



manitoba
gambling **research**
PROGRAM

2012 Funded Research



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We welcome you to subscribe to our e-news service, connecting you with:

- Reminders for important dates in the grant solicitation calendar
- Information about Focused Research Projects
- Research findings announcements
- News releases
- Program report announcements

About the Program

The Manitoba Gambling Research Program builds gambling research capacity in the province and supports the development of high quality research. The program funds research that supports the advancement of responsible gaming programs and that increases our understanding of problem gambling prevention and treatment. Research opportunities are available to researchers across Canada.

A Research Council, consisting of community members and provincial gambling stakeholders, oversees the research funding. The Council provides oversight to the program, and makes decisions regarding which research projects to conduct and fund based on the program's annual research priorities.

All research proposals and reports are peer reviewed to ensure their relevance and quality. Peer review is universally recognized as the most impartial and effective way to allocate research funds and ensure quality research. Our review process is based on the principle that scientific peers are best placed to evaluate the quality and relevance of a research proposal while ensuring that the process of adjudication remains as independent and objective as possible. Peer reviewers from Canada and around the world are asked to provide written assessments of proposals, recommendations for funding, and reviews of final research reports.

The Manitoba Gambling Research Program, managed by Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries, is an element of the corporation's responsible gaming strategy.

Purpose

To build gambling research capacity and support the development of high quality research that enables evidence-based advancement of responsible gaming programs, and problem gambling prevention and treatment.

Values

Integrity

We operate with the highest degree of credibility and transparency.

Quality

We conduct research projects that adhere to rigorous research standards.

Relevance

We develop gambling research projects that are valuable and have practical application for Manitobans.

Collaboration

We engage gambling stakeholders in Manitoba through the Research Council.

Capacity

We support the development of existing and new researchers in the field of responsible gaming and problem gambling research.

Sharing Information

We facilitate information transfer among stakeholders and government to inform evidence-based decisions in responsible gaming and problem gambling treatment.

Message from the Research Council Chair

As the inaugural Chair of the Research Council for the Manitoba Gambling Research Program, I am pleased to share some highlights from our first year in operation.

The Manitoba Gambling Research Program is proud to inform you that in 2012, it committed funding for 11 applications across the various grant categories. These applications, which entail multi-year projects, represent \$821,000, including 31% of the available 2012/13 research fund, and 30% of the 2013/14 fund.

This is a healthy beginning to a new program. We have enjoyed building awareness of our program, as well as forming positive relationships with the research community in Manitoba and elsewhere in Canada. We look forward to continuing to work closely with you into the future.

Since our launch in December 2011, we have built a network of researchers and colleagues across Canada and beyond, with whom we connect principally through ManitobaGamblingResearch.com and our free e-news service. Our program staff has developed this comprehensive website that makes the funding application process transparent and convenient. As the program matures and research is completed, you will also find all research findings on the site. We encourage your feedback to continue improving this already exceptional online tool.

On behalf of the Research Council, I express gratitude to our peer reviewers, who volunteer in their professional capacity to ensure that the research we fund is selected and completed according to rigorous academic standards.

I would also like to thank the other members of the Research Council for their insights and commitment. The Research Council as a whole expresses its appreciation for the diligence and dedication shown by the program's staff and Council consultants. We look forward to continuing to build on the research capacity in Manitoba and throughout Canada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Linda Taylor

Research Council Members

Community Members



Linda Taylor, Chair



Leah Gazan



Anastasia Sych-Yereniuk

Academic Representative



David Hodgins, Ph.D.
University of Calgary

Provincial Stakeholder Representatives

Yvonne Block,

Chief Executive Officer, Addictions Foundation of Manitoba

Tina Leclair,

Executive Director, Addictions Policy and Support Branch, Manitoba Healthy Living,
Seniors and Consumer Affairs

Susan Olynik,

Vice President, Corporate Communications and Social Responsibility, Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries

Elizabeth Stephenson,

Director of Research and Communications, Manitoba Gaming Control Commission

Program Staff

Richard Lennon, M.A.

Manager, Responsible Gaming Research and Program Development

Carly Sacco, M.A.

Responsible Gaming Research Analyst

2012 Research Priorities

The program's research priorities were identified by Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries through consultations with key stakeholders in Manitoba and leading researchers, treatment providers, and prevention organizations worldwide. Any research funded through the Manitoba Gambling Research Program must fit within the current year's research priorities.

Responsible Gaming Strategies:

Advancing strategies designed to support key responsible gaming priorities including prevention, harm minimization and problem gambling support and referral.

Informed Decision Making Model:

1. Explore ways to create demand and interest in individuals across the range of gambling risk behaviors for information designed to assist players in making informed decisions.
2. Identify effective approaches to address erroneous beliefs about gambling.
3. Investigate how attitudes about money and the value of money impact gambling decisions.
4. Increase understanding about the responsible gaming and problem gambling information needs of different population segments and how best to reach them, e.g. youth, older adults, males and females, ethnic groups, individuals with mental illness, immigrant groups.

