

IGR President and CEO Message

Greetings to all of our *Gaming Rules* readers on behalf of IGR management and staff. IGR was proud to co-host the First Nations Gaming Expo in August that showcased First Nations accomplishments in the gaming industry. As the First Nations gaming regulator, we contribute to the movement towards full jurisdiction over gaming as well as the well-being of First Nations communities.

I remind our readers that any on-reserve Bingos, Breakopens, Raffles, Texas Hold'em or Monte Carlo events that are licensed and provide up to date reporting qualify for a grant equal to twenty-five percent of net proceeds. That is a welcome bonus for the hard work of on-reserve volunteers that adds funds for those in need of charitable gaming revenues.



IGR President and CEO
Gregory Ahenakew

We are now a month into the school year and First Nations Communities have settled back into their routines. This means that most communities have taken an inventory of their fundraising needs for the year. Charitable Gaming offers the perfect opportunity to raise funds for First Nations communities while providing a recreational and social outlet.

The staff at IGR welcome the opportunity to attend meetings in First Nations Communities to assist with the licensing process. Please contact the Licensing and Communications Department on our convenient toll-free number at 1-877-477-4114 to arrange for a meeting.

September 2009 Update on Licensing Current Charitable Gaming On-Reserve

Type	Licensed	In-Progress	Totals
Class A Bingo	3	1	4
Class B Bingo	22	0	22
Class C Bingo	38	4	42
Media Bingo	7	0	7
Breakopens	38	0	38
Texas Hold'em Poker	2	0	2
Monte Carlo	0	0	0
SIGA Table Games	14	0	14
Totals	124	5	129

GET LICENSED!

Do you currently fundraise through charitable gaming, or plan to do so in the future?

Effective April 2, 2007, IGR licenses and regulates on-reserve Bingos, Breakopens, Raffles, Texas Hold'em Poker Tournaments, Monte Carlo Events and SIGA Table Games.

INDIGENOUS GAMING REGULATORS IS YOUR FIRST NATIONS GAMING REGULATOR.

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
Tel: (306)477-5700 Fax: (306)477-5704
Toll Free: 1-877-477-4114

"Regulate the Future to Preserve the Past"



Gaming Rules!

From Traditional Hand Games to Destination Resorts

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On August 25th to 26th Indigenous Gaming Regulators, Inc. co-hosted the first gaming expo with Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations.. The conference created an opportunity to meet and hear from gaming professionals from across North America. This conference also allowed participants to share information, exchange ideas on trends and best practices plus share strategies and tools on strengthening partnerships and building relationships in the area of First Nation gaming.

cloud site at Wanuskewin Heritage Park which were dated at about 300 hundred years old. This archaeological evidence supports the assertion of the right to operation of First Nation casinos in Saskatchewan.

The conference welcomed our American gaming counterpart Gary Weddell, General Manager of Cherokee Casino, Kevin Leecy of the National Indian Gaming Association and Norm Desrosiers of the National Indian Gaming Commission.

A number of eminent speakers and participants were in attendance at the conference. One of the highlights included a golf tournament on Monday August 24th that was well attended with fabulous weather. Another highlight was a hand games demonstration that was delivered by members of Onion Lake First Nation.

The organizers of the conference were pleased with the attendance and believe that everyone who attended went away with a positive appreciation of gaming in Saskatchewan.

From a historical perspective, Dr. Ernie Walker provided the audience with ethnographic and archaeological evidence on gaming on the Great Plains and western North America. From Dr. Walker's presentation, gaming existed on the Great Plains and most particularly, two gaming pieces recovered from the Thunder-



Hand Games Team from Onion Lake

Gaming in Other Jurisdictions The Cherokee Nation

In June of this year, the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) released their report on Indian gaming in the U.S. The report was based on revenues collected from more than 240 Indian tribes engaged in gaming with more than 400 casinos and bingo halls operating in 28 states with the total 26.7 billion in revenue. This was an increase of 2.3% from the previous year. The National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) is an independent regulatory agency established within the Department of the Interior pursuant to the *Indian Gaming Regulatory Act* of 1988.

The NIGC report states that the country is divided into seven regions and says that the strongest growth occurred in Oklahoma with 31 gaming tribes that operate 101 Casinos and Bingo Halls. The First Nations Gaming Expo was pleased to have our American counterpart in gaming, Gary Weddell, speak at the conference. Mr.

Weddell is the general manager of Cherokee Casino in West Siloam Springs, Oklahoma which is operated by Cherokee Nation Entertainment, a tribal company.



The Cherokee casino has expanded their \$108 million facility to include 600 new slot machines, 10 more poker tables, more restaurants and a bigger night club with a dance floor. Due to this expansion, greater attention is paid to marketing and hospitality

in order to increase profitability for the casino.

