

LOSING BET

The current charitable gaming model has real impacts on organizations and Albertans across the province. From Edmonton to Cypress County to Fort Vermilion, charitable gaming proceeds support the operational and programming of groups that make communities special. Community organizations in rural Alberta are often smaller, have limited revenue sources, and rely on charitable proceeds for core operating costs. Currently, Alberta's charitable gaming model is a "losing bet" for rural Alberta. The model requires rural organizations to travel further, wait longer, and earn lower revenues than organizations located in Edmonton or Calgary. Despite many years of advocacy from RMA and other rural stakeholders, the Government of Alberta has taken no action to ensure gaming funds are distributed equitably to charitable organizations across the province.

RMA is launching a campaign calling on the Government of Alberta to work with rural and urban stakeholders to develop an improved charitable gaming model that properly recognizes the important work of charitable organizations across Alberta, regardless of where they are located.

In 2023, RMA members passed [Resolution 12-23S: Casino Opportunities for Charitable Organizations](#) which states the following:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate to the Government of Alberta and Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis to reform Alberta's charitable gaming model to provide equity to all charitable organizations in Alberta, by addressing the disparity between the funding provided, and the frequency of casino opportunities available to charitable organizations in major urban centers compared with those in rural communities.

Although there have been no improvements in how rural charities received charitable gaming funds since this resolution was passed, RMA is determined to change this.

NEXT STEPS

In the coming weeks, RMA will be releasing multiple materials for members and charitable organizations to use for their own continued charitable gaming model advocacy. This will include a new Charitable Gaming Report that updates the work done by the [2018 RMA Member Committee](#), tools for member engagement with relevant stakeholders, and a series called "Losing Bet" that will give an overview of key themes regarding charitable gaming in Alberta. RMA will be calling on members to participate in their own advocacy on this issue. Stay tuned for more information!