



RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING COUNCIL

NOVA SCOTIA
GAMING CORPORATION

For Immediate Release

R U UP?

**Responsible Gambling Council Gives Students the Straight Deal
on Gambling**

Live drama visits South Colchester Academy on November 18, 2009

Brookfield, Nov. 18 - Inspired by the increasing popularity of poker, online gambling and stories from youth, **R U UP?** has been produced by the Responsible Gambling Council (RGC) and supported in Nova Scotia by the Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation (NSGC).

R U UP? is a live drama that examines the potential risks of gambling and provides information about where to get help locally.

R U UP? visits **South Colchester Academy** from **2:00 – 3:00 p.m.** on **Wednesday, November 18.**

Young adults are at twice the risk of developing a gambling problem

“Problem gambling is an issue people normally associate with older adults,” explains Laurie Bell, Director of Prevention Programs, RGC. “In reality, a 19-year-old is more likely to have a problem with gambling than a 50-year-old. That’s why it’s so important to reach out to high school students now and let them know about the risks of gambling.”

R U UP? explores the personal costs that face a first-year university student, and those around her, as she becomes more and more focused on her next bet. The dramatic performance is inspired by creative contributions by Ontario high school students and is followed by an interactive student debrief designed to reinforce the drama’s messages.

“**R U UP?** is a powerful drama with very important messages,” says Marie Mullally, President and CEO, NSGC. “Live drama is a very effective way to educate students because it keeps them entertained and engaged. We hope that programs such as **R U UP?** will help prevent the next generation of problem gamblers.”

All of the dramas created by RGC have been designed to increase awareness of problem gambling and its signs, suggest ways to avoid a gambling problem, and let audience members know where they can get local help. This is the third drama created by RGC that NSGC has brought to Nova Scotia since 2005. To date, these productions have visited over 50 high schools and reached more than 14,000 students in Nova Scotia.

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The most common signs of a potential problem, which are reflected through the characters' experiences in **R U UP?**, include:

Signs of Problem Gambling

- Thinking more and more about the game
- Skipping classes or work to gamble
- Spending more money or time than intended
- Spending more money to win back money that's been lost
- Lying to family and friends about gambling
- Expecting to make money from gambling

Responsible Gambling Council is an independent, non-profit organization committed to problem gambling prevention. RGC designs and delivers highly effective awareness programs. Through the RGC Centre for the Advancement of Best Practices, the Council also promotes the identification and adoption of best practices in problem gambling prevention.

Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation is the crown corporation that manages gambling in the Province. NSGC's mission is to lead an economically sustainable and socially responsible provincial gaming industry for the benefit of Nova Scotians and their communities. NSGC currently supports the delivery of 11 prevention and responsible gambling programs in Nova Scotia.

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