Mr. Weddell has been the general manager of Cherokee casino for the last five years. He brings tremendous experience and creativity to his job of managing one of 101 Indian run casinos in Oklahoma. One of the biggest challenges is attracting patrons to his casino so he has to come up with creative and innovative ideas on attracting and keeping customers and patrons coming back to the casino. In the beginning, he stated that it was trial and error with some of the ideas but now he has a better idea of what promotions are appealing that would keep attendance levels high.

In Mr. Weddell's case, competition is extremely high when there are over 100 casinos and bingo halls operating in the state of Oklahoma but there are no complaints from Mr. Weddell who obviously enjoys his job and looks forward to the challenges and successes of his casino.

Message From IGR Board of Directors

The IGR Board of Directors is happy to announce that a record number of First Nations have chosen to license their on-reserve gaming operations with IGR. There are presently 117 IGR licensed operations on Saskatchewan First Nations. This means that a whopping 84% of First Nations Gaming operations are licensed by IGR.

The Board of Directors looks forward to a continuing trend of growth and positive movement towards full jurisdiction over gaming. IGR is but one of the Institutions of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations that contributes to the self-determination of First Nations citizens.

The Board of Directors are pleased with the continued sound management practices that make IGR one of the most well-run Aboriginal institutions in existence. The financial management of IGR continues to be second to none.

It was evident at the First Nations Gaming Expo that IGR along with the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority are leaders in the Gaming industry across North America. We were proud to co-host the gaming expo and sincerely hope that it will continue on a national scope so that other jurisdictions will join in and build on the successes that we have achieved in Saskatchewan.

The Board of Directors strongly encourages those few First Nations that have not yet become licensed with IGR to take the initiative to do so. The friendly and helpful staff are only a phone call away from visiting your community and assisting you with the licensing process.

The Board of Directors wishes to officially recognize and congratulate those First Nations Chiefs and Councils who have made the decision to ensure charities within their jurisdiction are licensed. Also thanks to the volunteers for their hard work and dedication to helping the communities through charitable gaming.

IGR Board Member Profile - Chief Calvin Sanderson

Chief Calvin Sanderson was elected for a third term and is currently pursuing their land claim with Indian Claims Commission. The Federal Government had rejected their claim in October 2008 and Chakastapaysin First Nation will be initiating a settlement through the courts or the tribunal process. Chief Sanderson has stated that Chakastapaysin members are seeking their own land-base so they are able to carry on the legacy of their forefathers. Having their claim settled will be "justice at last" for Chakastapaysin First Nation.

Chief Sanderson was pleased when his membership voted to re-elect him and he continues to lead his membership to overcome challenges, seek opportunities and achieve success. Chief Sanderson strongly believes in their land claim and will continue to carry on the legacy for his membership so that they will have their own land-base for future generations.

Chakastapaysin First Nation are currently facilitating two projects, hydro and diamond mining with many benefits including long-term opportunities for their band members and the surrounding communities. Chief Sanderson views

the hydro project as a sound economic investment. With no emissions and costing \$200 million it is expected that the construction will begin in about 4 and half years. Some of the long-term benefits will produce 400 to 700 hundred jobs with emphasis on First Nation employees, along with increased tourism in their region. The Hydro project will also produce a reservoir which will be good for fishing but more importantly annual dividends which will benefit the communities of Chakastapaysin and James Smith First Nation.

Chief Sanderson is currently negotiating impact benefits agreements with the diamond mine developers so that Chakastapaysin citizens are ensured jobs and future dividends. More importantly contamination would be limited by strictly complying with environmental regulations proposed by stakeholders to the development. Chief Sanderson states that 19 municipalities surrounding James Smith First Nation where Chakastapaysin members live are in support of the two projects being developed and Chief Sanderson has the confidence of his membership and will strive to work hard so his membership will gain the benefits that they deserve.

Chakastapaysin Community Profile

Chakastapaysin is an independent First Nation being unaffiliated with any Tribal Council. It is located near the James Smith Reserve.

Chakastapaysin is located in Treaty 6 territory. The language of the people is Cree. It is a relatively new band that was recognized in 2003. This was due to a long struggle for compensation for alienation of the original lands through an illegitimate process by government officials. Chakastapaysin First Nation was one of several bands in the Treaty 6 area that were left off treaty signing at Fort Carlton in 1876. Chakastapaysin First Nation was originally located near Birch Hills and west of Muskoday First Nation and their current membership is 986 members. All live on James Smith First Nation.

Chakastapaysin falls under the James Smith administration. Band members share the same territory, administration, programs and services delivery with the members of James Smith and Peter Chapman First Nations.