



GAMING RULES!

ISSUE #9

OCTOBER 2005

MESSAGE FROM FSIN VICE CHIEF DELBERT WAPASS

Greetings and Welcome to the 9th edition of IGR's "Gaming Rules!" newsletter.

As the Pow-wow season winds down, I would like to thank all of those who came out to celebrate with our communities. I look forward to seeing each and every one of you at the First Nations Centennial Pow-wow on October 14-16, 2005 at the Credit Union Centre in Saskatoon, SK.

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations affiliated groups and networks are working very hard to rejuvenate and develop our First Nations communities despite the many unforeseen roadblocks and diversions that appear when least expected. However with the support of the

many dedicated individuals and their commitment to ensuring the success of their endeavors, these obstacles can be overcome.

IGR is one of those institutions. The organization has been involved in consultations with First Nations people, Chiefs, Councils, community members and those directly involved in gaming activity. It has been an incredible learning process, and we have made great progress in designing a system that will be a model for First Nations to adopt to ensure the success of on-reserve charitable gaming ventures.

The majority of First Nations already have a model for charitable gaming activity that works

well for them, and provides much needed relief to organizations and people in need. IGR's goal is to make certain that the licensing and regulatory model that is built supports and compliments what is already working. I expect that, in a very short time, IGR will be in a position to license and regulate on-reserve charitable gaming.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the leadership of the First Nations. Your support of IGR through BCR's, or by providing valuable advice, has enabled the Indigenous Gaming Regulators to be on the forefront of First Nations gaming regulation in Canada.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- IGR can now be found on the World Wide Web at www.igr.ca
- You can visit IGR's staff and enter to win prizes at the FSIN Pow-Wow October 15 & 16
- Do you have a question or comment for IGR? Call us at 1-877-477-4114 or email info@igr.ca

IGR TOLL-FREE 1-877-477-4114

IGR is pleased to announce that you can now contact us toll-free. President and CEO Greg Ahenakew says "The simple matter is we would like to have First Nation's communities, charities and concerned members of the public call us without having to access a long-distance line". This new toll-free number will further IGR's ability to work with First Nation's communities and prevent charities from having to spend their dollars on contacting IGR, "More dollars will go to the

charities and communities who need it".

Because of the geographic separation of most of our communities, almost every call would incur a long-distance charge. IGR believes in making the licensing and regulation process as easy as possible. Groups or people who participate in charitable gaming can call in with questions, reports, suggestions or even complaints.

IGR is in the process of conducting Charitable Gaming



IGR Community Liaison Officers Rene Wuttunee and Mary Culbertson consult with the staff of Keethanow Bingo North in Lac La Ronge.

Workshops and developing a "First Nations Bingo Model" in consultation with bingo operators. If you would like to schedule a workshop or consultation, or you would like further information about IGR, you can call us toll-free at 1-877-477-4114.

BOARD PROFILE: CHIEF GUY LARIVIERE

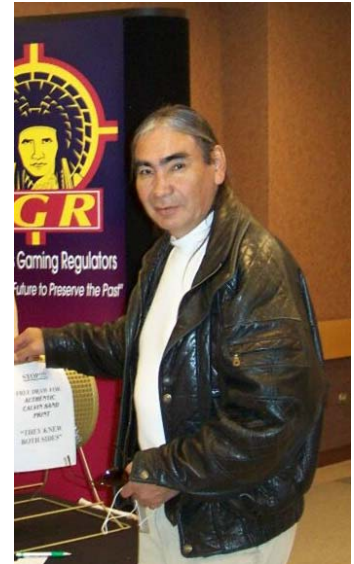
Chief Guy Lariviere was born and raised on the Canoe Lake First Nation in Treaty 10 Territory. He graduated from high school on his reserve and continued his post-secondary schooling at the University of Regina. Chief Lariviere worked in the Social Services field for 6 years before becoming Band Administrator for his First Nation. He was a band councillor for two terms before deciding to run for Chief in 1993. Chief Lariviere has been a strong and

committed leader of his people. He led them to their historic land claim settlement for loss of land use due to development and operation of the Primrose Lake Air Weapons Range.

Chief Lariviere views Indigenous Gaming Regulators as a regulatory body we want to have for all First Nations at the band level. He feels IGR is needed to ensure all on-reserve gaming is account-

able and done in a fair and consistent manner. Chief Lariviere firmly believes this is an important step towards our First Nations' ultimate goal – jurisdiction.

