



Gaming Rules!

Indigenous Gaming Regulators

IGR-Licensed Charities Gear Up For the School Year

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Many of the operations that IGR licenses, are fundraising for youth and children. Currently there are seventeen school groups raising money for activities like sporting events and school trips as well as essential services such as providing hot lunches and program support for cultural activities.

Teachers and administrators work long hours, arriving before and leaving after the students each day and many still take the time to organize fundraising events. In some cases, these dedicated individuals, have paid for extras for their students out of their own pockets, due to shortages in educational funding. IGR-licensed fundraising helps fill the gaps in funding so that schools can offer more programs and services to the students. IGR-licensed school-based committees are listed to the right.

- Constable Robin Cameron Education Complex*
- Beardy's Elementary School*
- Father Porte Memorial Dene School Bingo Committee*
- Chief Moses Ratt School*
- Nakoda Oyade Education Centre Bingo Fundraising*
- Bells Point Elementary School - Fundraising Group*
- Churchill Community High School*
- Senator Myles Venne School - Hot Lunch Program*
- Senator Myles Venne - Sports*
- Senator Myles Venne - Fine Arts Club*
- Keethanow Elementary School*
- Rhoda Hardlotte Memorial Keethanow High School*
- Senator Allan Bird Memorial School Fundraising*
- Wapanacac Community School*
- Opawikoscikan School*
- Chief Poundmaker School*
- Sturgeon Lake Triple A Travel Club*

On-Reserve Charitable Gaming As of August 31, 2017

From April 1/17 to August 31/17 the Licensing Department has issued forty-four (44) licenses and two (2) applications are currently under review. The breakdown of the licences issued is as per the table to the right:

Licence Type	Issued this Fiscal Year	Licenses Currently Under
Bingo	20	1
Breakopen	12	1
Raffle	3	0
Small Raffle	1	0
Monte Carlo	0	0
Texas Hold'em	2	0
Table Games	6	0
TOTAL	44	2

Regulating The Future To Preserve The Past

Gaming in Other Jurisdictions: Tribal Gaming in the USA

The following story has been compiled from information obtained from: "The Myth of Indian Casino Riches" by Dwanna L. Robertson, April 19, 2017 in *Indian Country Today*. Robertson points out that, "Indians do not have the right to offer gaming. Tribes do. Indian gaming is not privilege for one group of citizens. It is a power of government."

According to Robertson: "Traditionally, most tribes had some sort of gaming, shell games, archery, etc. Contemporary Indian gaming ranges from ceremonial games to Vegas-like operations. Congress established control of Indian gaming with the 1988 Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA). IGRA categorized gaming into Class I, Class II, and Class III (25 US 2703). IGRA also established the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) to regulate federally recognized tribes' gaming operations.

Class I is for ceremonial and social gaming for nominal prizes and subject to tribal regulation only not state or federal. Class II and III gaming are subject to regulation under IGRA. Class II gaming generally means bingo, lotto, pull tabs, poker, etc. only games played against other players with winnings based on how many people play and "pay" into the pot. Class III operations are what most people think of as Indian casinos, including games of chance not included in Class I or II gaming operations; e.g., slot machines, craps, blackjack. IGRA stipulates a tribe opening a Class III gaming enterprise must have (1) a tribal-state compact or agreement, (2) approval by tribal ordinance, and (3) approval by the NIGC. Lastly, Indian gaming activities may only occur in states where gaming is legal. Tribes in Utah may not open Class II or III operations.

Out of 567 federally recognized tribes, 238 tribes operate 474 gaming facilities in 28 states. Thus, 329 tribes (58 percent) have no gaming operations. Indeed, the rural and unpopulated geographic locations of many Native nations discourage gaming.

Many tribes operate gaming facilities primarily to generate employment. The total number of jobs by

Indian gambling created nationwide is: 628,000. But up to 75 percent of those jobs go to non-Indian employees. Areas of extremely high unemployment with a high density of Native folk are the exception - 80 percent of gaming employees in North and South Dakota are Indian. But jobs at Indian Casinos are low-paying and lag behind national wages for the same group of workers.

As per IGRA, a tribe must use gaming revenue to improve its infrastructure, develop education opportunities, and provide social programs for the people. If tribes want to distribute gaming revenue in per capita payments to their tribal members, they must first develop a revenue allocation plan and gain approval of the plan from the Department Of the Interior Secretary.

