

## A History of Firsts in Social Responsibility

### **WORLD FIRSTS**

#### **1. Responsible Gaming Features on VLTs**

- In 2001-02, the Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation (NSGC) introduced responsible gaming features on Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs) designed to encourage responsible play. These features have now been emulated by jurisdictions world-wide.
- Responsible Gaming Features consist of the following:
  - ▶ *Pop-up reminder* – This advises the player how long they have been playing and asks the player if they wish to continue. The reminder first appears after 60 minutes and then at 30 minute intervals.
  - ▶ *Displaying amount wagered in dollars* – The amount wagered shows as an actual dollar amount instead of credits.
  - ▶ *Mandatory cash out* – This feature requires the player to cash out their money after 150 minutes of play time.
  - ▶ *Maximum Bet* – \$2.50 per spin.
  - ▶ *Permanent clock* – This clock is always available on the player screen and reminds the player of the time of day.

#### **2. My-Play System**

- NSGC created the My-Play System, a responsible gambling system to provide real-time information and tools to video lottery players.
- The goal was to empower players with information about their play so they could make informed decisions that are appropriate for them.
- Through the use of a player card, the My-Play System offered players five information tools:
  - ▶ Access to historical information on the total money spent and time played for a period of a day, week, month, or year.
  - ▶ Access to in-progress play activity information, including the amount of money put in and the amount cashed out in the current play session.
  - ▶ Ability to set a spending limit for a day, week, month, or year.

- ▶ Ability to set a time limit for play from a set amount of hours per day, week, month, or year.
- ▶ Ability to stop play immediately for 24, 48, or 72 hours.

- On April 1, 2012, enrolment in the My-Play System became mandatory with two enrolment options.
- 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.

#### **3. Responsible Gambling Social Marketing Campaign**

- In October 2007, NSGC launched *The Responsible Gambler* social marketing campaign. The goal of this multi-media (television, radio and print) program was to help raise awareness about responsible gambling behaviour and to encourage these attributes amongst those adult Nova Scotians who choose to gamble.

#### **4. Responsible Gambling Resource Website**

- In 2008, NSGC launched a responsible gambling website dedicated to providing the public and players with important information to make informed decisions and help prevent problems before they start. The detailed informational and educational content was developed by independent experts. The most recent expert review took place in 2016 and updates occur regularly.
- The website can be viewed through [yourbestbet.ca](http://yourbestbet.ca).

#### **5. Responsible Gambling Assessment Program**

- In 2006, NSGC created the first Social Responsibility Assessment Program, which is designed to serve as an input into the decision-making process about whether or not a new product should be introduced, a new marketing approach undertaken, or a new project initiated.
- In 2012, the program was updated and renamed to Responsible Gambling Assessment in order to reflect more accurately the scope of the program.
- Pursuant to the Social Responsibility Charter, the Program is used by NSGC and its two operators,

Atlantic Lottery and Casino Nova Scotia, to standardize Nova Scotia's approach to social responsibility within the Province's gaming industry.

- The Program goes through a biennial review process which typically involves Advertising Standards Canada and the Responsible Gambling Council.

#### **6. World Lottery Association Level 4 Responsible Gaming Certification**

- The World Lottery Association is a global professional organization of state lottery and gaming organizations from 80 countries and six continents. Its vision is to be recognized as the global authority on the lottery business and to uphold the highest standards of corporate social responsibility.
- In April 2009, NSGC and Loto Québec were the first two organizations in the world to be certified by the World Lottery Association at its highest level of responsible gaming standards. This award represents best practices in social responsibility and in fostering responsible gambling behaviour.

#### **7. McGill Youth Gambling Problem Toolkit Series**

- McGill University's *International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviours* has researched and developed Toolkits for legal and medical professionals who may deal with youth gambling problems.
- NSGC was the funding partner for this world-first initiative, which included the distribution of the Toolkits in Nova Scotia in March 2010.

#### **NORTH AMERICAN FIRSTS**

##### **8. Responsible Gambling Awareness Week**

- From 2005 to 2011, NSGC held a two-day Responsible Gambling conference which featured world-renowned guest speakers and focused on responsible gambling and social responsibility within the gaming industry.
- In 2002, Nova Scotia became the first jurisdiction in North America to launch a *Responsible Gambling Awareness Week (RGAW)*. RGAW is one of the largest of NSGC's responsible gambling initiatives that works to foster responsible gambling behavior.

This campaign also includes on site activations at both Casinos and at other locations throughout the province.

#### **9. Social Responsibility Charter**

- In October 2006, NSGC launched its *Social Responsibility Charter*. The Charter formalizes NSGC's commitment to integrating social responsibility into all aspects of its business and sets out five pillars that articulate the framework of this commitment:
  1. Responsible gambling;
  2. Integrity and security;
  3. Citizens and communities;
  4. Corporate governance; and,
  5. Stakeholder relationships.
- These pillars outline how social responsibility is integrated into Nova Scotia's gaming industry, what is expected of NSGC as a socially responsible corporate citizen, what NSGC's commitment is in meeting these expectations, and how operators and retailers contribute to achieving these items.
- In 2014-15, an update of the Charter took place to review, modernize and update the document.

#### **CANADIAN FIRSTS**

##### **10. Mobile Access to Responsible Gambling Information**

- The *Mobile Access to Responsible Gambling Information (MARGI)*, developed by the Responsible Gambling Council of Canada and first piloted in Nova Scotia, is a stand-alone kiosk that provides players with interactive tools and information intended to assist them in making informed gaming decisions.
- MARGI is located in both the Halifax and Sydney Casino Nova Scotia locations.

##### **11. GamTalk**

- NSGC is proud to sponsor *GamTalk*, the first national online peer-based support service in Canada for those who gamble.
- *GamTalk* was developed by Dr. Richard Wood and is supported by a team of moderators and technical

experts. It is a free forum operated as an independent non-profit organization within Canada.

**12. RG Check**

- RG Check is the most rigorous responsible gambling accreditation program in the world and is a Canadian first.
- The program was developed by the Responsible Gambling Council, a Canadian independent non-profit organization.
- Both Casino Nova Scotia properties achieved the three-year accreditation in 2016 and again in 2019.