Pre-Commitment Strategies:

5. Explore the utility and effectiveness of pre-commitment strategies and tools in helping players maintain control over their gambling.

Assisting Gaming Customers:

6. Identify effective approaches for interacting with players at gaming sites who may be exhibiting signs of at risk or problem gambling.

Onsite Responsible Gaming Player Information:

7. Identify effective approaches to providing on-site responsible gaming information to players aimed at promoting responsible play, and providing problem gambling support and referral information to customers.

Voluntary Exclusion:

8. Identify effective practices and processes that will encourage casino players to link to support and assistance services following enrolment in a voluntary exclusion program.
9. Identify effective practices and processes to minimize the number of voluntary exclusion breaches.

Gambling Continuum & Behaviours:

Understanding what influences movement and stability across the range of gambling behaviours.

10. Explore what risk and protective factors (individual, social, environmental) influence the movement back and forth between no risk and problem gambling risk levels.
11. Examine what constitutes normative gambling (i.e. no risk or low risk) and what key factors keep gambling at a non-problem or low risk level.

Understanding Problem Gambling Risk & Program Responses:

Effectively responding to the needs of individuals and families with gambling problems.

12. Identify factors (individual or societal) that increase an individual's motivation to seek and commit to treatment and/or change.
13. Examine the relationship between co-occurring disorders and at risk/problem gambling, and explore the implications for treatment.
14. Examine which types of at-risk and problem gamblers could benefit from various brief interventions.
15. Identify the major factors that may influence individuals to experience rapid treatment improvements.
16. Examine which treatment modalities and approaches offer the most potential for effectively addressing problem gambling.

Emerging Technologies & Responsible Gaming:

Understanding the potential of technological developments in gaming to improve responsible gaming tools and problem gambling responses.

17. Examine the potential of technological features or tools in assisting players in managing and monitoring their play.
18. Examine the effectiveness of online interventions and information in preventing and/or assisting individuals with gambling problems.

Projects Funded

The Manitoba Gambling Research Program accepts research proposals within two different streams:

- Research Grants – four different types are available for researchers to pursue projects within the program’s research priorities.
- Focused Research Projects – provide the opportunity for researchers to investigate specific questions, as identified by the Research Council.

In its first year of operation, the program has made eleven awards, valued at \$821,009 over the next three years.

Large Grants

Gambling to Relax and Gambling to Forget: Questionnaire and Daily Diary Studies of Subtypes of Coping Motives for Gambling

Investigators	Dr. Sherry Stewart, Dalhousie University Dr. Michael Ellery, University of Manitoba Dr. Abby Goldstein, University of Toronto
Research Priority	Examine the relationship between co-occurring disorders and at risk/problem gambling, and explore the implications for treatment.
Funding	Large Grant \$450,000

Gambling to cope with negative emotions is related to excessive gambling and gambling problems. However, people experience a range of negative emotions, including feelings of depression and anxiety, and may have different reasons for gambling related to these emotions. As a result, it is important to understand whether the gambling motives of people who gamble to cope with anxiety are different from those of people who gamble to cope with depression. The goal of this research is to examine a motivational model of gambling to cope with negative emotions.

This research involves two studies. The first will examine the stability of various gambling motives, including gambling to cope with depression and gambling to cope with anxiety, using an expanded version of the Gambling Motives Questionnaire. The second study will use a daily diary method with gamblers to examine the relations between specific negative mood states and gambling behavior among those who gamble to cope with anxiety or depression.

Both studies will increase our understanding of what influences movement and stability in gambling behaviours and increases risk for problem gambling. Results will address whether refinements to existing motivation-matched interventions are needed and will identify precise intervention targets for gamblers who gamble to cope with anxiety and depression.

Small Grants

Play-for-Fun Gambling Activities: An Examination of our Current Knowledge

Investigators	Dr. Jeffrey Derevensky, McGill University Dr. Rina Gupta, McGill University Dr. Michael Ellery, University of Manitoba
Research Priority	Explore what risk and protective factors (individual, social, environmental) influence the movement back and forth between no risk and problem gambling risk levels.
Funding	Small Grant \$20,000

The Activation of Explicit and Implicit Gambling Outcome Expectancies in Response to Gambling Cues and Responsible Gambling Messages

Investigators	Dr. Sherry Stewart, Dalhousie University Dr. Sunghwan Yi, University of Guelph Dr. Michael Ellery, University of Manitoba
Research Priority	Identify effective approaches to address erroneous beliefs about gambling.
Funding	Small Grant \$49,980

Cognitive and Personality Characteristics of Professional Poker Players

Investigators	Dr. Michael Ellery, University of Manitoba Dr. Bo J. Bernhard, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Research Priority	Examine what constitutes normative gambling (i.e. no risk or low risk) and what key factors keep gambling at a non-problem or low risk level.
Funding	Small Grant \$50,000

Gambling Motives, Cognitions and Personality of Frequent VLT Players

Investigators	Dr. Michael Ellery, University of Manitoba Dr. Vance MacLaren, Brandon University
Research Priority	Explore what risk and protective factors (individual, social, environmental) influence the movement back and forth between no risk and problem gambling risk levels.
Funding	Small Grant \$49,986

