



**RMA**  
RURAL MUNICIPALITIES  
*of* ALBERTA

# RMA Charitable Gaming Committee

Presentation to RMA Spring Convention

March 19, 2019

# Committee Members

- District 1/Committee Chair – Randy Taylor, County of Warner
- District 2 – Doreen Blumhagen, County of Paintearth
- District 3 – Doug Drozd, County of Barrhead
- District 4 – Dan Boisvert, Northern Sunrise County
- District 5 – Craig Lukinuk, Smoky Lake County
- AUMA – Charlene Smylie, Village of Wabamun
- AUMA – Michelle Kane, Policy Analyst



# Resolution 13-17F

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties establish an advisory committee with a mandate to provide a rural perspective in support of the efforts of the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission's commitment in moving forward with changes in the charitable gaming funding to treat all organizations equally across the province.





# Committee Mandate

The committee's role will focus on recommendations and improvements to the charitable gaming model to ensure the model is equitable to rural based organizations that are reliant, at least in part, on the revenues of charitable gaming.



# Current model

Region	# of Casinos
Edmonton	5
Calgary	5
Calgary Rural	1
Fort McMurray	1
Grande Prairie	1
Lethbridge	1
Red Deer	2
Medicine Hat	1
St. Albert	1
Camrose	1



# Current Regions

- Casino access determined by region
- Geographic size and number of charities in regions are not consistent
- Revenue within a region pooled over three months and shared equally among charities within that region.
- More detail on current regions available in RMA report

# Wait Times - 2017

Region	# of Casinos	Waiting Period (Months)
Edmonton	5	22.8
Calgary	5	19.9
Calgary Rural	1	35.7
Fort McMurray	1	16.5
Grande Prairie	1	32.8
Lethbridge	1	34
Red Deer	2	35.4
Medicine Hat	1	18.8
St. Albert	1	31.3
Camrose	1	39.8

# Per Event Proceeds - 2017

Region	Total Proceeds Per Event (\$)
Calgary	66,524
Edmonton	75,777
Calgary Rural	45,623
Fort McMurray	40,724
Grande Prairie	34,352
Lethbridge	30,236
Red Deer	22,026
Medicine Hat	14,638
St. Albert	20,197
Camrose	20,197



# Annualized Revenues - 2017

Region	Annualized Proceeds (\$)
Calgary	40,122
Edmonton	39,969
Calgary Rural	15,354
Fort McMurray	29,704
Grande Prairie	12,634
Lethbridge	10,681
Red Deer	7462
Medicine Hat	9371
St. Albert	7749
Camrose	6087

# Defining Equal

- Equality is very challenging in such a complex system
  - Equal access?
  - Equal revenue?
  - Unintended consequences of equality?
  - Equality versus simplicity.
- Maybe equality cannot happen all at once...

# Principles and Recommendations

- Five principles, four recommendations
- Principles: high level characteristics of an equal system
- Recommendations: specific ways to make the system more equal



# Principles

- Stability
- Equitable value
- Equitable access
- Flexibility
- Volunteer-driven



# Recommendation 1

Pool a portion of the revenues generated in each region and distribute equally to all regions.





# Recommendation 1

- Committee recommended 20% pooling
- 20% closes gap between haves and have-nots
- Edmonton and Calgary annualized proceeds decrease by approximately 15%
- All other regions increase by at least 21%
- Gap remains, but is reduced



# Why not equal?

Complete equality can only be achieved by eliminating regions or redrawing boundaries to allow for an equal number of charities per casino.

# Recommendation 2

Address inequities associated with the model



# Recommendation 2

- Travel costs:
  - Much higher for many organizations in low revenue regions – some organizations may use 13% or more of their proceeds for travel costs.
  - Create a travel cost pool: all regions contribute equally and organizations receive funding support from pool based on distance travelled.





# Recommendation 2

- More flexibility in date selection
- Incentivize unpopular dates (holidays, etc.)
- Allow assignment in neighboring regions with shorter waiting lists





# Recommendation 3

Stakeholders, including the AGLC, RMA and AUMA, should take a collaborative approach to improving the current gaming model



# Recommendation 3

- Collaborate for a fairer model
- Organizations should not be rewarded or penalized based on location
- Effective change must be gradual and collaborative, not based on conflict



# Recommendation 4

Regularly review the model and proceed towards equality



# Recommendation 4

- Review of model has been inconsistent
- Province must recognize equality as goal and work towards it in long-term
- Regular formal review and changes every five years



# Conclusion and Next Steps

- AGLC consultations underway, hopefully will continue post-election
- Participate, and use the RMA report as a resource!
- Read the report and contact any committee member with questions