund-raising were to be utilized?
- (f) What would be the impact on gambling activities in Alberta and on the rate of gambling addiction?

Calgary Catholic School District

REPORT ON DISCUSSION ROUNDTABLE ON FUNDRAISING

April 1, 2006

Note: The number at the end of each statement indicates the number of similar responses.

Fund-raising

a. What are the benefits of fund-raising to your school, your children, your community, and you?

Fund-raising provides money that is not available from the government or the School District for things such as

- Fine Arts – Band, music, art etc (59)
- Technology – computers, programs, electronic equipment etc (56)
- Program enhancement - basics and extras (44)
- Contributing to the wider community through playground and environment enhancement (40)
- Contributing to charities, retreats, Community of Caring and other Catholic activities (27)
- Athletics (27)
- Field trips (20)
- Library enhancement (19)
- Other miscellaneous school projects (19)
- Student and teacher recognition and classroom incentives (16)

Fund-raising provides an opportunity for community building (59)

Fund-raising supports low income families (31)

Casinos are far less time consuming and bring in much more money than any other type of fund-raiser (26)

Fund-raising provides a level playing field among schools and school boards (19)

Fund-raising provides opportunities for parents to volunteer (17)

The money obtained from fund-raising provides opportunities for differential learning and enriches the students' school experiences (14)

- b. The District's current Fund-raising Discussion Checklist is a tool which provides a District-wide framework that includes values, standard and parameters.**

Does this checklist facilitate your school community's discussion and decision-making processes, at the local school level?

YES 59

Comments:

The Checklist :

- Helps bring community together.
- Is very helpful as a guide.
- Keeps the focus of fund-raising.
- Stimulates discussion.
- Is used informally.

However, the Checklist is open to interpretation.
For example, What is "major" fund-raising?
And the pillars related to Catholicity need to be clarified.

NO 20

Comments:

- We did not know the Checklist existed until today
- We did not need to use the Checklist

Suggestion:

Include a section on the Checklist related to problem gambling.

Gambling in Alberta

What information from the “III. Gambling in Alberta” section of your materials, is of most interest to your school community?

The Statistics

- Most felt that the number of problem gamblers was surprisingly low at 1.3% and 5%
- A few felt that any number of problem gamblers is not acceptable
- The total number of Albertans who gamble (82%) was surprising
- There is a very significant amount of money that is collected from gambling for the provincial coffers
- How realistic were the statistics?

Where the money goes

- The money from gambling goes into general revenue and supports good things such as education, health care and transportation

How are problem gamblers supported?

- How much money from gambling goes into programs to help problem gamblers?

How gambling is defined

- Lottery tickets, small and big raffles, VLT's, and Casinos are very different ways of gambling

How might the District and school community support the provincial government's efforts to prevent problem gambling and to assist those who are problem gamblers?

- Through the education of students and parents (42)
- By donating to and supporting agencies such as AADAC that provide assistance to problem gamblers (35)
- By lobbying the government to take more responsibility. It is not our problem to solve. (12)
- By supporting students and families with gambling problems (10)
- By taking a stance and not endorsing gambling through casinos (6)
- By investigating other forms of fund-raising such as business partnerships (1)

Church's Positions on Gambling

What was your school council's response to "IV. The Church's Position on Gambling" section of your resource materials?

School Councils were split on the issue of gambling. A few were in favor of the "Church's" position and felt that it should be adhered to without question. Most others were respectful of Bishop Henry's position but asked the following questions:

- If schools did not fundraise through gambling, where would the funds come from? Would churches support schools through their collections or the Bishop's Appeal? Does Bishop Henry have other suggestions for us?
- Could the "Church" clarify its position? What forms of gambling are acceptable? There seems to be opposing views within the Church.
- There are many other issues more serious than gambling that the Church should address. For example, what is the Church doing to support problem gamblers, other social problems such as alcoholism, abuse, etc.?
- The paper on gambling helps us to make an informed decision but also presents a moral dilemma.
- What is the Bishop's role in Catholic education?

Given what we know about gambling in Alberta, if the Board of Trustees were to establish a policy forbidding schools from raising or receiving money from any form of gambling, what do you believe would be the impact on

...

the "culture of gambling" in Alberta?

The prevention of problem gambling?

The rehabilitation of problem gamblers?

No Impact on all three of the above-

Reported by 40/44 tables

As Catholics, and in the context of the social justice teachings of the Church, how might the District and school communities support the Bishops of Alberta in addressing their concerns related to problem gambling?

