



**RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING COUNCIL**

## **Responsible Gambling Council sets the standard for safer gambling in casinos and slots venues**

*New set of independent standards highlights ways gaming providers can reduce the risk of problem gambling*

Toronto, Ontario – September 27 – Today the Responsible Gambling Council (RGC) released its *Responsible Gambling Index*, a comprehensive set of standards for casinos and slots venues.

Developed over several years through an extensive review of problem gambling literature and consultation with experts in the field, the *RG Index* establishes eight standards—with more than 40 criteria—for responsible gambling programs in casinos and slots venues. The eight core standards focus on: the comprehensiveness of corporate policies and how well they are embedded in the organization, how self-exclusion programs are communicated and delivered, how well safety information is provided to patrons, what happens when a player has a gambling problem as well as other standards covering access to money, venue and game safety features and employee training.

“These are the most rigorous responsible gambling standards in the world,” says Jon Kelly, CEO, RGC. “RGC is always looking for ways to reduce the risk of problem gambling. One way to do this is to provide an independent view of what should be expected in responsible gambling programs.”

In order to give the standards a practical life, RGC has also initiated the *RG Check* accreditation program. The program will offer an arms-length length assessment of responsible gambling programs against the standards RGC has established.

“This is an opportunity for gaming providers who have adopted strong safeguards to seek external verification of their commitment to responsible gaming practices and safer gambling for their patrons,” says Jon Kelly, CEO, RGC. “The *RG Check* accreditation program identifies strengths and weaknesses in responsible gambling efforts and provides casinos and slots venues with an objective check on both policies and procedures. We are placing the spotlight on a high standard of customer protection.”

...continued on page 2

## **RGC releases responsible gambling standards for casinos and slots venues p.2**

The final decisions about the accreditation of any gaming venue will be made by special arms-length Accreditation Boards, comprised of individuals selected for their integrity and commitment to high standards in social responsibility and public policy.

Members of the panel include George L Morfitt, former Auditor General of British Columbia; Dan Perrins, former Deputy Minister to the Premier of Saskatchewan; David Korn MD, a prominent researcher in the field of problem gambling; Jane Purves, former Minister of Health and Minister of Education for the Province of Nova Scotia and the Chair, Stanley Sadinsky, QC, a Professor Emeritus at the Faculty of Law, Queen's University. Sadinsky authored an influential report reviewing Ontario's problem gambling and responsible gambling strategy.

**The Responsible Gambling Council (RGC)** is an independent, non-profit organization committed to problem gambling prevention. RGC designs and delivers highly effective awareness programs. Through the RGC Centre for the Advancement of Best Practices, the Council also promotes the identification and adoption of best practices in problem gambling prevention.

### **For more information, please contact:**

Susan Saundercook  
Communications Specialist  
Responsible Gambling Council  
416. 499.9800 ext. 230  
susans@rgco.org