



INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release
2006PSSG0020-000490
April 26, 2006

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

B.C. UPDATES GAMING LEGISLATION

VICTORIA – Government is changing sections of the Gaming Control Act to simplify procedures and help maintain the overall integrity of gaming in the province.

Amendments addressing the overall integrity of gaming include a new requirement for directors of the BC Lottery Corporation, BCLC employees who work on-site at gaming facilities, the general manager of the government's gaming enforcement and policy branch and gaming investigators to have background checks every five years. As well, operators of gaming facilities will now have to notify government in advance of any planned ownership changes, to give the Province time to conduct required background checks.

Also, the act has been clarified to prevent people from promoting or organizing unauthorized gaming activities, like unlicensed raffles, or trying to develop, set up or relocate gaming facilities without the legal authority to do so. The revised Act includes the penalties for these offences including up to six months in jail and a \$100,000 fine.

Other changes include:

- Streamlining the gaming facility approval process by limiting consultations to local governments within a 5 km radius of a facility, and clarifying the dispute resolution process.
- Making it easier for the lottery corporation to pay grants to municipalities, in lieu of taxes, by getting rid of the annual approval requirement.
- Creating a more equitable and just system for penalizing people who violate minor lottery offences, like running an unauthorized raffle. Currently, the minimum fine allowed is \$5,000, too excessive for small, often unintended, breaches of the rules. A change will allow for smaller fines more suited to the offence.
- Make it easier for a gaming investigator to dispose of illegal gambling equipment once a conviction has been obtained, or the appeal period has passed.

Government regulates all gaming in British Columbia, and ensures the integrity of the people and equipment involved in the gaming industry. Provincial gaming revenues support a wide variety of organizations and programs across BC, including health, education, local governments, local economic development, problem gambling and community organizations.

–30–

Media Cindy Rose
contact: Public Affairs Officer
 250 356-6961

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province's news feeds using RSS, visit the Province's website at www.gov.bc.ca.