There are resort-type casinos, but many "tribal facilities" are just trailers with bingo. In most years, tribal facilities generate gross gaming revenues that constitute around 20 percent of gaming nationwide. Indian gaming generates on average, over \$5 billion in federal taxes, over \$2 billion in state income, and \$100 million in local income through payroll, sales taxes, and direct revenue sharing through government agreements.

While IGRA stipulates that no entity other than a tribe may possess an ownership interest, there are layers of lenders. For example, the Mohegan Sun recently refinanced \$1 billion in debt. Foxwoods is working to refinance its \$2.3 billion in debt.

Under "tribal-state" compacts, states benefit to a great degree. Connecticut receives 25 percent of the "hold" of slot machines, i.e. the money left after winnings are paid out. In January 2012, Connecticut's share came to \$24.8 million, and in the last two decades, over \$6 billion from Indian Casinos. Pennsylvania requires 55 percent of the hold. Studies have shown that about 10 percent of tribes receive the majority of the revenue.

IGR Board Chair Message

As families settle into their fall and winter routines, I bring warm wishes to all of our *Gaming Rules!* readers, on behalf of the FSIN Chiefs-in-Assembly and the IGR Board of Directors. I am pleased to play a part in the successes of IGR through my role as Board Chair.

IGR continues to lead the way in First Nations Gaming jurisdiction. IGR started this trend by being the only First Nations entity to license on-reserve charitable gaming operations in 2007. Then in September 2016, we began registering on-

reserve charitable gaming employees. I look forward to the next step when IGR begins to register the suppliers to the operations that we license.

Many First Nations families benefit through the work of the IGR-licensed charities. This is very evident throughout the school year as the hard work of the school based charities pays off and on-reserve children are able to enjoy more activities because of the selfless volunteers who operate the charities. May all of our families, children and educators enjoy a great school year.



FSIN Vice Chief Kim Jonathan

SIGA GameSense Info Centre Offers Resources for Responsible Gaming

SIGA casinos offer exciting entertainment – and gaming is a large part of what they do. Like any form of entertainment, gambling is best enjoyed when adults gamble responsibly.

As a responsible corporate citizen, SIGA has made a commitment to their customers, employees, stakeholders and suppliers to advocate the responsible use of its gaming products and to minimize the potential for harm. Their proactive approach to GameSense includes staff awareness and training on problem gambling, promoting available services, and providing information and resources so customers can make informed gaming decisions

SIGA offers a user-friendly website for responsible gambling that is located at www.sigagamesense.ca and it includes some great information and self-assessment tools. Visitors to the site can choose from the following links:

- How Gambling Works
- How Slot Machines Work
- Gambling with GameSense
- Self Assessment
- Self Exclusion
- Where to Get Help
- Cost of Play Calculator

IGR President & CEO Message

On behalf of IGR management and staff, I extend greetings to all of our *Gaming Rules!* readers, as families send their children off to school and the IGR-licensed school based charities begin their fundraising for the year. Thank you to the volunteers of these charities and all of the volunteers out in the communities.

IGR strives to embody the core values that have been identified as critical to our success. The core values are: accountability, teamwork, respect, integrity and professionalism.

IGR is accountable to First Nations people, communities, leadership and most importantly, to the charities that we work with. Every member of the IGR team works together by fulfilling

our individual roles with professionalism and integrity. Every person at IGR respects the people and communities we serve, as well as the First Nations leadership and charities that we work with for their benefit.

It is with great pride that I say IGR continues to fulfill the mandate given to us by the FSIN Chiefs-in-Assembly to “function as a regulatory authority in accordance with the provisions of applicable legislation of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) and under First Nations law, the *2002 Framework Agreement*, the *SIGL Regulatory Agreement*, the *Licensing Agreement*, *Registration Agreement* and any other agreements that might be negotiated by the organization from time to time.”



**IGR President & CEO
Gregory Ahenakew**

Play IGR Bingo

Go ahead and have some fun at our expense. Fill out this Bingo card with answers from what you just read in this newsletter and mail your completed card to:

Gaming Rules! Newsletter,
#400 - 203 Packham Avenue,
Saskatoon, SK., S7N 4K5.

Provide your name and mailing address to receive IGR merchandise!



Please visit IGR online at

www.igr.ca

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Oyade				Senator Bird
	IGR began licensing		Number of bingo licenses	
				
	___ USA tribes operate gaming facilities		Sense	
A core value				Senator Venne

Regulating The Future To Preserve The Past