- Support agencies and organizations that help problem gamblers and those with other social problems. Return a percentage of the proceeds from casinos to these organizations. (22)
- Focus on prevention through education of students. (18)

- Ask the bishops of Alberta to join with us in lobbying the government for more money. (9)
- Respect the opinions of the bishops. Encourage open dialogue. (8)
- Support the bishops of Alberta. Have no gambling at all. (7)
- Balance and compromise is required on all sides (3)
- Schools already support social justice programs (1)
- More background is needed on the social justice teachings of the Church (1)

Impact of A “No Gambling” Policy

a. If the Board of Trustees were to establish a policy forbidding schools from raising or receiving money from any form of gambling, what would be the impact on the general ability of District schools to...

i. Raise funds?

- The impact would be very great. Schools would have many small fund-raising activities. There would be a much greater burden on parents. (44)
- There would be no impact on those who do not currently have casinos (6)

ii. Continue their current projects and activities?

- Programs would cease entirely or decrease significantly (26)
- There would be severe limits to technology, the arts and playgrounds which are all primarily funded through gambling activities (9)
- Some schools would be minimally impacted, others would be greatly impacted (5)

iii. Compete with public schools, charter schools and private schools?

- Student enrollment would decline and we possibly could lose our Catholic schools (35)
- Catholic schools would lose their competitive edge and be at a distinct disadvantage.(18)

What would be the specific impact on the ability of schools in poorer communities and in wealthier communities, to continue to raise funds and to provide their students with enhanced educational opportunities?

- **Poorer communities / smaller schools would suffer greatly (29)**
- **There would be a huge disparity within the District between the haves and the have-nots (25)**

- **The wealthier communities might find it easier to replace the funds (11)**
- **The quality of education would suffer (6)**
- **Parents would need to work harder to raise funds (5)**
- **The supplement of school fees would end (4)**
- **Both the wealthy and the poor communities would be adversely affected (3)**
- **Wealthier schools now sponsor poorer schools. This would end (2)**

What would be the impact on students, parents, and families if other, more traditional, forms of fund-raising had to be used?

- The stress on families would be great (17)
 - Stress would take the form of a much greater amount of volunteer time (35)
 - There would be a financial burden on families (10)
 - The amount of work and the frustration involved would increase (6)
 - There is a safety issue with children canvassing door to door (5)
- There would be a negative impact on programs offered (17)
- Teachers' time would be taken from instruction to handle fund-raising activities (7)
- There would be a positive impact in opportunities to teach children, be curriculum oriented and involve families (4)
- There would not be a big impact (3)
- It would create a disparity (2)
- There would be a loss to charities (1)

V Concluding question

What do you want trustees to consider as the Board makes its decision on the future of fund-raising in the schools of this District?

- Consider the financial implications if gambling is prohibited - How much it would cost to maintain current resources and programs and where the funding would come from. (25)
- Consider what is best for our children. The parents' perspective must be taken into consideration when making the decision. (22)
- Consider that we would no longer be competitive with private, Charter and CBE schools if gambling revenues are lost. And consider the ultimate decline and demise of Catholic Education in Calgary if this happens (20)
- Maintain the current position. Do not bring in a "no gambling" policy. Continue to allow each School Council to make its own decision (19)

- Consider the inequalities and different needs among schools in the District (18)
- Consider a balance between the mandate of the Bishop and the unique needs of schools. Attempt further discussion with the Bishop to resolve this issue (10)
- Consider lobbying the government for additional funds (10)
- Consider ways to support problem gamblers and other social justice issues. Social justice is already being taken into account in our schools (8)
- Focus on a positive solution with Bishop Henry and the bishops of Alberta (7)
- Consider what basic funding is and make sure we have that in place (6)
- Examine the question of what constitutes gambling (3)
- Consider other forms of fund-raising (3)
- Provide policies and guidelines in the form of short concise rules to assist schools in their decisions (2)
- Consider that the good outweighs the bad in what we are doing (2)
- If gambling is banned, consider a transition plan (2)
- Consider freedom of choice – the number of problem gamblers is small (2)
- Consider your role as a trustee – to represent your constituents regarding educational issues (2)
- Consider Catholicity as our focus (1)
- The bishops' statement is more about problem gambling than gambling itself (1)
- Consider the political impact if the decision goes against Bishop Henry's stance on gambling (1)
- The trustee who was not present to listen to the views of Catholic parents should have a limited impact on the final decision. (1)
- Consider the financial strain on families (1)
- Consider how other Catholic School Districts handle this issue (1)

