

Submitted by Councilor Dayton

Regarding EX 7.4 Expanded Gaming at Woodbine Racetrack

EX 7.4.16

Contents of this package include:

1. Letter from The Most Reverend Colin R. Johnson, Archbishop of Toronto in opposition to expanded gaming at woodbine
2. Letter from Reverend Christopher White, Senior Minister, Fairlawn Avenue United Church; Steering Committee Chair, Faith and the City
3. Letter from The Very Reverend the Honourable Lois M. Wilson, Former Moderator of the United Church of Canada
4. Letter from Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl, The Anne & Max Tanenbaum Senior Rabbinic Chair, Beth Tzedec Congregation; Former President of Toronto Board of Rabbis
5. Interfaith Statement opposing casino expansion in the GTA signed by 268 faith leaders from across the GTA
6. Translations: Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Italian, Japanese, Arabic, Hebrew, Spanish, Hindi
7. CAMH and Problem Gambling Institute of Ontario Submission to Executive Committee
8. Toronto Star Op-Ed: The problem with expanding gambling at Woodbine

The Most Reverend
COLIN R. JOHNSON
Archbishop of Toronto
and Metropolitan of Ontario



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of the Diocese of Toronto
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Toronto, ON M5C 1H8
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June 30, 2015

Toronto City Hall
100 Queen St. West

Dear Members of Toronto City Council:

I am writing to you on behalf of Anglicans from across the City of Toronto to express our considerable concern at the prospect of Council permitting the expansion of organized gambling in the city. As Christians, Anglicans are called to stand with the marginalized and to be concerned with the needs of our neighbours who are least able to make ends meet. As part of this commitment Anglicans throughout Toronto have been active participants in the development of the city's interim municipal poverty reduction strategy while simultaneously supporting a variety of outreach and social programs in our own parishes for those experiencing poverty, homelessness and social isolation. Our concern for our neighbour is motivated by a commitment to the common good and a dedication to strengthen individuals, families, and communities. I believe that approving the development of a casino in Toronto would go against these very principles and I urge all members of City Council to vote against it.

In 2013 I joined with more than 250 interfaith leaders who signed a statement calling on the City of Toronto and other Greater Toronto Area municipalities to vote against any new casinos in our communities, recognizing that organized gambling is a predatory industry with considerable negative impacts on our communities. As far back as 1998 my predecessor, The Most Rev. Terence Finlay, wrote to Council to express the unanimous opposition of our Diocesan Synod to the development of casino establishments in the city. I recall these moments today as testament to our longstanding concern regarding this issue, and our commitment to continue to oppose these developments within the City of Toronto.

I recognize that municipal governments, in particular, need to identify new revenue streams in order to support the many vital services which are offered to their residents. However I believe that as a society we have an obligation to care for the most vulnerable among us and that the development of a casino would, instead, exploit individuals in precarious financial situations or struggling with addictions in order to pursue new revenue streams for government coffers. Studies show that those least able to afford the financial and personal fall-out of problem gambling are most impacted by the creation of ever new, more attractive gaming operations sanctioned by government. We know this from our own pastoral experience. While gambling revenue may seem like an easy source of money, the costs of problem gambling on both an economic and social level far outweigh any perceived benefits to government.



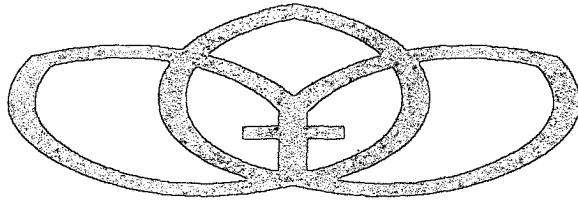
Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

