

Summary of GPE's Reviews of Known Lottery Retailer Wins

Introduction

In October 2006, in response to concerns about the Ontario lotteries, Gaming Policy and Enforcement (GPE) initiated a review of B.C.'s lottery retailer network. GPE released its report in December 2006.

In December 2006, B.C.'s Ombudsman announced she would investigate the province's lottery retail system. In May 2007, the Ombudsman released a report which identified several deficiencies in the BC Lottery Corporation's (BCLC) prize payout processes and GPE's monitoring and investigation of lottery retailer wins. In particular, the Ombudsman criticized GPE's lack of scrutiny of multiple retailer wins over \$10,000.

As a result of the Ombudsman's report GPE initiated a review of all known multiple retailer win files. In all this review covered 191 files. The investigation of these files was completed by the newly formed GPE Lottery Investigation Unit.

The Unit scrutinized each file to determine if there was any evidence that might suggest any type of criminality/impropriety. More specifically, for each file the Unit judged whether there was sufficient evidence to make sound and accurate judgments. Files that did not include sufficient evidence were subject to further investigation by the Unit.

The investigation process included a personal interview with the subject or subjects in question. These interviews were conducted by an interview team of two investigators who employed standard investigative interviewing techniques to establish the veracity of statements and facts.

This report summarizes GPE's findings.

Findings

- GPE reviewed 191 multiple lottery retailer win files. As a result of the independent reviews, investigators determined that for 139 files there was sufficient information to conclude that there was no evidence of impropriety or wrongdoing.
- 52 files were identified as requiring further investigation. As a result of those investigations, GPE had sufficient information in 51 of those files to conclude there was no evidence of impropriety or wrongdoing.
- There is evidence to support one instance of a lottery retailer employee's involvement in criminality, and/or impropriety. However, because of a lack of cooperation by the lottery retailer and retail employee in question, GPE was unable to conclude definitely that there was any impropriety or wrongdoing.
- Overall, the review of multiple retailer win files indicated that there were few instances of retailers winning multiple large prizes. Of the 191 files reviewed there were only 12 lottery retailers that won on more than one occasion in amounts of \$10,000 or more.
- Lottery Retailers were generally cooperative with GPE investigators. Retailers were well aware of the recent media attention that had been focused on the lottery industry, and appeared to understand and support the requirement for further investigation.