

Rural Charitable Gaming Community Guide



For many years, the distribution of charitable gaming funds to voluntary organizations has been unfair to rural communities. Rural voluntary organizations work harder for less funding than their urban counterparts for no reason other than the amount of revenue generated by various casinos across the province. Despite many years of advocacy from RMA and other rural stakeholders, the Government of Alberta has not acted to ensure gaming funds are equitably distributed to charitable organizations across the province. That is why RMA has launched “[Losing Bet](#),” a campaign that calls on the Government of Alberta to make changes to the charitable gaming model with the stated intent of providing equitable funding to all participating organizations, regardless of where in the province they are located. The campaign includes many resources that will help members better understand the disparities of the charitable gaming model and an updated [Charitable Gaming Report with a series of recommendations on how to close the urban-rural gap](#).

To ensure the success of this campaign, it will be beneficial for RMA members to share this guide with organizations in their community that utilize charitable gaming to raise funds. From there, organizations can use these questions as a guide to write letters to Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction and the AGLC to encourage a thoughtful review of the charitable gaming model and proceed with necessary changes to make it more equitable for all.

RMA encourages organizations that rely on charitable gaming to send letters with responses to these questions directly to Minister Nally, who leads Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction (ministersa@gov.ab.ca) and AGLC (gaming.useofproceeds@aglc.ca) to ensure that the concerns with the current model are heard. RMA also encourages organizations to send their responses directly to our own staff (kallie@rmalberta.com) for further advocacy use.

Guiding Questions

About the Organization

To effectively advocate for changes to the charitable gaming system, it will be important to show the array of different organizations that rely on charitable gaming. An overview of your organization and the benefits it provides to the community will provide a sense of the different services being provided across the province that rely heavily on large fundraising opportunities, such as casino events.

Questions

- ◆ What services does your organization offer the community?
- ◆ What groups/people does your organization serve?
- ◆ How much does it cost to run your organization?

Community Benefit

All organizations that rely on charitable gaming events demonstrate a benefit to the community. To better understand how charitable gaming supports your organization's mission, it will be beneficial to learn more about the work your organization does and the impact it has on the community. This context will help show how charitable gaming revenue helps further your efforts.

Importance of Charitable Gaming

Charitable gaming has become a vital source of funding for many organizations, enabling the support of essential programs and services, as well as basic operational costs. Understanding the impact of these funds on your organization will help us better assess the overall effectiveness and sustainability of charitable gaming as a revenue stream.

Issues with the Charitable Gaming Model

As charitable gaming continues to play a significant role in fundraising for various organizations, understanding the challenges and disparities within the system is crucial. In particular, the difference in access and resources between rural and urban areas can impact the effectiveness and fairness of the charitable gaming model. It will be beneficial to share how these inequities have affected your organization and explore potential improvements that could make the system more equitable for all. Your insights into these topics are invaluable in assisting advocacy to create a more balanced and efficient charitable gaming model.

Questions

- ◆ How would your community be impacted if your organization could no longer operate?
- ◆ What impacts does your organization have on bettering the community?
- ◆ How does your organization contribute to the wellbeing of the community?

Questions

- ◆ What portion of your organizations budget comes from charitable gaming proceeds?
- ◆ What kind of programs/services is your organization able to offer as a result of charitable gaming revenue?
- ◆ How many charitable gaming licenses does your organization have

Questions

- ◆ How have the inequities of the rural/urban charitable gaming model affected your organization?
- ◆ What changes could be made to the system to make it more equitable for all organizations?
- ◆ How long does your organization have to wait to host a charitable gaming event?
- ◆ How have travel expenses for volunteers impacted your ability to benefit from charitable gaming events?



Further Information

For more information on charitable gaming in rural Alberta, and to view the full report on the inequities of the charitable gaming model, please refer to RMA's Charitable Gaming Resource webpage!