Chief Lariviere says his position is a 24/7 job, so any spare time he has he likes to spend with family. He has contributed enormously to IGR through his leadership and position on IGR's Board of Directors.



Chief Guy Lariviere at IGR's booth during the 2004 AFN Assembly in Saskatoon.

LICENSING, HERE'S WHERE IT'S AT...

One of the most common questions that IGR staff hear when we are out in the community is "when are you going to be licensing"?

As in previous issues of "Gaming Rules" we have let you know about the Licensing Agreement. This is the agreement that IGR is negotiating with the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority (SLGA).

This agreement will outline the scope of IGR's licensing & regulatory responsibilities.

According to the 2002 Framework Agreement and the 2002 SIGL Regulatory Agreement, licensing & regulation must remain substantially the same on and off the reserves, but can take into consideration the unique circumstances in our First Nation communities.

This process is lengthy, and complicated. The terms & conditions that go with the Licensing Agreement must be carefully drawn and agreed upon by both parties.

IGR has been very successful in reaching many of its milestones. The progression of the negotiation is coming along in a very positive manner and IGR hopes to have completed an "Agreement in Principle" by calendar year end.

"The Staff of IGR would like to thank the people of Canoe Lake for their hospitality during the August 11th & 31st visits (2005)."

CANOE LAKE COMMUNITY PROFILE

The Canoe Lake Cree Nation is comprised of six different parcels of land including the main community located next to Canoe Lake, Saskatchewan, which is home for the majority of the population. The Chief and six elected Councillors continue to effectively manage all Canoe Lake Cree Nation affairs for the membership, which includes

approximately 1730 members. The main community includes a band office adjoined to a health centre, band hall, education centre, daycare, arena, high school and various other services. Other resources include a land base rich with boreal forest and wildlife and a lake useful for a variety of eco-tourism and fishing opera-

tions. The Canoe Lake Cree Nation continues to conserve its healthy natural resources and explore the tourism opportunities available within their location.

(Directly from www.mltc.net Canoe Lake Community Profile)



Canoe Lake

NORTH AMERICA GAMING NEWSBITS

The Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation began a new effort to revitalize the charitable bingo industry in Ontario. On Sept 27, 2005 players will see new features in their halls such as video bingo terminals and handheld devices which can be used instead of the traditional daber. In response from communities to revive the bingo industry in the province the government announced these new initiatives in January 2005.

The Saskatchewan Government has mandated SIGA to pay the Prairieland Park Exhibition Association a lump sum yearly for 30 years and offer all qualified staff employment at their new Dakota Dunes Casino. This is in exchange for closing the Emerald Casino which the exhibition association operates in Saskatoon. The current facility has a number of table games and VLT's. Prairieland Park will continue to offer horseracing, off-track betting and a dozen VLT's once the

Dakota Dunes is in operation. A similar agreement was made with the Silver Sage Casino's operators and the government when Casino Regina opened its doors in 1996.

The San Manuel Indian Bingo and Casino in California will now be offering alcoholic beverages on their bingo and casino floors after a legal challenge from local residents failed as of September 27, 2005.



Cowessess' youth center—recently opened, a place for young people to hang out and shoot pool, play foosball or bowl.

DESIGNING A FIRST NATION'S MODEL FOR BINGO

How does your community operate your bingo hall?

Who better to inform IGR of what's going on in grassroots fundraising than the First Nation's People in their own communities!

IGR is building a model for licensing and regulating on-reserve Bingo operations taking into account the special circumstances on the reserves and the related challenges. For the last few months Community Liaison Officers and Licensing Staff have been observing operations

from across the province, including Lac La Ronge, Canoe Lake, Muskowekwan, Cote and Cowessess.

This exercise has given IGR a better understanding of the way First Nations are operating so that we may create a regulation model that augments what is already in place on most reserves. IGR can only provide First Nations with the highest level of licensing and regulatory services if we know what is going on in our communities and what each fundraising group's

needs are.

These consultations have also helped connect IGR with the people who will be dealing with us the most. It is encouraging that many operators, staff and directors of bingo operations in our communities have been more than willing to provide information. In fact, several groups have requested more guidance and information about models for charitable gaming undertakings so that they may run more efficient operations themselves.

IGR would like to thank:

- Beardy's & Okemasis
- Cote
- Cowessess
- Hatchet Lake
- James Smith
- Kahkewistahaw
- Lac La Ronge
- One Arrow

for welcoming IGR's staff onto their Nations in August and September 2005.