Roundtable on Fundraising

8

Evaluation and Feedback

Session Title:	Fundraising Roundtable	Number of attendees	313
Date:	April 1, 2006	Number of Feedbacks	254

PROCESS: The Fundraising Roundtable Process was	Very Useful	Useful	Somewhat Useful	Not Useful
1. Exploring the various issues associated with the topics.	80%	18%	2%	
2. Providing opportunities to discuss and dialogue.	86%	13%	1%	
3. Extending overall understanding of the topics.	72%	26%	2%	
4. Providing an opportunity for the Board of Trustees to collect input.	84%	13%	3%	

SESSION: The Fundraising Roundtable session itself was	Very Useful	Useful	Somewhat Useful	Not Useful
1. Exploring the various issues associated with the topics.	81%	18%	1%	
2. Providing opportunities to reflect and share.	87%	12%	1%	
3. Extending overall understanding of the topics.	74%	21%	5%	
4. Providing an opportunity for the Board of Trustees to collect input.	83%	15%	2%	

Comments: Please comment on both the process and the Roundtable Session

itself.

- We had good opportunities to discuss the topics and to see how fundraising affects different schools. To hear what some of the schools are trying to purchase and can't get makes me wonder how we are going to be able to give our kids the best. I hope if the Board takes away casino fundraisers etc. they make sure we are going to see more money from the government or even the church.
- Both the process and roundtable sessions were very useful in collecting the required data. More time is needed to discuss topics in detail as I feel we have only scratched the surface in certain areas. More discussion is needed to discuss long term alternatives and where (what institutions will be supportive) we will go from this point. This issue has many more layers than discussed today.
- More time would have been good. Facilitator tried to keep on time track. Definitely should have been more time in large group to listen to others.
- I would have found it more beneficial to have more time for a large group discussion.
- Please make a decision. Remember it's the education for our kids.
- Some of the questions were not well worded which made it difficult at times to keep up with time deadlines but I appreciate the opportunity to voice our concerns.
- Both the process and roundtable was well planned out. Maybe to make a discussion more involved matching a pro/con at the table may have been useful.
- I feel that all data gathering should have been anonymous for all sheets and topics discussed (i.e. having to put your table # on sheets). It's something that is our opinion shared to be at our table and not with others.
- Fantastic! Well organized with questions which reflect the issues. Very well organized.
- Great discussions, different schools, different issues and perspectives. It was interesting to consider the impact on a variety of schools. Each one seems to have different issues and needs and therefore the impact of casinos vs. no casinos affects each differently.
- I think this should have been addressed long ago before letting schools apply for society's and casino. Great questions.
- Excellent format for great dialogue. The roundtable was very well organized.
- It was very interesting to hear the input of others. The process enabled our

table time to explore all the questions in depth.

- Great opportunity for rich discussion. It is a very complex issue and needed this fairly extended time allotted to it. I believe the report which results from this is going to take a great deal of finesse to write.
- Bishop Henry should have been present to hear parent concerns.
- Well done.
- Let's not take away any more opportunities for our children (which are our future). Casinos enhance these opportunities and allow equality throughout our school system.
- I feel more info is still required - more stats etc.
- Great avenue to share ideas/information! Morning was very professional. Well done!
- Very well organized. Informative and useful in helping to discuss issues.
- The process was very useful and allowed parents of different communities and grade levels to discuss the issue of fundraising. It is a challenging topic in an interesting time in our society. While understanding the viewpoint of the Bishop of Alberta, it is also important to consider the viewpoint of our parents. We trust that our parents are well educated, informed parents who make moral decisions based on their learnings of the Catholic faith and that we owe them the respect to consider their individual opinions. The best way I believe would be a blend where we still allow schools/school councils/parent population to make the best decision based on their school needs.
- The topic of this roundtable discussion was the wrong topic to address. The more suitable topic to address is lobbying the provincial government in our very wealthy province, to provide more funds to our schools.
- Very useful session. Would prefer (if other ones) to have evening sessions.
- Excellent opportunity to share various outlooks! I hope that the data collected is put to good use.
- Provided an awareness of the complexity of the issue as it impacts varying wealthy/high needs school communities. Very well organized!
- Thank you for providing this opportunity!
- This is a very important issue for our District. It provided us with the opportunity to hear from a school that has a different clientele than ours, but needs and concerns are very similar to our own.
- Overall, excellent process!
- Excellent opportunity to share and exchange information on this serious issue. Thank you.

