

IGR President and CEO Message



IGR President and CEO
Gregory Ahenakew

On behalf of IGR Management and Staff, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. At this time I would like to thank the IGR Board of Directors for their guidance and support in what was a very busy year. We can now say that 70 percent of First Nations with gaming on their lands have an IGR license. That is a reflection of sound leadership and good judgment at the community level as well as the dedication and hard work on the part of the charities.

First Nations communities benefit greatly from this commitment that

often goes unrecognized. Community volunteers are the unsung heroes of this day and age.

Congratulations to the students whose work was featured on our 2008 IGR Christmas Cards and thank you to the staff for welcoming us into the school and encouraging all of the young artists.

In 2009 IGR Management and Staff will continue to serve First Nations communities through licensing on-reserve charitable gaming. Thank you to everyone who made this past year such a successful one for IGR.

WHY GET LICENSED?

The Chiefs-in-Assembly ratified the Licensing Agreement.

By supporting IGR in regulating on-reserve gaming, you contribute towards our shared goal of helping achieve full jurisdiction over gaming.

Being licensed brings credibility to First Nations charitable gaming.

Fundraising through charitable gaming supports worthy causes in First Nations communities.

Licensed charities are eligible to receive provincial government grants equal to 25% of their net revenues on a quarterly basis.

The Law requires that all charitable gaming be licensed.



For more information on how to get licensed Contact us at www.igr.ca
Indigenous Gaming Regulators Inc.
400-203 Packham Avenue
Saskatoon, SK S7N 4K5

Licenses issued since April 1, 2008

Table Game Renewals = 5

Bingo Class A New = 1

Bingo Class A – Renewals = 2

Bingo Class B – Renewals = 13

Bingo Class B NEW= 7

Bingo Class C – Renewals = 4

Community = 4

Bingo Class C NEW = 13

Community = 10

Media = 3

Breakopen Renewals = 12

Breakopen NEW= 11

Texas Hold'em = 2

Regular Raffle = 2

Currently in Review

Table Game Renewals = 0

Bingo Class A New = 0

Bingo Class A – Renewals = 0

Bingo Class B – Renewals = 1

Bingo Class B NEW= 0

Bingo Class C – Renewals = 1

Community = 1

Bingo Class C NEW = 14

Community = 8

Media = 4

Umbrella = 1

Breakopen Renewals = 1

Breakopen NEW= 8

Texas Hold'em = 2

Regular Raffle = 1

Large Raffle = 0

Gaming Rules!

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December 2008

IGR 2008 Christmas Card Contest held at St. Mary's Inner City School

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Every year, IGR holds a Christmas Card design contest at a selected school. This year, it was St. Mary's Community School. The school is located in the Saskatoon inner-city neighborhood of Pleasant Hill. Selected artwork is put on the IGR corporate Christmas cards.

The 220 students at the school are predominantly First Nations. The cultural backgrounds of the students is reflected in the programming and extra-curricular activities at the school. Each Monday morning students and staff gather in the gym to smudge and share successes and announce upcoming events.

Students at St. Mary's that participated in the contest submitted artwork that illustrated what Christmas meant to them in their culture. Students were divided into three age categories of Kindergarten to Grade 3, Grades 4 to 6, and Grades 7 to 8.

A submission from each group was framed and presented to the school for display. All participants received a gift and the school received a cash donation for its cultural programs. One piece of artwork was chosen to be used for IGR's annual Christmas card mail-out. Congratulations to Montana

Netmaker whose artwork was chosen for the IGR 2008 Christmas Card.

In addition to the Christmas Card Contest, IGR chose St. Mary's Community School as its Christmas partner for 2008. IGR staff gathered donations of gifts and non-perishable food items for the families of St. Mary's Community School.



St. Mary's Community School Students sporting their IGR toques.



Nehiyaw Christmas Gala Raises Funds for Saskatoon Food Bank Christmas

The Second Annual Nehiyaw Christmas was held at Dakota Dunes December 4, 2008. The event raised \$90,000 for the Saskatoon Food Bank.

