

## Nova Scotia Provincial Lotteries and Casino Corporation

The Nova Scotia Provincial Lotteries and Casino Corporation (NSPLCC) is responsible for the business of gaming in Nova Scotia. It is a Crown corporation governed by the *Gaming Control Act*, and is charged with leading an economically sustainable and socially responsible gaming industry for the benefit of Nova Scotians and their communities.

### Overview of Gaming in Nova Scotia

- The Nova Scotia Government, and ultimately the people of Nova Scotia, are the shareholders and owners of the gaming industry in the province.
- The industry is licensed and regulated by the Alcohol, Gaming, Fuel and Tobacco Division (AGFTD) of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations.
- NSPLCC provides vision, strategy and operational direction in the delivery of responsible and entertaining gaming products and ensures that the gaming industry is being run in a manner that is as socially responsible as possible while generating reasonable profits.
- Regulated gaming operations in Nova Scotia include ticket lotteries, video lotteries and casinos. The day-to-day operations of these business lines are carried out by operators, Atlantic Lottery (ALC) and Casino Nova Scotia (CNS). Atlantic Lottery operates the ticket and video lottery businesses and CNS operates casinos in Halifax and Sydney.
- The following is a chronological list of developments in the gaming industry in Nova Scotia.
  - ▶ 1976 – Ticket lottery products were introduced across Canada, including Nova Scotia.
  - ▶ 1991 – Video lottery terminals (VLTs) were legally introduced in the province in convenience stores and laundromats as a strategy to combat illegal, grey market VLTs.
  - ▶ 1993 – VLTs were restricted to liquor-licensed establishments.
  - ▶ 1995 – Government created the Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation (now called the Nova Scotia Provincial Lotteries and Casino Corporation) to manage the industry.
  - ▶ 1995 – Casinos were introduced in Halifax and Sydney.
  - ▶ 1995 – First Nations communities offered VLTs on reserves.
  - ▶ 1998 – The Province imposed a cap on the number of VLTs that can operate in liquor-licensed establishments at 3,234 (excluding those on First Nations reserves).
  - ▶ 2000 – Permanent Halifax casino opened.
  - ▶ 2004 – Playsphere, ALC’s online transactional website launched.
  - ▶ 2005 – Casino adopts ticket in / ticket out technology (TITO).
  - ▶ 2009 – New ticket lottery regulations introduced to enhance player protection, and security and integrity controls.
  - ▶ 2011 – Barcodes introduced on break-open tickets to enhance validation controls.
  - ▶ 2012 – Government announced that NSGC will become the Nova Scotia Provincial Lotteries and Casino Corporation. With a new board made up of three Deputy Ministers and one senior government official, the cross-departmental collaboration outlined in the 2011 Responsible Gaming Strategy will be realized within NSPLCC.
- In April 2005, the Province released a five-year Gaming Strategy, with a focus on responsible gambling, to initiate change in the industry. In March 2011, the Province released the 2011 Responsible Gaming Strategy, with a similar focus on responsible gambling.
- Specific changes that have taken place since 2005 with respect to VLTs include:
  - ▶ Reduced the hours of operation on July 1, 2005 with machines being shut off at midnight, eliminating the midnight to close timeframe;
  - ▶ Removed 800 VLTs from profit retailers on November 1, 2005;
  - ▶ Removed an additional 200 VLTs through attrition for a total reduction of 1,000 VLTs, reducing the number of VLTs by approximately 30%, taking it from 3,234 to 2,234;
  - ▶ Implemented two software changes beginning January 1, 2006, which slowed game speed by 30% and disabled the “stop button” feature;
  - ▶ Introduced the My-Play System, a card-based responsible gambling tool that was integrated into every VLT in Nova Scotia during the first and second quarter of 2010-11.
  - ▶ Maintained the moratorium on increasing the number of VLTs in Nova Scotia;

- ▶ Introduced a natural attrition plan to reduce the number of VLTs in Nova Scotia; and
- ▶ Implement mandatory enrolment of the My-Play System for all players in Nova Scotia on April 1, 2012. On August 20, 2014, Government announced its decision to remove the My-Play System from all VLTs in Nova Scotia as it was not meeting objectives.
- Prior to the 2005 Gaming Strategy, NSPLCC's revenue was \$495 million, and in 2014, it was \$402 million.
- Other forms of gambling available in Nova Scotia that are not managed by NSPLCC include: video lottery in First Nations communities; poker games in bars, clubs and residences; Internet gambling (with the exception of Atlantic Lottery's online distribution channel); and live harness racing which began in Nova Scotia in 1765 and continues today.
- Charitable gaming (e.g., bingos, ticket lotteries, and carnival games of chance) are conducted by organizations raising funds for charitable purposes. This gaming activity is licensed and monitored by the AGFTD.