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## Media Release

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### Youth Focus at Responsible Gambling Conference

**October 2, 2009 – Halifax:** Research has shown that Nova Scotia youth are gambling online three times more than adults. With statistics like this, the Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation (NSGC) continues to tackle the issue head-on by including presentations on youth gambling prevention at the fifth annual NSGC’s Responsible Gambling Conference on October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in Halifax at The Lord Nelson Hotel.

“Youth should not be gambling, no exceptions. But we know that they are turning to illegal Internet gambling sites because there are no controls,” says Marie Mullally, President and CEO of NSGC. “We also know that the younger someone starts to gamble, the higher their risk of developing problems later in life. That’s why we spend so much effort educating youth and parents on the risks of underage gambling.”

The eighth province-wide Responsible Gambling Awareness Week is designed to help ensure that Nova Scotians are among the most informed players in the world. With that objective in mind, the Conference became the centerpiece of the annual event five years ago. This year’s Conference includes presentations that bring youth gambling prevention, education and awareness to the forefront. This year, six speakers will make presentations with a youth focus:

- Dr. Lawrence Kutner, Co-Director, Center for Mental Health and Media, Massachusetts General Hospital - Grand Theft Childhood: Can Video Games Lead to Gambling Addiction?
- Eric Meerkamper, Partner, DECODE - Engaging Parents in Addressing Youth Gambling
- Dr. Ken C. Winters, Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Minnesota Medical School Youth - Brain Development and Vulnerability to Problem Gambling
- Dr. Jeffrey L. Derevensky, Professor, McGill University – Internet Gambling Among Youth: Another (Unsupervised) Venue ... More Problems?
- Renee St-Pierre, PhD Student, International Centre on Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors – Regulatory Policies, Retailer Compliance and Youth Access
- Robyn McIsaac, Vice President, Prevention Programming and Public Affairs, NSGC – BetStopper – Keeping Nova Scotian Youth Off of Gambling Websites

For more information about NSGC’s Responsible Gambling Conference and the Gaming Corporation, visit [www.nsgc.ca](http://www.nsgc.ca).

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