



YMCA
Youth Gambling
Awareness
Program (YGAP)

YMCA
Programme de
sensibilisation aux
jeux de hasard chez
les jeunes (PSJJ)



Provincial Newsletter

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Youth Gambling Awareness Program hosted its annual conference in Geneva park, Simcoe-Muskoa at the end of May 2013. Youth Outreach Workers from across the province met and shared insights and learnings from their youth engagement and community involvement projects. Gambling and law was one of the topics that created a lot of discussion. The highlight of the conference was that YGAP crew was hosted by Casino Rama and Rama's Responsible Gambling Resource Centre. Thanks to everyone involved who made this gathering a success.

YGAP provincial team

No More Pencils! No More Books!

School is out for summer and the Youth Gambling Awareness Program is geared up and ready for summer camps! Armed with an arsenal of activities like relay races, 60 second challenges, interactive board games and of course a little help from our friend "Chuck the Chicken", Youth Outreach Workers across Ontario ensure that the young people in each region are well prepared for a safe and fun-filled summer. Summer camp programming, like all Youth Gambling Awareness programming, teaches youth key YGAP concepts such as:

- Definition of Gambling
- Things of Value
- Skill VS Chance
- Odds and Randomness
- Healthy/Positive Decision Making
- Harm Reduction Strategies

Being equipped with the knowledge of these concepts helps youth to understand and know their choices before being faced with risky situations and allows them to make healthy choices for themselves.

YGAP also offers great learning opportunities for summer camp leaders! The Youth Outreach Worker in your area can deliver interactive workshops that teach the fundamental concepts and risks of youth gambling, how to recognize signs of youth problem gambling and harm reduction strategies that can be shared with young people. These workshops are a great professional development opportunity for any leader who works closely with youth!

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Building healthy communities



YGAP Community Partnerships

YGAP Advisory Committees are an integral part of each YGAP site across the province. Advisory Committees are a unique way for Youth Outreach Workers to network and share with fellow services providers and/or community members.

Advisory Committee Meetings provide Committee Members with a professional collaboration and a means to discuss community issues related to youth. Committee Members gain a solid understanding of YGAP programming and principals, but also all Members develop a clear understanding of the programming available within their communities.

All Committee Members, including the YGAP Youth Outreach Worker can use their Advisory Committee Meetings to gain professional development, share resources, network, offer advice, gain information about the local community, collaborate on community projects and/or events and even plan events as a group.



Ways to Engage or Collaborate with your Advisory Committee

- Share interesting articles, literature, news stories, and research relevant to YGAP, and AC members' organizations
- Have AC Members share upcoming events, fairs or open meetings
- Send offers to AC Members to act as referral for their agencies and services during outreach
- Request AC Members to suggest organizations to outreach to (finding and suggesting schools, shelters, groups, clubs, camps, organizations, and workplaces)
- Update your AC Members on monthly YGAP targets and target areas of improvement to see if they can offer support
- Share upcoming Professional Development opportunities
- Offer Professional Development opportunities at AC meetings
- Ask AC Members to assist in brainstorming for YGAP Community Involvement and Youth Engagement Events
- Partner with AC members to host community events
- Create a brief bio of what AC member's organization is, what they do, and how YGAP fits with their mission statement
- Send AC Members relevant information on upcoming events in the community
- Get one tech-savvy AC member to create a Twitter/Facebook page/Google Circle or other online meeting place to keep the conversation open between meetings
- Request AC Members to suggest potential guest speakers that would be relevant for the group
- Invite AC Members to suggest who they think would be a good fit to join the committee
(2013 YGAP Advisory Committee Manuals)

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Building healthy communities



Social Responsibility & Online Gambling

On April 17, 2013, youth outreach workers from across Ontario attended the Canadian Consortium for gambling research Internet Gambling Workshop.

At the 2013 Internet Gambling Workshop, the Canadian Consortium for Gambling Research brought together gambling researchers and policy-makers from across Canada and abroad to discuss the evidence-based practices for conducting online gambling research and to profile promising policies that can be used to promote responsible internet gambling. The goal of the Internet Gambling Workshop was to advance the understanding of the unique methodological and ethical challenges in conducting internet gambling research.

A major theme throughout the workshop was the need to create a more socially responsible internet gambling environment through collaborative efforts by a variety of stakeholders, including operators, regulators, researchers and government bodies. Jeffery Dervensky who spoke specifically about youth Internet Gambling noted that in the National Annenberg Survey of Youth (Romer, 2010) all demographics of youth internet gambling rose from 2008 to 2010 in Canada. Youth Outreach Workers will have to pay particular attention to this trend as the OLG looks to launch its own internet Gambling Site by the end of 2013.

(<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/story/2013/04/12/ontario-olg-internet-gambling.html>)

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Featured Presentations

Internet Gambling: Past, Present and Future

Robert Williams, University of Lethbridge

The Psychosocial Impact of Internet Gambling in the UK

Mark Griffiths, Nottingham Trent University

Internet Gambling Among Adolescents: Fun or Cause for Concern?

Jeffrey Dervensky, McGill University

The Little Things that Count: The Basis for Robust Player Protection and Regulation

Jonathan Parke, Responsible Gambling Trust

Internet Treatment of Problem Gambling: Developing an Evidence Base

David Hodgins, University of Calgary

Internet Gambling Policy & Social Responsibility: Inter-jurisdictional Comparisons, Observations and Implications

Robert Wood, University of Lethbridge



Understanding Probabilities to Make Informed Choices

"We are all constantly faced with situations and choices that involve randomness and uncertainty. A basic understanding of the rules of probability theory as they apply to real-life circumstances can help us make sense of these situations, avoid unnecessary fears, seize the opportunity that randomness presents to us, and actually enjoy the uncertainties we face."

Jeffrey S. Rosenthal; Struck by Lightning: The curious world of probabilities.

When it comes to randomness, you have two options:

1. We can let uncertainty get the better of us
2. We can learn to understand randomness

Lots of people dream of winning the lottery, but do you know what the real chances are?

The Odds of winning the Lotto 649 are approximately 1 in 14 million.

For every millionaire that is created from lottery winnings, there are millions of others who have lost their money!

Six numbers are picked out of a pool of numbers between one and 49. The number of potential combinations is just under 14 million. Therefore, the odds of winning the jackpot on a single ticket are about one in 14 million.

The odds don't change if more or less tickets are sold. If more tickets are sold, the jackpot will be larger and the potential number of people who can win will increase, but the odds of winning on a single ticket don't.

Players can increase their odds of winning the jackpot by buying more tickets. However, the odds against winning remain astronomical.

Couldn't you win the lottery by buying every combination of numbers?

Potential Problems:

- The big prize may be equal to or lower than your investment, then you didn't win
- There may be other winners, and then you must share the big prize so your share may be likely less than your investment
- You can make an error in writing so many tickets
- To be realistic you don't have the time, energy and patience to write millions of tickets

**If you have that much money,
you don't need to win the lottery!**

In our gambling awareness workshops, we explain and experiment with probabilities, randomness and chance through various activities. Even basic probability understanding can help reduce our stress and clarify our choices, by putting randomness in perspective. Understanding probabilities will help you make informed choices around gambling and other risk based activities.

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Building healthy communities