- Really enjoyed the conversation and discussions in group. Surprisingly, we share many opinions.
- This was a very useful gathering. Coming together as a whole community to discuss a topic that touches us all.
- This roundtable provided a wonderful opportunity to explore and express info related to fundraising and gambling as well as reflect on our role as Catholics.
- Excellent forum and very interesting discussion.
- The setting was very well planned and organized. I hope the information is used when making the decision. "Ultimately the effect on the students needs must be considered."
- Well done - please listen carefully to our feedback!
- Well organized, terrific dialogue. It was difficult for individuals to represent their school community's opinions and expectations vs. their own personal feelings on the topic. Thank you.
- Excellent opportunity to share opinion viewpoints. Decision based on the BEST FOR CHILDREN. Important to ensure that comments are taken into consideration by Trustees.
- I especially liked how the questions were broken down allowing for more in-depth exploration of the topics. Once the Board has made its decision, perhaps another brainstorming roundtable can be organized to discuss the ramifications. If no casinos allowed, then what can we be doing to lobby government for more money OR if casinos allowed, then what checks and balances are in place to better adhere to Bishop Henry's recommendations.
- It is obvious that parents are concerned about education and what's best for kids. There is no easy answer but with the session there are lots of ideas and thoughts to be considered. We wish you luck.
- This was an excellent way to share ideas. It is evident that there is no easy solution.
- An excellent format to gain the insights of all school communities within the Catholic School System.
- Excellent process - allows for genuine feedback from representatives from all schools.
- I'm really glad I attended. It was informative and an eye opener. It's always interesting to hear what other schools are doing. The facilitator, recorded went very well and kept things rolling as it should have. Very well organized and a comfortable setting.
- Would have liked to hear from the Bishop - a short address, his presence as

support for the process. Also, for the District, they will need to identify alternatives that are appropriate so a collection of ideas from the people here might have been helpful. Good luck to the trustees - it will be a difficult decision and you have my support whatever that decision will be.

- It would have been nice if issues were addressed to parents by the Board and Church other than school council. The format was awesome - dialogue fabulous, questions were appropriate. Why wasn't the Church more involved in the discussion and dialogue and presentations?
- Superb process!
- It was a very interesting opportunity to get more involved. It was a very respectful atmosphere for all opinions. Many deeper issues were brought up through discussion.
- Excellent session. We had an excellent conversation/discussion at our table. I would have liked to have seen more time allocated to the large group session. Thank you.
- It was an interesting topic to discuss with other groups from different schools. We all have the same problems with funding. We all need the funds to support our programs.
- It was very well organized and delivered.
- I found that I truly felt "heard". Felt that we were not just wasting our time. I really liked the small group process.
- I feel that the process and RT session itself was very good. I felt 'heard.' I learned that the government is privy to how much fundraising our school brings in, which I don't believe they should get - it's like we are being double taxed.
- This was a great opportunity, as a parent, to learn more about the subject of fundraising and gambling. I had a very limited view on this very complicated subject. The roundtable is a great opportunity to give feedback to get many view and perspectives heard. Thank you for this opportunity.
- The process of open discussion is always beneficial. Expanding on issues as a small community of concerned people always inspires me.
- I have had such an education through this whole process. All through this, I can't help feeling what a shame it is that not ALL parents will gain this understanding. PLEASE keep in mind how this decision will affect my children, their education and the amount of work parents need to do.
- Well planned and executed! Good brainstorming sessions. Everyone's knowledge has been increased.
- Very well done; well organized and focused.

- Thank you for the opportunity to be involved. I don't relish the position the Board is in and have faith the Board then will come to an informed, moral decision. The Board has always maintained the best interests of the children.
- Our school's representatives were placed with a school's reps who have money raised via gambling. It was incredibly positive to have this equal representation. It was also amazing to hear what initiatives go on because of this money raised. I am a full supporter of fund-raising by gambling!
- I have gained a great understanding of the benefits a school gets from casino funds. This was a great way to learn, listen share and think about the future of CCSD fundraising.
- Congratulations to our District in taking such an appropriate step to dialogue under challenging circumstances! God bless you with continued energy and wisdom. 😊
- Very open process with a great opportunity to be involved. Excellent!
- This was a very good process and I hope that the actions taken will follow recommendations for this forum.
- This was so well organized and thought out. It was very easy to facilitate because the structure was so well thought out.
- Small groups allowed for good discussion. Unfortunately, our table only had representatives from elementary and junior high. Thoughts or impact of gambling revenue were not available to us though I imagine it would be considerable. Most important to me - I want to ensure my children have best opportunities. Right now funds from gambling are too important. Until the provincial funding is increased, we can't give up this alternate funding. As a parent, it is very important to have the opportunities to learn and understand better the different point of view, and as Catholics, try to follow our beliefs and try to find the way to meet our children's needs without contradicting our beliefs and values that make us choose to be part of the Catholic system and not the public.
- Discussion was informative and very productive - please listen.
- Thank you for allowing us this opportunity for our input.
- The entire process was very significant. All voices could be heard and various positions/beliefs explored for complete understanding of the issues.
- The process is only useful if the information collected is actually read.
- Process was inclusive. Questions were specific - well directed. This is a complex issue - I am confident the Board will take all feedback into consideration when making your decision.

