

INFORMATION BULLETIN

GOVERNMENT PROGRESS ON LOTTERY RECOMMENDATIONS

VICTORIA –Gaming Policy and Enforcement (GPE) has completed all of the recommendations from B.C.'s Ombudsman and continues to make strong progress implementing the recommendations by the firm of Deloitte & Touche regarding improving B.C.'s lottery system, as detailed in reports released today.

In May 2007, the Ombudsman made four recommendations to GPE to strengthen its regulatory oversight of the BC Lottery Corporation (BCLC). The report also included 23 recommendations to BCLC to improve its retailer lottery winnings and prize validation procedures. Almost all of the recommendations made to BCLC had implications for GPE.

Government and BCLC accepted all of these recommendations. The Fifth Status Report on Responsibilities Regarding GPE and Ombudsman Lottery Retailer Recommendations covers all the recommendations made by the Ombudsman that had implications for GPE.

GPE has an ongoing responsibility to monitor and report on BCLC's compliance with recommendations made by the Ombudsman. GPE has implemented a comprehensive audit program and several other initiatives to facilitate its monitoring responsibility. BCLC intends to complete implementation of all recommendations made to BCLC by summer 2009.

In June 2007, the Solicitor General appointed Deloitte & Touche to conduct an independent review of BCLC, its management of the lottery retail system and GPE's regulatory oversight. The goal was to ensure the Province was on the right track in enhancing its lottery industry.

Deloitte's report concluded BCLC and GPE have made significant progress towards ensuring greater integrity in B.C.'s lottery industry. The report also made 44 recommendations for further improvements. The Third Status Report on Responsibilities Regarding Deloitte & Touche Lottery Retailer Recommendations details GPE's response to recommendations that had implications for GPE.

GPE has made considerable progress on all of the recommendations the Province accepted from the Deloitte report and is currently on schedule to complete all of the recommendations by March 2009.

For a summary of actions in response to both reports, detailed progress reports and additional gaming information, visit www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/gaming/news online.