U OF S CAMPUS BOWL POW-WOW

Welcoming back all students and staff to another exciting school season, the University of Saskatchewan Aboriginal Student's Association held and kicked off its annual 'Welcome Back' Pow-wow Thursday September 15/05. Opening prayers by elders and remarks by First Nation Leaders took place to honor and commemorate all

students returning back or beginning a new year of studies.

Throughout the day, song and dance erupted beautifully all over the Campus Bowl setting. Singers and dancers from all over had the opportunity to share and display their talents for the entire crowd to enjoy. The Indigenous Gaming Regulators were there to take in the day,

handing out IGR water bottles, as well as taking memorable pictures of the day's event. Hard work and teamwork made the day a huge success, bringing First Nations and non-First Nations peoples together in celebrating our culture and most importantly supporting all students for another year of higher learning.



University of Saskatchewan Campus Bowl Pow-wow

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ – Poker – Are Poker Tournaments Legal?

IGR’s advice is to consult with your lawyer in any situation if you plan to attend or host a poker tournament.

All forms of gambling are illegal in Canada unless licensed by a provincial government. However, it is our understanding that low limit poker games played in the privacy of one’s own house may be legal if there is no “rake”. A “rake” is a commission or charge levied by the “house”, or the operator of the game. Because Section 204(b) of the *Criminal Code of Canada* allows “private bets between individuals who are not engaged in the business of betting”, home games in which no person or organization makes a profit simply for hosting or operating the game may be legal.

Any form of poker (except video poker) is considered a ‘Table

Game’. Currently, this form of gaming is licensed in Saskatchewan in casinos (*Criminal Code*, Section 207(1)(a)), and in ‘fairs and exhibitions’ (*Criminal Code*, Section 207(1)(c)). In any situation, if you are holding or attending a poker event, IGR advises that you seek legal advice prior to doing so. It is our understanding that IGR will not be regulating Poker Tournaments on reserves - unless they are conducted in SIGA casinos - as they do not fall within the scope of ‘charitable gaming’.



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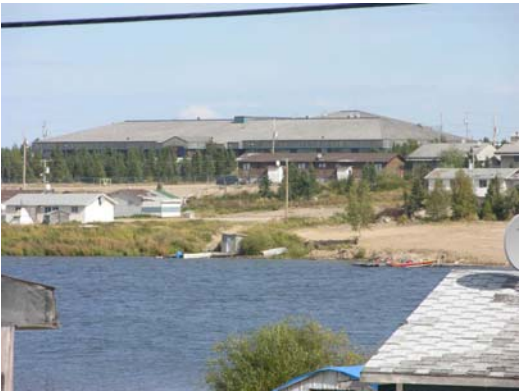
HATCHET LAKE—WHERE THE ROAD ENDS

On September 8th, 2005 IGR’s Community Liaison Officers Mary Culbertson and Rene Wuttunee had the opportunity to visit **Hatchet Lake Denesuline Nation**. Hatchet Lake is a Dene community in the northeastern part of Saskatchewan on Wollaston Lake. This community of 1800 is accessible by air or by road via highways 102 and 905 (about 450 km past La Ronge) and a 3 hour ferry ride across Wollaston Lake.

While the point of this trip was to meet with the Hatchet Lake Chief and Council, the IGR staff also toured the community, taking pictures of local people and scenery. Additionally, they had the opportunity to have a private tour of Wollaston Lake courtesy of a young member of the Hatchet Lake First Nation and his son.

Although Hatchet Lake is an isolated community with some of the social issues that go along with being remote, it is also a very friendly place. Young and old alike speak the Dene language and live very closely to the land, as their ancestors have done for centuries. With pristine untouched wilderness on the back step of this close-knit community, it is little wonder why the Denesuline of this community choose to live here far away from the hustle and bustle of the big cities. The Chief and Council are working hard to improve the lives of the people of Hatchet Lake through different initiatives, partnerships and economic ventures.

IGR’s staff wishes to thank everyone in Hatchet Lake for their hospitality and promise to visit again soon!



Hatchet Lake Photos: TOP LEFT—A view of Hatchet Lake. LEFT—IGR CLO Rene Wuttunee gets a tour of Wollaston Lake with some local guides. RIGHT—A well used bench outside of the Hatchet Lake Band store hosts some old-timers as they take a break from the day.

