



## NEWS RELEASE

---

# MANITOBA GAMBLING RESEARCH PROGRAM PROVIDES OVER \$800,000 IN GRANTS

**Research funded through two percent of net income committed to social responsibility**

**May 3, 2013** – ([www.ManitobaGamblingResearch.com](http://www.ManitobaGamblingResearch.com)) – New gambling research is underway in Manitoba that will assist in advancing responsible gaming programs, and problem gambling prevention and treatment. The Manitoba Gambling Research Program is funding 11 grants valued at just over \$821,000.

The program offers a variety of funding options to researchers across Canada. These grants support the development of quality research that is of relevance to Manitoba. Research funding is overseen by a Research Council that includes community and academic representatives. Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries financially supports and administers the program.

“This program supports relevant research with practical applications for Manitobans. It will improve our ability to prevent and treat problem gambling in Manitoba,” said Steve Ashton, Minister responsible for lotteries. “These grants are one example of our long-term commitment to funding social responsibility programming at Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries.”

“This research is unique and important, because all of these studies involve research expertise that is right here in Manitoba,” said Linda Taylor, Chair of the Research Council. “The program is building research capacity in the province, by funding students, supporting the work of local researchers, and providing a vehicle for these local researchers to collaborate with world-renowned gambling research experts.”

Among those conducting investigations through the program is established researcher Dr. Michael Ellery, Assistant Professor at the University of Manitoba, and colleague Dr. Vance MacLaren of Brandon University who recently moved to Manitoba in part to conduct this research.

“This program is opening a wealth of research opportunities in the province,” said Dr. Ellery. “For instance, how do daily changes in players’ moods affect their gambling? Or, how do gambling advertisements influence a player’s beliefs or expectations about gambling? These are some of the questions that my colleagues and I are looking into, thanks to this new program.”

Among the \$821,000 in grants awarded is a large three-year project, commencing in 2013, that will look more deeply into the roles that emotions play in gambling behaviour. Other research receiving financial support includes four small grants, two studentships, two conference grants, and two focused research awards.

The Manitoba Gambling Research Program launched in December 2011, with an inaugural grant solicitation in January 2012.

Manitoba Lotteries currently allocates two percent of annual net income towards problem and responsible gambling programs, services and research. In 2012/13, \$6.6 million has been allocated toward these initiatives including the Manitoba Gambling Research Program.

The Manitoba government has announced that it will introduce legislation that will direct two per cent of the net income of the newly merged Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries each year to responsible gaming and alcohol consumption initiatives, confirming a long-term commitment to social responsibility programs.

For more on the Manitoba Gambling Research Program, including complete details of funding categories and application information, visit [ManitobaGamblingResearch.com](http://ManitobaGamblingResearch.com). Researchers may also register for the program's e-news to be notified of important news and events.

- 30 -

**Background information attached.**

**For more information or to arrange an interview please contact:**

Lorne Kletke

Communications Officer

[lorne.kletke@mlc.mb.ca](mailto:lorne.kletke@mlc.mb.ca)

(204) 957-2500 ext. 2341

**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

Funding \$20,000 (1 year project; 2012-2013)

**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

Funding \$49,980 (1 year project; 2012- 2013)

**Cognitive and Personality Characteristics of Professional Poker Players**

Investigators Dr. Michael Ellery, University of Manitoba  
Dr. Bo Bernhard, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Funding \$50,000 (2 year project; 2013-2015)

**Gambling Motives, Cognitions and Personality of Frequent VLT Players**

Investigators Dr. Michael Ellery, University of Manitoba  
Dr. Vance MacLaren, Brandon University

Funding \$49,986 (1 year project; 2013-2014)

**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

Funding \$450,000 (3 year project; 2013-2016)

### **Studentship Grants**

#### **Problem Gambling: The Mediating Role of Impulsivity and Cognitive Bias**

Student Chad Graves, University of Manitoba  
Funding \$15,000 (1 year M.A. funding; 2012-2013)

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

Student Damien Dowd, University of Manitoba  
Funding \$60,000 (3 year Ph.D. funding; 2012-2015)

### **Conference Grants**

**Recipient Dr. Michael Ellery, University of Manitoba**  
Conference National Center for Responsible Gaming Conference  
Funding \$1,966

**Recipient Dr. Michael Ellery, University of Manitoba**  
Conference Asia Pacific Conference on Gambling & Commercial Gaming Research  
Funding \$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)**

Investigators Dr. Sherry Stewart, Dalhousie University  
Dr. Sean Mackinnon, Dalhousie University  
Funding \$57,500 (1 year project; 2013-2014)

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

Investigators Dr. Jason Edgerton, University of Manitoba  
Dr. Lance Roberts, University of Manitoba  
Funding \$64,576 (1 year project; 2013-2014)



## BACKGROUND: ABOUT THE PROGRAM

MAY 2013

- Launched in December 2011, the program directs up to \$1 million annually towards peer-reviewed research of relevance to Manitoba on responsible gaming and problem gambling prevention and treatment.
- Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries funds and administers the program, with funding overseen by a Research Council consisting of community and academic representatives. Provincial gambling stakeholders also sit on the council.
- The Research Council includes:

<b>Linda Taylor</b> Chairperson	<b>Leah Gazan</b> Member	<b>Elizabeth Stephenson</b> Manitoba Gaming Control Commission
<b>David Hodgins, PhD</b> University of Calgary	<b>Yvonne Block</b> Addictions Foundation of Manitoba	<b>Tina Leclair</b> Manitoba Healthy Living, Youth & Seniors
<b>Anastasia Sych-Yereniuk</b> Member	<b>Susan Olynik</b> Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries	
- **Large and Small Grants** provide academics the opportunity to pursue projects that enhance understanding of topics within the program's stated research priority areas (available online).
  - Large grants: up to \$450,000
  - Small grants: up to \$50,000
- **Focused Research Projects** allow researchers to investigate specific questions as identified by the Research Council.
- **Studentship Grants** strengthen gambling research capacity in Manitoba.
  - Masters Program: \$15,000 per year, maximum of two years
  - Doctoral Program: \$20,000 per year, maximum of three years
- **Conference Grants** provide Manitoba academics and students with the opportunity to participate in gambling related conferences.
- Research proposals and reports are peer reviewed to ensure their relevance and quality. The peer review process involves evaluation of the proposals and reports by other academic researchers who have expertise on the topic being studied.