

For Immediate Release



house of cards

Responsible Gambling Council Gives Students the Straight Deal on Gambling
Live Drama Visits **Halifax West High School** on **Tuesday, February 10, 2009**

The straight deal on gambling is that young adults (ages 19-24) are at the highest risk of developing a gambling problem. **house of cards** is a live drama that alerts students to the potential risks of gambling and provides information about where to get help locally. The drama was developed and is delivered by the Responsible Gambling Council (RGC) and is sponsored by the Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation (NSGC).

house of cards visits **Halifax West High School** from **10:17 - 11:17 a.m.** on **Tuesday, February 10, 2009.**

Live Drama Focuses on Prevention

"**house of cards** is an engaging drama that depicts the potential risks of gambling and teaches students where they can get local help," says Marie Mullally, President and CEO, NSGC. "The drama is an effective way to reach high school students because it is entertaining while being very educational."

"High school students are getting close to an age where the risk of developing a gambling problem almost doubles," says Laurie Bell, RGC Director of Prevention Programs. "Combine that with the growing popularity of poker and internet gambling, and you've got a compelling reason to let students know about a less glamorous side of gambling."

house of cards chronicles the story of Finn, a university student who spends more and more time playing online poker. Finn develops a gambling problem that threatens his relationships with friends and family, erodes his values and slowly takes over his life. The play highlights the signs of a gambling problem as concerned friends and family encourage Finn to seek help. The dramatic performance features original songs written by high school students and is followed by an interactive student debrief designed to reinforce the program messages.

"Young people are more likely to see poker or on-line gambling as a way to make money," says Bell. "This kind of belief can be a real set-up for a gambling problem. We want to reach out to high school students to help educate them about how they can avoid these kinds of distorted expectations."

The following are some of the most common problem gambling warning signs:

Some Problem Gambling Warning Signs

- Thinking about gambling or about ways to get money to bet
- Betting with money set aside for other things (bills, post secondary education, etc.)
- Lying about the time or money spent gambling
- Skipping school or work to gamble
- Borrowing money to bet with or to pay off gambling debts
- Believing that a "big win" will solve all your problems

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Responsible Gambling Council

The Responsible Gambling Council is an independent, non-profit organization committed to problem gambling prevention. RGC designs and delivers highly effective awareness programs, 60% of which concentrate on educating and cautioning young people about the realities of gambling. The Council also promotes the identification and adoption of best practices in problem gambling prevention through research and information dissemination.

Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation

The 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 sponsors the delivery of three prevention programs in Nova Scotia.

For more information about *house of cards* please visit www.responsiblegambling.org.

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