

Gaming Policy and Enforcement Chronology of Events: Key Events Regarding the Integrity of Gaming in B.C.

September 14, 2001 – The Solicitor General announced significant changes to the management of gaming in B.C. The five agencies previously responsible for regulating gaming, the Gaming Policy Secretariat, the B.C. Gaming Commission, the B.C. Racing Commission, and the Gaming Audit and Investigation Office were consolidated into Gaming Policy and Enforcement (GPE).

November 20, 2001 – Responsibility for commercial bingo halls in the province is transferred to the BC Lottery Corporation (BCLC)

June 3, 2002 - The Problem Gambling Program is moved, to GPE. GPE assumed responsibility for all problem gambling program delivery, including the service contracts.

July 25, 2002 – Government announces the passing of a new set of laws entitled the B.C. Gaming Control Act to strengthen and streamline the management of gaming in B.C.

August 19, 2002 – The Gaming Control Act comes into effect.

July 20, 2005 – The Auditor General of B.C. released a report entitled “Keeping the Decks Clean: Managing Gaming Integrity Risks in Casinos.” The report examined the 19 casinos operating in the province between September 2004 and January 2005 and determined that government is adequately managing casino gaming integrity risks. Responses to the report by GPE and BCLC were included.

April 26, 2006 – Government amends several sections of the Gaming Control Act to simplify procedures and help maintain the overall integrity of gaming in the province. The amendments require that all GPE and BCLC employees have regular background checks, enhance the punitive actions that can be taken against individuals or companies that contravene the Gaming Control Act and streamline the gaming facility approval process.

June 27, 2006 – Government amended B.C.’s gaming regulations to allow government to take action against businesses that teach kids to gamble.

August 15, 2006 – GPE issued a status report on its implementation of the recommendations made by the Auditor General.

October 24, 2006 – CBC’s *Fifth Estate*, identifies the possibility of significant lottery fraud perpetrated by lottery retailers in Ontario.

October 25, 2006 – In response to concerns about Ontario lotteries the Solicitor General directs GPE to investigate and report on the integrity of B.C.’s lottery retailer network.

December 14, 2006 – GPE issued its report and recommendations.

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December 18, 2006 – B.C.'s Ombudsman announced she would investigate B.C.'s lottery system.

May 29, 2007 – B.C.'s Ombudsman released her report (which made 27 recommendations to improve BCLC's retailer lottery winnings and prize validation procedures, as well as the regulation and oversight provided by GPE).

May 29, 2007 – Government accepted all 27 recommendations. Of these, four pertained to GPE and the remaining 23 to BCLC (several of the recommendations made to BCLC had implications for GPE).

May 29, 2007 – The Solicitor General announces that he will launch an independent and comprehensive audit of BCLC's retail lottery system and GPE.

June 1, 2007 - The Board of Directors of BCLC terminated Vic Poleschuk, President and CEO.

June 8, 2007 – The Board of Directors of BCLC named Dana Hayden as Interim President and CEO.

June 8, 2007 – Deloitte and Touche identified as independent auditors to review BCLC's lottery systems and GPE's oversight of it.

August 23, 2007 – BCLC released an audit completed by Blair Mackay Mynett Valuations. The audit addressed questions about the frequency of wins by lottery retailers.

August 23, 2007 – The Board of Directors of BCLC reached a severance agreement with the former President and CEO, Vic Poleschuk.

September 12, 2007 – GPE and BCLC released first quarterly reports on the status of their implementation of recommendations made by the B.C. Ombudsman.

October 4, 2007 – GPE released a final status report on its implementation of the recommendations made by the Auditor General.

October 31, 2007 – Deloitte and Touche report their findings to the Solicitor General.

November 9, 2007 – the Solicitor General released Deloitte and Touche's October 31, 2007 report.

January 24, 2008 – GPE and BCLC released second quarterly reports on the status of their implementation of recommendations made by the B.C. Ombudsman. This included comments by GPE on BCLC's progress in responding to those recommendations.

February 18, 2008 – The Board of Directors of BCLC announced that Dana Hayden, had completed her assignment as Interim President and CEO. The Board named Scott Norman, Vice President of Information and Technology and Chief Information Officer as acting CEO.

March 6, 2008 – The Board of Directors of BCLC named Michael Graydon as President and CEO.

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April 18, 2008 – GPE released a document articulating the key regulatory responsibilities of GPE and their application to BCLC.

April 24, 2008 – GPE and BCLC release third quarterly reports of the status of their implementation of the recommendations made by the B.C. Ombudsman. This included comments by GPE on BCLC's progress in responding to those recommendations.

April 24, 2008 – GPE released first quarterly reports on the status of its implementation of recommendations made by Deloitte and Touche.

May 21, 2008 – CBC released a story claiming that BCLC has been under-reporting suspected money laundering at the province's casinos.

May 23, 2008 – CBC released a story regarding casino patrons who leave children in their cares while they gamble.

May 24, 2008 – CBC released a story regarding suspected loan sharks operating around B.C. casinos.

July 31, 2008 – GPE and BCLC release fourth quarterly reports of the status of their implementation of the recommendations made by the B.C. Ombudsman. This included comments by GPE on BCLC's progress in responding to those recommendations.

July 31, 2008 – GPE released second quarterly reports on the status of its implementation of recommendations made by Deloitte and Touche.

July 31, 2008 – GPE releases a report on the findings of GPE's Lottery Investigation Team on all historic multiple lottery retailer win files.

October 30, 2008 – GPE and BCLC release fifth quarterly reports of the status of their implementation of the recommendations made by the B.C. Ombudsman. This included comments by GPE on BCLC's progress in responding to those recommendations.

October 30, 2008 – GPE released third quarterly reports on the status of its implementation of recommendations made by Deloitte and Touche.

January 29, 2009 – GPE releases a final report on its implementation of the recommendations made by the B.C. Ombudsman. BCLC releases sixth quarterly reports of the status of their implementation of the recommendations made by the B.C. Ombudsman. This included comments by GPE on BCLC's progress in responding to those recommendations.

January 29, 2009 – GPE released fourth quarterly reports on the status of its implementation of recommendations made by Deloitte and Touche.

April 30, 2009 – BCLC releases seventh quarterly reports of the status of their implementation of the recommendations made by the B.C. Ombudsman. This included comments by GPE on BCLC's progress in responding to those recommendations.

April 30, 2009 – GPE released fifth quarterly reports on the status of its implementation of recommendations made by Deloitte and Touche.

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July 21, 2009 – GPE implements a formal whistleblower program as recommended by Deloitte and Touche.

August 13, 2009 – BCLC releases eighth quarterly reports of the status of their implementation of the recommendations made by the B.C. Ombudsman. This included comments by GPE on BCLC's progress in responding to those recommendations.

August 13, 2009 – GPE released sixth quarterly reports on the status of its implementation of recommendations made by Deloitte and Touche.