- I believe that all parents appreciate the chance to be part of the process and session as well as the chance to discuss and find out the reality of other schools. Thank you.
- Thank you for this opportunity for our school community to be heard. Good luck to the trustees as they embark on this difficult process. Excellent job by the District to put this morning together. Thank you.
- As a democratic society, I sincerely hope that the discussions that were brought to this roundtable discussion will be considered to be a true voice of democracy and considered as the Board of elected trustees acts in good faith to make the best decision.
- Well run, interested in hearing the overall consensus.
- Good structure, nice pace. Tons of useful information/wonderful insights/dedicated people. Feelings are pretty consistent → unless we find other ways to properly fund schools - casinos are in!
- Extremely great idea, process and discussions were interesting. Thank you for letting me participate.
- I think that the opportunity to discuss these topics in small groups was very beneficial. I think that the topics covered the areas that needed to be discussed.
- I think that a structured yet open timetable allowed for good discussion while keeping us on topic.
- Very informative and useful. I really appreciated the chance to discuss this issue. I hope our comments are useful and helpful in solving this dilemma.
- It is great to work in groups and share ideas. It put other ideas on the table. It is too early to see what the trustees do with the info. Open sharing can be dangerous as it can allow for personal attacks.
- Great process - great discussion.
- Process allowed all to comment and extend views that the trustees can take forward and deliberate. Thank you for the opportunity.
- The discussion was interesting and a good opportunity to share comments/feedback. I hope it doesn't stop here; that the trustees use the information/feedback gathered to present to the Bishop.
- Great facilitator - Jane Easton! A good morning.
- Thank you for this opportunity. Please - listen to the majority.
- A very interesting and enriching discussion.
- If fund raising cancelled - Catholic schools erode to smaller number of students and private user-pay schools.
- A very interesting process and discussion. Not easy.

- A tough job for the trustees, given the feedback we do look for your prayerful guidance.
- Fair and broad discourse on this topic. Viewpoints were respected. Much effort to record neutrally and express accurately all comments. Well organized, useful process!
- Thank you for providing an avenue for the voice of individual schools in this process.
- It was wonderful to listen to the other opinions and being listened to.
- I hope that the playing field between schools in the District is carefully considered. Schools with fewer parents and students have a smaller budget and pool of resources.
- Some good ideas came out in the discussion.
- Great opportunity to share information and views.
- A very fruitful session. Thank you.
- Well done folks!
- Very well organized and meaningful. ☺
- The Bishop's direction should have been explained.
- I have a major concern regarding the feasibility of continuing public Catholic education if we maintain present education funding and deny access to fundraising through gaming.
- I think this process will be effective in getting an overall view of our feelings on this issue. I feel we really need to find a solution before we dispose of the problem. Thank you.
- Would have liked to have heard some "both sides" of the discussions. Overall very informative.
- I found this session very useful and was thankful for the opportunity to take part.
- I feel that this was very informing and very useful, to understand all the issues involved in making this decision.
- I feel it was a great idea to get everyone together from other schools and that everyone seems to feel the same way.
- I felt like the questions were leading questions to give to the Board some justifications to justify gambling as a source of fundraising. No focus on Alternative source of funds or expanding the basic needs redefine.
- I wish there would have been more emphasis on as Catholics how does this issue impact us? Because this is an issue brought forth by the Bishop - what does he have as a solution? I found there wasn't enough focus on us as a "Catholic" School Board in the questions.