Studentship Grants

Problem Gambling: The Mediating Role of Impulsivity and Cognitive Bias

Student	Chad Graves, University of Manitoba
Research Priority	Explore what risk and protective factors (individual, social, environmental) influence the movement back and forth between no risk and problem gambling risk levels.
Funding	Studentship Grant; M.A. \$15,000

Electronic gambling machines (EGM) are a very popular form of gambling. Much of the research on EGMs has focused on the characteristics of the machines (how they reward players, their appearance, and availability) and how they influence players' behavior. Other gambling research has begun to examine the role of influences outside the machine, such as the characteristics of the people playing the machines. This study aims to contribute to gambling research by improving our understanding of how factors outside the gambling machine, such as personality characteristics, influence EGM play, and whether impulsivity or faulty thinking better explains how players with and without problems gamble differently.

A Longitudinal Investigation of the Problem Gambling Pathways Model with an Undergraduate Student Population

Student	Damien Dowd, University of Manitoba
Research Priority	Explore what risk and protective factors (individual, social, environmental) influence the movement back and forth between no risk and problem gambling risk levels.
Funding	Studentship Grant; Ph.D. \$60,000

Research examining a Pathways Model of pathological and problem gambling indicates that there may be three subtypes of problem gamblers that follow distinct pathways in developing gambling problems (behavioural, emotional, and antisocial impulsivity). Research investigating how gambling problems progress over time, according to this model, is lacking. Therefore, it is necessary to determine whether symptoms of depression or anxiety experienced by gamblers emerge prior to or after the development of problem gambling in order to further test the strength of the pathways model. Knowledge gained from this research could help to create better ways to diagnose and assess gambling pathologies based on how they co-exist with other psychiatric disorders that contribute to the development and maintenance of problem gambling.

Conference Grants

Recipient	Dr. Michael Ellery, University of Manitoba
Conference	September 30 – October 2, 2012 National Center for Responsible Gaming Conference
Funding	Conference Grant \$1,966

Recipient	Dr. Michael Ellery, University of Manitoba
Conference	November 5 – 8, 2012 Asia Pacific Conference on Gambling & Commercial Gaming Research
Funding	Conference Grant \$2,000

Focused Research Awards

Risk and Protective Factors of Gambling among Young Adults: Analysis of the Manitoba Longitudinal Study of Young Adults (MLSya) Data (Solicitation FR-12-14)

The goal of this solicitation is to initiate projects that analyze existing Manitoba Longitudinal Study of Young Adults (MLSya) data in order to identify protective and risk factors associated with safer gambling and risky gambling among young adults. Two projects received funding as a result of this solicitation.

Investigators	Dr. Sherry Stewart, Dalhousie University Dr. Sean Mackinnon, Dalhousie University
Funding	Focused Research Award \$57,500

This research examines the relationship between (a) personality variables and changes and stability in problem gambling over time; and (b) emotional disorder symptoms and changes and stability in problem gambling over time. In addition, the researchers will test the reliability and validity of the Gambling Motives Questionnaire among young adults and examine the mediating role of gambling motives in the relationship between personality variables and emotional disorder symptoms and changes and stability in gambling problems.

Investigators	Dr. Jason Edgerton, University of Manitoba Dr. Lance Roberts, University of Manitoba
Funding	Focused Research Award \$64,577

This research will consist of a series of analyses that will examine the stability, change and course of gambling behavior and problem gambling over time and the relationship between problem gambling and co-occurring disorders. The researchers will investigate patterns of movement in gambling behavior across time and how this movement is related to a variety of demographic and background variables. The temporal relationship between gambling behavior and substance use and between gambling behavior and depression and anxiety will also be examined.

Peer Reviewers

Alex Blaszczyński, Ph.D.

Professor and Chair
School of Psychology,
Director, Gambling Treatment Clinic
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Assistant Professor,
Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) Program,
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Thomas G. Brown, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor,
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Professor,
Department of Sociology,
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Frank Vitaro, Ph.D.

Professor,
Department of Psycho-Education,
University of Montreal

Harold Wynne, Ph.D.

Wynne Resources Ltd.
Calmar, Alberta

Solicitation Calendar

Please visit ManitobaGamblingResearch.com for specific closing dates, application criteria, and to subscribe to our e-news service for reminders on important closing dates. Each Research Grant and Focused Research Project has its own guide available on our website to download.

The Large Grant calendar is based upon the following timeline:

March Letter of Intent Due
May Letter of Intent Notifications
July Proposals Due
October Funding Notification

Small Grant Proposals are accepted three times per year:

February Proposals Due
June Funding Notification
July Proposals Due
October Funding Notification
September Proposals Due
January Funding Notification

Studentship Grant applications are accepted once per year:

March Applications Due
June Funding Notification

Conference Grant applications are accepted at any time during the year provided they are submitted prior to attending the conference/seminar. Notifications are provided within thirty (30) days of receiving the application.

Proposals for **Focused Research Projects** may be solicited at any time throughout the year. Key dates regarding the solicitation will be included in each Project Guide.