It is my sincere hope that Toronto City Council will listen to the concerns of a wide cross-section of Torontonians and once again vote against allowing the development of a casino within the city. As we carry on our shared work of pursuing poverty reduction in our city we must remain committed to rejecting the exploitation of our neighbours by pursuing equitable, sustainable revenue streams which serve the needs of Torontonians while allowing individuals and families to flourish within our communities. The City of Toronto cannot tout its commitment to poverty reduction while simultaneously endorsing an activity which results in such considerable financial and social impoverishment. By rejecting the development of a casino Council will send a clear message that their commitment to poverty reduction is more than just lip service and that Toronto can, indeed, choose another path forward.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin R. Johnson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson
Archbishop of Toronto



FAIRLAWN

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June 29 2015

28 Fairlawn Ave, Toronto ON

To: Toronto City Council

Re: Casino

I am writing to express my opposition as the Senior Minister from Fairlawn Avenue United Church and as Steering Committee chair for Faith in the City to the proposed expansion of gambling in Rexdale. When a casino was last brought forward to the city, our organization which represents different faith communities across Toronto united in opposing this initiative. We did so for good reasons; casinos are not an economic generator but an economic drain on a city. They cause poverty and distress, the jobs are ephemeral, as many casino workers have lost their employment as their industry declines. I would remind the council that it was just last January that Mayor Jim Diodati of Niagara Falls was pleading with the province to be able to serve free alcohol to support his declining casino. How long before this council will be asking for the same or other forms of support?

Casino's are predators that are designed to inflict harm on the vulnerable and cause misery wherever they go. Their profits, if they have them, will leave this city. A jurisdiction that brings them in has not succeeded, but rather failed in showing economic imagination and leadership. The people of Rexdale and of Toronto deserve better, they deserve sustainable employment and dignity. Two things lacking in this proposal.

All faith traditions are united by the concept of loving our neighbours and not doing unto others what we would not want done to ourselves. I respectfully urge Council to reject this proposal and align economic development with the real opportunities provided by the 21st century.

Respectfully,

Rev. Christopher White

Senior Minister; Fairlawn Avenue United Church.
Steering Committee Chair, Faith in the City.

June 29, 2015

TO: Executive Committee of City of Toronto;

FROM: The Very Rev. the Hon Lois M Wilson, CC

Former Moderator of the United Church of Canada.

SUBJECT: Expanded Gaming at Woodbine Track

I write to convey my opposition and the ongoing opposition of my church to the expansion of gambling at Woodbine Track in Toronto. I have carefully read the reports of both the City Manager and the Medical Officer of Health of June 1, 2015.

I have concluded that City Council should maintain the resolution of May 21, 2013 which is against expanding gambling, in view of the negatives associated with problem gambling, and related social and health problems felt disproportionately by vulnerable and marginalized people.

Faith leaders are well aware of the stress, depression and social disruptions in the lives of people who are addicted to gambling, since we are often approached to deal with those whose lives are out of control through this addiction. To deliberately leave ourselves open to more personal, social and community problems by expanding gambling appears to be an extremely unwise position.

I was interested to read that in the report on Responsible Gambling, respondents agreed that more restrictions on how gambling was provided, and measures to make gambling less available were judged far more effective than therapy or public education. In other words, we should not wait until the horse is out of the barn.

Yours sincerely,

Lois M Wilson, 602 Melita Cr #1009, Toronto, ON M6G 3Z5

cc. cc. Councillor Joe Mihevc

Michael Blair, The United Church of Canada

הרב ברוך פרידמן-קול
Rabbi BARUCH FRYDMAN-KOHL
THE ANNE & MAX TANENBAUM SENIOR RABBINIC CHAIR

ב"ה

19 Tammuz 5775
6 July 2015

To: Toronto City Council

Re: Casino

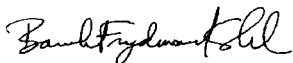
I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed expansion of gambling in Rexdale. When a casino was last brought forward to the city, I spoke as the President of the Toronto Board of Rabbis against the proposal. Now I address you as an individual.

As indicated from various research studies, casinos are not an economic generator but an economic drain on a city. They generate personal distress and the jobs created are often part-time and short-lived. Their profits, if any, will leave this city. As a rabbi who has counselled individuals who have succumbed to addictive gambling behaviour, I know the havoc that excessive gambling can wreak on a family.