- Small group session was effective. I was very well prepared to discuss these issues. Re-wording from table 21 grey sheet if needed. (Potential for further reduction in transfer payments if municipalities are successful in having higher property tax revenue returned to municipalities.
- As a parent who has spent more than 9 years serving on our schools fundraising committee. I would like to state with without access to Casino fundraising, our small group of volunteers at a 900+ student school will disappear. Burnout is everywhere, parents are tapped emotionally and financially and will turn elsewhere for education, where less is asked and required.
- Networking provided opportunities for understanding, comparison and analysis.
- Found it very loud with such a big room of people. It was good to discuss among groups the various issues and hope the Board will actually listen. Without "gambling" proceeds it will be impossible to make the amount of money you get at a casino elsewhere. Funding for schools will drop, attendance will drop. Public schools with benefit from our loss.
- Very well organized. Plenty of time for discussion.
This roundtable was very informative. If the school board decides to agree with the Diocese on the gambling issue, the Boards enrollment will go down and the quality of Education will lack as well.
- The start time was not listed on the package or the website. Luckily my memory was sufficient in this case.
- Where was Trustee O'Malley? Again.
- Process was good in leading discussion and feedback from the school council. Roundtable didn't provide much additional information but did provide an opportunity to provide feedback with representatives. I like the round table approach.
- I believe that this was premature; I think that if a viable solution was put forth prior to this session instead of providing only the negative association with gambling (i.e. guilt) it may have been easier to agree or disagree with the Bishop's position. The major issue that should be put forth that there is not adequate funding to maintain "BASIC" education. Perhaps everyone should band together as a cohesive unit and political force to encourage Provincial Government to increase funding. If funding isn't increased and fundraising is limited, I believe that within 5 years there will be NO public Catholic system. Not because parents are anti-Catholic or Christian, but that parents want the best for their children and the Catholic system would

be unable to provide this for them.

- It would be even more meaningful to have a roundtable around the issue of public funding in general and how to lobby the Government for adequate funding for a cornerstone of our society.
- Roundtables are an excellent way to establish collective valid feedback. Perhaps there should be a quantitative method of gathering information to complement the qualitative narrative information that will be very difficult to create a clear; informed picture of roundtable feedback. I am concerned that Catholic Education will slowly fade into memory if we are not permitted to remain competitive in enhancing our schools.
- The bottom line is what will replace funds if all gaming/fundraising is taken away. What will happen to the Catholic school system if parents choose to send their children to schools with better/enhanced programs. Is the Church willing to do all preparation and sacraments when there are no longer any schools left because of low enrollment and or teachers have chosen other schools over ours? Our Catholic values should be practices in our daily homelife. Instill those values as a family.
- I feel that the process was run very well. I think that in the future it should be done anonymously. I hope that all information collected helps with all decision making on the topic discussed.
- My hope is that the data collected is viewed as the opinions of the people who elected the Trustees (i.e. the decision going forward should be based on what the majority is saying.)
- It would be nice to have a statement from the Board to take back to our school parents. Prior to and after the May 17 date.
- I appreciate the opportunity to engage in this dialogue and bring feedback to "the table" from our school population.
- Very well done! A respectful, passionate atmosphere was maintained - no easy feat given wide range of background/philosophy, etc. If time permitted, more time to reflect on alternate forms of fundraising would be useful.
- This was good, however, not enough time to fully cover topics.
- Trustees should have spent a time allotment at his various wards tables.
- We had a wonderful facilitator!
- I have not found anyone against fundraising as it is. If the school could find the funds that are not touched by gambling and could equal the funds then "yes" we should use those funds. But they are not there. Our schools could not be as "Catholic" as they are without funding. We would be closing the

door on many who don't know what Catholic is.

- The chance to dialogue was good. A greater focus of time on generating possible solutions would have been helpful and given trustees more possibilities to consider in their evaluations. Perhaps this is another topic for future discussion one evening.
- It was interesting that we were paired with a school that does use casinos to fundraise. We do not - yet.
- Everything was laid out beautifully and the liturgy really put us in the right frame of mind.
- Trustees - hard to imagine how input will be of any use to Trustees as we have no idea how they see the question i.e. Is it one of morality, Catholic obedience or expediency. The unspoken assumption is that the District does not feel bound by the Bishop. It would be helpful if they would that...
- I found the ability to discuss our views and opinions helpful but the reality of the discussion is that I believe they will go with their own decision rather than taking into account the views and wishes of the schools and parents.
- Thank you for the opportunity for input. Please take the input to heart in making a decision. There are still many unanswered questions.
- Re: The process. It was my parish priest who asked me to get involved in this process. I was unaware of the magnitude of these issues until he spoke with me. Why are our parish priests not asked to participate and offer their help? Surely they have a great amount of experience to add. The fundraising session did not really bear any new fruit or help to solve the situation. Beyond sharing ideas, it would have been useful to perhaps develop concrete proposals for action. That being said, I do hope after the May 17 decision that the board will continue to help all schools work towards goals with concrete proposals/actions. Thanks for the opportunity to be here. God bless you. You are in my prayers.
- The roundtable on fundraising document provided the bones to discuss. Process was excellent. I would have appreciated having the questions in advance to know when would be most appropriate to share some of my experience (i.e. maybe that will be in the next question). Good to have a casino school and 2 non-casino schools at our roundtable. Would have been good to hear a high school perspective at our table. Well organized event!
- Overall the session at our table was very interactive and productive. The format allowed each participant to be heard. Our table explored as best we could the questions provided and thanks to the committee for structuring them so well.

