

GPE INFORMATION BULLETIN

BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL SOON COMPLETE DELOITTE RECOMMENDATIONS

VICTORIA – Gaming Policy and Enforcement (GPE) has released several reports today detailing the work that has been done in relation to reviews of B.C.'s lottery system conducted by the B.C. Ombudsman and Deloitte and Touche LLP. GPE has completed nearly all of the recommendations that were made to enhance the integrity of gaming in B.C.

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. GPE has completed all of the recommendations from B.C.'s Ombudsman and has posted a detailed final status report summarizing the work done. GPE has an ongoing responsibility to monitor BCLC work related to the implementation of recommendations made by the Ombudsman. GPE has commented publicly on BCLC's progress and will continue to do so until BCLC has completed its work.

In particular, GPE will be monitoring BCLC work related to the implementation of the Ombudsman's recommendations to track the sale of scratch and win tickets and the recommendation to require retailers to use a swipe card or punch code whenever using lottery machines.

In June 2007, Government appointed Deloitte and 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 that the Province was on the right track in enhancing the integrity of 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. GPE has completed nearly all of the recommendations Government accepted from the Deloitte and Touche report. The details of GPE work are included in the sixth quarterly status report.

By the end of 2009 GPE will have fully implemented its own formal risk management program as well as developing a long-term plan to coordinate the integration of risk management practices for the entire gaming industry.

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.