Restricting the casino operation to Rexdale is certainly preferable to the last proposal, but the economic and social dysfunction will remain problematic. If Council does approve this proposal, I urge that the situation be carefully monitored to evaluate the social impact and economic impact with the provision for cancelling any arrangement.

Our local faith traditions are united by the concept of loving your neighbours and not doing unto others what we would not want done to ourselves. I respectfully urge Council to reject this proposal and align economic development with the real opportunities provided by the 21st Century.

Respectfully,



Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl

Statement from faith leaders from across Toronto:

The Toronto faith community is standing in opposition to the expansion of casinos in our City and have signed on to the interfaith statement below. We are encouraging everyone to take action and sign the petition online at www.nocasinotoronto.com/take-action or on paper to voice your opposition to a mega casino and expanded gambling in Toronto.

Interfaith Statement Opposing Casino Expansion in the GTA

We, the undersigned faith leaders and representatives in the Greater Toronto Area, stand united in opposing the expansion of casinos proposed by the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation and support the anti-casino campaign led by www.NoCasinoToronto.com.

We represent diverse faith communities with unique perspectives, principles, sacred texts, traditions and teachings that form the basis of our opposition to expanded gambling. We are unified in our position that gambling is contrary to the ethical norms of our traditions because it negatively impacts our faith communities and the wider public.

We are convinced that casinos contribute to family breakdown, depression, addiction, bankruptcies and crime, and thus are antithetical to our mission as faith traditions to strengthen individuals, families and communities.

Our faith traditions teach us that our governments should maintain order, preserve justice and promote the common good. We believe that our governments must take a stand to promote the values of education, hard work, social justice and the dignity of labour, and reject the illusion of easy money, for both individuals and public coffers.

Our governments should protect the most vulnerable in our society from casinos that exploit human weaknesses and addictions. We therefore call upon our governments to reject gambling expansion and reject this predatory industry as a solution to economic and fiscal problems.

We strongly urge our Municipal City Councils to vote against any new casinos in the Greater Toronto Area. We further urge our brothers and sisters in our faith communities to become informed about this issue and voice their opposition to expanded gambling to our elected officials.

Signed by 265 faith leaders.