The event began last year when FSIN Chief Lawrence Joseph saw a need to fundraise for the Saskatoon Food Bank. He decided to call on some of the



Photo courtesy of Gary Arcand

talented musicians he knew to put on a benefit concert. An amazing array of talent starred

in both events. Featured entertainers from the well-known *Voices of the North Talent Show* starred in this year's event. The crowd was treated to songs from:

Chief Lawrence Joseph headlined the entertainers and was joined by Charity Greyeyes, Mitch Daigneault, Mo Tourand, Lisa Lambert, Darwin Roy, Connie Mike and Greg Edmunds. Planning is already underway for the 2009 event.

Carry the Kettle First Nation Looking Forward to Fundraising Projects



Carry the Kettle is another First Nation that has joined IGR'S family of Licensed charities.

They have recently decided to take advantage of the provincial grant and are using their charitable gaming funds to assist the band's numerous unfunded program areas that assist age groups that range from youth to elders.

Their primary objective for fundraising will be for the Saskatchewan Indian Summer and Winter games.

Their plans are to host a bingo at least once per week starting in the new year and they really appreciate the fact that IGR will come out and help train them in

regards to the filling out of their event reports. They also plan to utilize the services of IGR's charitable gaming training officer who will come out and assist the Bands in regards to reviewing their Bingo programs and operations. IGR encourages all charities to utilize the training service.

The Carry the Kettle Community Fundraising Group currently consists of Freda O'Watch, Holly Thomson, Gwen Sugar and Rose Eashappie. They are always on the lookout for volunteers to assist in all their activities and would like to encourage all band members and nearby communities to come out and support their fundraising events.



Regulate the Future to Preserve the Past

Message From IGR Board of Directors



Chief Lawrence Joseph,
Chairman of the IGR Board of Directors

Seasons Greetings! On behalf of the IGR Board of Directors, I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. This is a time to enjoy with our families. Thank you to those people that supported the second annual Nehiyaw Christmas Food bank Gala and other fundraising projects.

I congratulate the young people of St. Mary's Community School on their overwhelming participation in the 2008 IGR Christmas Card Contest. It is important for First Nations and non First Nations people alike to maintain their sense of cultural identity and celebrate special times such as Christmas in their own way.

The year 2008 was a busy one at IGR that marked the one year anniversary of the implementation of the Licensing Agreement. Successful operation in the first year illustrates that IGR, our First Nations regulator, is carrying out the vision of the FSIN Chiefs-in-Assembly to self-regulate.

We are steadily advancing towards the goal of First Nations exercising full jurisdiction over First Nations Gaming.

I look forward to seeing more IGR successes in the year 2009.

Facts about Gambling & Problem Gambling in Canada

In Canada gambling operates exclusively under the control of the provincial and territorial governments.

In 2005, the national average spent on all government-run gambling (less winnings) was \$513.00.

In 2006, net revenue from government-run lotteries, video lottery terminals (electronic gaming machines that allow betting through a video game; VLTs) and casinos was \$13.3 billion compared to \$2.7 billion in 1992.

In 2006, 40,000 Canadians were employed in the gaming

industry compared to 11,000 in 1992.

Spending on gambling in Canada is larger than the magazine, book, spectator sport, movie theatre and performing arts industries combined.

2.5%-3.5% of adult Canadians are moderate risk gamblers or are affected by problem gambling.

Manitoba and Saskatchewan have the highest prevalence of gambling problems while Quebec and New Brunswick have the lowest prevalence rates.

In 2005, Canada had over 40,000 total gaming venues and over 96,000 games.

In 2005, roughly 29,262 charitable licenses were issued across the country.

Source:

www.ProblemGambling.ca
Updated March 2008

Gambling Quote....

"Depend on the rabbit's foot if you will, but remember it didn't work for the rabbit."- R. E. Shay

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