

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Nova Scotia Gaming reminds people lottery tickets are not gifts for minors**

Halifax, December 4, 2018 – Lottery tickets are go-to stocking stuffers for many Nova Scotians during the holidays, but parents, caregivers, family members and friends are reminded not to gift lottery tickets or encourage lottery play with minors.

“We want to remind everyone we all have a role in preventing minors from playing lottery products this holiday season,” says Bob MacKinnon, President and CEO of Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation (NSGC). “While lottery and scratch tickets are appropriate gifts throughout the year for adults, with particular popularity around the holidays, they are never appropriate gifts for children.”

For more than ten years, NSGC has been sharing this message to raise awareness regarding underage lottery play around the holiday season. It is part of an annual campaign developed by the International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviours at McGill University and the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) to raise awareness around the risks of underage lottery play. The campaign includes more than 50 participating lotteries from across Canada, the United States and some international organizations.

While lottery tickets might not seem risky, adults who experience harm from gambling report an earlier onset of gambling, often beginning between the ages of 10-19.

NSGC works with ticket lottery operator, Atlantic Lottery, to offer a responsible gaming environment year-round. They prominently display legal age on lottery products, offer training to ticket lottery retailers on responsible gambling, and work diligently to verify that retailers comply with laws.

“We are committed to supporting education and preventative programming that contributes to safe and responsible gambling, especially where minors are concerned,” says MacKinnon.

More than 1,000 ticket lottery retailers throughout Nova Scotia play an important role in preventing the sale of lottery products to minors.



Al Sutherland is the owner of Big Al's in New Glasgow. His store is one of more than 1,000 small businesses that completes mandatory responsible gambling training, checks ID to make sure players are 19+, and supports NSGC message of responsible gift-giving for the holidays.  
*(Photography by: Gordie Marr)*

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FOR BROADCAST USE

Nova Scotians are reminded not to give lottery tickets as gifts to children.

This is an important reminder during the holiday season and year-round.

President and C-E-O of the Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation, Bob MacKinnon, said lottery tickets are never an acceptable gift for anyone under the age of 19.

Research shows lottery play, especially scratch tickets, can increase the potential for problem gambling.

Nova Scotia Gaming actively promotes responsible gambling and has been sharing this important holiday reminder for more than 10 years.

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Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation (NSGC) is a Crown corporation responsible for managing the business of gaming in the province. We help make Nova Scotia a better place by returning 100% of the profits to government programs and good causes that are important to Nova Scotians.

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