Signatories to the Interfaith Statement Opposing Casino Expansion in the GTA

	Full Name	Position/Title	Name of Faith Organization
1	(Fr.) Paul E. Hansen C.Ss.R.	Director of Justice Desk	Redemptorist Fathers and Brothers
2	(Rev.) Deanna Wilson	Conference Personnel Minister	United Church of Canada
3	A. Marion Pope	Retired Ordered Diaconal Minister	United Church of Canada
4	Aaron Flanzraich	Senior Rabbi	Beth Sholom Synagogue
5	Aaron Levy	Rabbi	Makom: Creative Downtown Judaism
6	Abdool Hamid	Imam	Masjid Toronto
7	Abdul Hai Patel	Imam - Director Interfaith Relations	Canadian Council of Imams
8	Abdussalam Nakua	Director of Community Initiatives	Muslim Association of Canada
9	Aisha Raja	President	University of Toronto Muslim Students' Association
10	Alexa	Reverend	United Church Of Canada
11	Allan Baker	Member	Kingston Road United Church
12	Alvin Nicholson	Senior Pastor	Agape Ministries
13	Alydia Smith	Program Coordinator of Worship and Music	The United Church of Canada
14	Andre Bromfield	Elder	Mount Zion Apostolic
15	Andrew Asbil	Rev. Canon	Church of the Redeemer
16	Andrew Sarty Crowell	Minister	Westdale United Church
17	Anela Jadunandan	Committee Member	Ontario Assoc. of Islamic Schools
18	Angela Emerson	Lawyer; Lay Person	Anglican Church of Canada
19	Ann Harbridge	President, Toronto Conference	United Church of Canada
20	Annalies Lauber	Minister	Presbyterian Church
21	Anne Shirley Sutherland	Program Minister	Southeast Presbytery, United Church of Canada
22	Anne Simmonds	Rev. Dr.	United Church
23	Anthony Chung	Rev.	Ossington Avenue Baptist Church
24	Arif Jahangiri	Muslim	Muslim
25	Arna carla persad	Teacher	Hindu
26	Audley Goulbourne	Pastor/ Rev.	Lisle Memorial Baptist Church
27	Ayub Hamid	President	Canadian Institute of Policy Studies
28	Barbara White	Minister	Bedford Park United Church
29	Baruch Frydman-Kohl	Rabbi	Beth Tzedec Congregation
30	Bob Bettson	The Rev'd	St. Mary Magdalene Church (Anglican)
31	Brian McIntosh	Reverend	Bloordale United Church
32	Brian Walsh	Campus Minister	Christian Reformed Campus Ministry, University of Toronto
33	Calvin Anthony	Assistant Superintendent / Ministry	Eastern Ontario District PAOC
34	Canon Elizabeth Hardy	CAO	Anglican Diocese of Toronto
35	Canon Paddy Doran	Interim Director	Canterbury Hills Camp and Conference Centre
36	Carolyn McIntire Smyth	Member, Advisory Board	Church of St. Mary Magdalene
37	Catherine Keating	Deacon	Anglican
38	Chris Miller	Rev.	United Church of Canada
39	Chris Ng	President	Buddhist Education Network of Ontario

Signatories to the Interfaith Statement Opposing Casino Expansion in the GTA

	Full Name	Position/Title	Name of Faith Organization
40	Christopher (Archie) Michael Kenyon	Chaplain, Toronto Metro Director	Power to Change
41	Christopher White	Senior Minister	Fairlawn Avenue United Church
42	Cindy Randall	Rev.	Humbervale United Church
43	Connie denBok	Minister	Alderwood United Church
44	Darren Liepold	Intentional Interim Minister	Asbury and West United Church
45	David N. Wilson	Editor	The United Church Observer
46	David R Burrows	Priest	St Olaves Anglican Church
47	David W. Allen (Rev.)	Executive Secretary	Toronto Conference, The United Church of Canada
48	Dennis Brown	Assistant Property Secretary	The Salvation Army
49	Derek J Macleod	The Reverend	Glenview Presbyterian Church
50	Derrick Anderson	Pastor	Pentecostal Assemblies Of Canada
51	Dion	Oxford	Salvation Army Gateway
52	Don Matheson	Christian Chaplain	United Church of Canada
53	Donald Evans	Retired Minister	United Church of Canada
54	Donald H Cowan	Dr.	Donway Covenant United Church (United Church of Canada)
55	Donald L. Nicol	Retired	United Church of Canada
56	Donald Laing	Rev. Dr.	St James United Church
57	Dorothy McElhinney	Long time member of	The United Church of Canada
58	Doug Hammond	Major	The Salvation Army
59	Douglas McLeod	Clergy	Parkdale United Church
60	Dr. Barbara Landau	Co-Chair	Canadian Association of Jews and Muslims
61	Dr. Charles Mantey	Senior Pastor	Disciples Revival Church
62	Dr. Raj Patil	Chair- Jain Society of Toronto	Jain Society of Toronto
63	D'thea Webster	Rev.	Richview United Church
64	Eccleston, Neville	Elder	Bridlegrove Bible Chapel
65	Edith-Ann Shantz	Minister	Don Mills United Church
66	Edward Elkin	Rabbi	First Narayever Congregation
67	Elaine MacSween	Church Administrator	Kingston Road United Church
68	Elie Karfunkel	Rabbi	Forest Hill Jewish Centre
69	Ella Taylor-Walsh	Ordained Minister (retired)	Trinity-St. Paul's United Church
70	Ellen Redcliffe	Rev. Dr.	United Church of Canada
71	El-Tantawy Attia	Executive Director	Masjid Toronto, Muslim Association of Canada
72	Emily Slotegraaf	Community Worker	Toronto City Mission
73	Farhad Khadim	President & Director of Education	Islamic Institute of Toronto
74	Francis Dean Mercer	Parish Priest	The Anglican Church of St. Paul, L'Amoreaux
75	Francis Thomas	Pastor	Living Word Harvest Missionary Church
76	Frank B Gabourel	Rev.	United Church of Canada
77	Fred M. Bayliss	Rev. Dr. (Rtd.)	United Church of Canada