- There were quite a few questions to answer on this important topic. Overall, our parent community is very split over whether to keep the casinos or not. We need clear direction from our Board on this topic. Please don't leave it up to the parents again. Also, how will withdrawing from casinos help Catholic education as a whole? If we end up getting rid of casinos, we will lose some of our competitiveness. Therefore, lose students. I fear that these children won't get the proper Catholic background that they would if they stayed in the Catholic system. Are we willing to accept that? Everyone knows that there are lots of Catholics who don't go to Church regularly. If they don't go to Catholic schools wither, how will they be educated in the teachings of the Church??
- I would like to enhance my child's education experience as much as possible. Fundraising is an absolute must in today's society. By not using "gambling money" will not decrease addition. If we don't use it. Someone else will.
- It was difficult to involve all parents as opposed to the active volunteer parents in this process. The fact that this is such a contentious issue highlights the weakness of the Catholicity in our school system at all levels.
- I believe that to cut off funds to us it would put our school system at a greater disadvantage.
- I think it is important that the Board of Trustees take into consideration the views and opinions expressed at the round tables and do not just lip service our concerns.
- Very good - we sincerely hope that our points and comments will be heard and not falling on deaf ears - to please the Bishops of Alberta. Fundraising - casino - are vital to the ability of schools to keep up with programs needed, equipment updating and offering benefits and perks to students to attract them and keep them in the school. Please note: If my kid's ability to learn
- And keep up with other schools - I will remove my kids!! And I will also take my taxes with me to public school.
- Good discussion opportunities.
- Well organized and well toned. Enabled discussion without going overboard. Limited opportunity to delve into some context that would otherwise extend understanding.
- Was a good way to collect information from all our school communities.
- I thought the process was excellent. Our table was very respectful of each other's opinions, even when there were diverse opinions. The facilitation kept us on topic. The Trustee at our table provided interesting insights, especially to the Bishop's role in our Education system.

- Interesting views from the various stakeholders.
- This is a complex issue! Once the Board makes a decision the ramifications will be felt for years either way! Question: Why should our children suffer for 5% of gamblers?
- Keeping to the times allotted was good. Facilitator and recorder was a good idea.
- Very pleased to have this opportunity as a parent. Feel it should be longer and more often, as the parents should have and expect more input into this issue.
- The morning activity provided a great deal of passionate dialogue that communicated or willingness to address all the questions without losing focus on keeping the student's front and centre. We need to engage the broader community beyond the group that participated today....
- Very motivating and encouraging to connect with other school communities.
- There are always issues with limited time frames and scope.
- If people do not believe that "problem gambling" is a significant social issue, the balance of the discussion is mute. If "basic funding" is not being met by regular funding then again the discussion is irrelevant.
- Some of the questions required a great deal of explaining.
- Thank you for opportunity to represent community. This is an issue that will continue! (Constant debate). Need door prizes!
- We appreciate the ultimate decision for the trustees are difficult. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.
- A difficult decision.
- It was nice to discuss this topic with the different people.
- I believe that though fundraising and how that is carried out is very important, there is a larger issue not being addressed here. The larger issue concerns the money allocated to schools from the Alberta Government. If the Government was more involved then we as schools would not be put in the position of deciding how extra funds for our schools should be raised. This is a difficult topic. We want to support our Church leaders, but may not financially be able to do so. I hope that the Board takes this into consideration when making their decision. Please be concerned with the viability of our schools.
- Process was good however, we felt rushed to get through the questions. We are debating the wrong issue. What about Government support (additional) to enhance programs and schools.
- The overall process hopefully will provide the District with ideas that may

be helpful in making policy decisions. However, the bigger picture is to have all Albertan's and Districts demand more overall money devoted toward the educational needs of students.

- Both the process and the session were useful, though somewhat redundant.
- Thank you for giving us the opportunity to speak on behalf of our parent population. Let's remember that these discussions were held on behalf of our children's future.

CALGARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Data on Fundraising 2004 – 2005

Collected in February, 2006

The following data was collected by the District from the 96 schools that were operational during the 2004-2005 school year (there are now 97 schools).

