

## **2011 Responsible Gaming Strategy**

### ***In regard to the Video Lottery Program, Government will:***

- Continue a moratorium on the number of VLTs.
- Reduce VLTs through natural attrition.
- Conduct research aimed at harm reduction and mitigation measures.
- Implement changes to VLT host venues to reduce the potential for excessive play.
- Adopt a VLT policy process that is guided by:
  - ▶ A goal to reduce Nova Scotia's reliance on VLT revenue;
  - ▶ A consideration that many retailers are reliant on VLT revenue to sustain their operations; and,
  - ▶ An effort to reduce the stigmatization of VLTs and players.
- Introduce tougher penalties for vendors convicted of using grey machines including forfeiture of tobacco and liquor licenses.
- Adopt a mandatory enrolment model for the My-Play System, effective April 1, 2012, on all VLTs in the Province. 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.

### ***In regard to Internet Gambling, Government will:***

- Refrain from establishing or participating in expanded Internet gambling.
- Consider existing and emerging research to better understand the trend and determine best practices and policies with respect to regulation and key population health, economic and social measures.

### ***In regard to Governance, Government will:***

- Continue its focus on cross-departmental collaboration.
- Continue the Deputy Minister's Advisory Committee on Gaming to:
  - ▶ Manage gambling related issues across departments;
  - ▶ Engage broad stakeholder interests under the social responsibility mandates;
  - ▶ Address complex public policy issues; and,
  - ▶ Proactively address emerging issues in gambling.

### ***In regard to Treatment and Prevention, Government will:***

- Work through the Department of Health and Wellness and in partnership with the District Health Authorities to:
  - ▶ Improve the quality, accessibility and range of options to address risk and problem gambling;
  - ▶ Establish stronger linkages between gambling treatment services and other health and community services; and,
  - ▶ Place greater emphasis on social marketing to dispel gambling myths, counter the stigma of problem gambling, highlight consequences and encourage individuals to seek help earlier.

### ***In regard to Gambling and Nova Scotia's Youth, Government will:***

- Through the Department of Health and Wellness, build on strategies and approaches aimed at increasing awareness of youth gambling and youth problem gambling and mitigating their impacts on this group.

### ***In regard to its relationship with Mi'kmaw communities in respect to gambling, Government will:***

- Initiate a broad-based dialogue with Mi'kmaw communities to address their concerns over VLT

revenues, impacts of the My-Play System and a more balanced public discourse about gambling in the province.

- Proceed with re-negotiating First Nation Gaming Agreements as they are due to expire.

***In regard to Harness Racing, Government will:***

- Not endorse the development of a Racino.
- Continue to work with the Nova Scotia Harness Racing Industry Association to support this rural industry.

***In regard to Charitable Gaming, Government will:***

- Work with charitable bingo operators to assess regulatory issues, new technologies and business models as a means to enhance this sector's long-term viability.
- Develop a web-based resource that provides easily accessible information and assistance for individuals or organizations in staging charitable gambling operations.

***In regard to gambling and marketing advertising, Government will:***

- Continue periodic reviews of its Advertising Standards by independent responsible gambling experts to ensure it remains current with best practices.