School principals were given the following definitions to ensure a common understanding and meaningful data collection.

Total Fundraising:

The value of all items and dollars that benefit the school.

- Does not include Scale of Issue
- Does not include Fee Collection
- Does not include dollars collected for textbooks, workbooks, etc.
- Does include School Council Contributions
- Does include Society contributions
- Does include cafeteria, vending machines, school store (clear profits should be recorded)
- Does include book fairs, sale of product (clothing, food, promotional items, etc.), recycling
- Does include activities such as penny carnival, raffles, auctions, charitable money fund raisers, etc.
- Does include donations, grants, gifts, etc.

Fund-raising linked to gambling:

Dollars, goods or services benefiting the school and originating from gambling resources:

- Fund-raising linked to Casinos.
- Any dollars linked to lottery monies.
- Raffles of any kind.
- Gaming of any kind.
- Government grants for funding linked to lottery monies.

Please note, thousands of Community initiatives receive funding each year through the Alberta Lottery Fund.

Examples include: libraries, museums, sports and athletic events, agricultural societies and exhibitors, arts and culture groups, wildlife and conservation projects, public athletic faculties, churches, health initiatives, seniors' groups, recreation, tourism, historical societies.

Specific projects supported by lottery money in our schools may include: Artist's in School Residency, Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Artists and Education, Community Initiatives Program, Science Program, Alberta Sport Recreation, Parks & Wildlife Foundation, Community Lottery Board, Computer Project, Human Rights Citizenship & Multiculturalism, Education Fund, Community Facility Enhancement Program, CFEP Grants for Playgrounds.

Table 1
Summary of School Revenue Data
on Fundraising, Gambling and Casinos

School	(A) Total dollar value of cash and goods received	(B) Total dollar value received through any gambling	(C) Total dollar value received from Casino Only	(D) % of fundraising through gambling (% that B is of A)
TOTAL	\$4,108,792.11	\$1,973,092.84	\$1,280,164.67	47.2%

Table 2
Number Of Schools by Percentage of Funds Raised Through Gambling

Percentage of fund-raising obtained through gambling	Number of schools
0%	37
Up to 10%	9
11-25%	6
26-50%	10
51-75%	12
76-100%	21

Table 3
Schools Benefiting From Casinos In 2004-2005

Category of Schools	Number of Casinos	Number of Schools	Percentage Who Benefited from Casinos
K – 6	15	51	29%
K – 9	12	25	48%
7 – 9	3	6	50%
10-12	4	9	44%
Other*	1	6	17%
Total	35	96	36%

* Other schools with different grade configurations

Table 4
Amount Of Money Collected From Casinos In 2004-2005 by School Category

Category of Schools	Under \$25,000	\$25,000 – 50,000	\$50,000 – 100,000	Over \$100,000
	# of School	# of Schools	# of Schools	# of Schools
K – 6	3	10	1	1
K – 9	2	7	3	0
7-9	0	2	1	0
10 – 12	2	2	0	0
Other	1	0	0	0
Total	8	21	5	1

Note: In the case of casinos that may be held every few years, schools were asked to provide an average amount for a single year (e.g. \$60,000 ÷ 2 yrs = \$30,000 for 2004-2005).

Table 5
Number of Schools by Category and Amount Of Money Obtained Through
“Gambling” Other Than Casinos

Category of Schools	Under \$1000	\$1000-10,000	\$10,000-25,000	\$25,000 – 50,000	\$50,000-100,000	Over 100,000
	# of Schools	# of Schools	# of Schools	# of Schools	# of Schools	# of Schools
K – 6	9	7	1	2	3	0
K – 9	0	5	2	1	1	0
7-9	0	1	0	0	0	0
10 –12*	0	0	1	1	1	1
Total	9	13	4	4	5	1

Table 6
School-Related Organizations That Do The Fundraising

	School Council	Society	Student Council	Other*
Number of Schools	75	43	18	16
% of Total Number of Schools	78%	45%	19%	17%

* Other groups such as bandparents, grad committee, athletic teams, etc.

Table 7
Projects Supported By “Gambling” Funds

Project Categories	Number of Projects
Fine Arts *	50
Technology	43
Individual School Projects **	23
Field Trips	22
Catholicity / Charities	22
Program Enrichment	21
Athletics	16
Playground	15
Library	15
Student Recognition and Classroom Incentives	9

* Music, Band, Art.

** Outdoor projects, spell-a-thon, recycling, lunches, etc.