Signatories to the Interfaith Statement Opposing Casino Expansion in the GTA

	Full Name	Position/Title	Name of Faith Organization
78	G Philip Cooper	Priest	Anglican Diocese of Toronto
79	Gary van der Meer	The Rev.	St. Anne's Anglican Church
80	George Beard	Member	United Church
81	George Elliott	The Rt. Rev.	Anglican Diocese of Toronto
82	Gordon Winch	Retired clergy	United Church
83	Guru Fatha Singh Khalsa	Minister	Guru Ram Das Ashram
84	Habeeb Alli	Secretary	Canadian Council of Imams
85	Hafiz Faizan-ul Haq	Imam	W.E.I. Center
86	Harley Sandwith Smyth	Neurosurgeon, Trillium Health Partners	Church of St. Mary Magdalene
87	Helmi A. Rahman	Muslim clergy	Muslim Family and Child welfare Services
88	Howard Morrison	Rabbi	Toronto Board of Rabbis
89	Ilyas Ally	Executive Producer	Let the Quran Speak
90	Ilyse Glickman	Rabbi	Toronto Board of Rabbis
91	Imam Dr. Hamid Slimi	President/Chairman	Canadian Council of Imams
92	Irshad Osman	Resource Person	Bait al Aman Islamic Centre
93	J David Russell	Church Network Coordinator	Toronto Baptist Ministries
94	Jack Costello sj	President, Regis College	Society of Jesus (Jesuit)
95	Jacob Buurma	Communications Associate	Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec
96	James Houston	Priest	Holy Trinity Anglican Church
97	Janet MacPherson	Minister	The United Church of Canada
98	Jasper parke	Bishop	Triumphant Church of God
99	Jean Leckie	Minister	Grace United Church
100	Jeanette Unger	Associate Chaplain	The Ecumenical Chaplaincy at the University of Toronto
101	Jeewan Chanicka	Community Activist	Muslim community
102	Jennifer Palin	Minister	United Church of Canada
103	Jessica McCrae	Reverend	Humbercrest United Church, The United Church of Canada
104	Jim Biggs	Minister	Iona Presbyterian Church
105	Joan Silcox-Smith	Reverend	United Church of Canada
106	Joanna Manning	Rev	Anglican Church
107	Joanne Davies	Chaplain	Anglican Diocese of Toronto
108	Joe Abbey-Colborne	Interim Pastor	Canadian Baptists of Ontario & Quebec
109	John	Rev Dr Prof	Emmanuel College
110	John Allan Kirk	Retired Anglican Priest	Anglican Diocese of Toronto
111	John Douglas Varey	Minister	Westminster United Church, Weston
112	John Hill	Reverend Canon	Anglican Church
113	John Joseph Mastandrea	Minister	United Church of Canada
114	John-Thomas MacNeil	Candidate for Ordained Ministry	United Church of Canada
115	Katherine Bullock, PhD	President	The Tessellate Institute
116	Keith Daly	Pastor	Baptist

Signatories to the Interfaith Statement Opposing Casino Expansion in the GTA

	Full Name	Position/Title	Name of Faith Organization
117	Kevin Begley	Rev.	Toronto Faith Coalition
118	Kyn Barker	Deacon	Anglican Church of Canada
119	Lawrence Englander	Rabbi	Solel Congregation
120	Leila Beard	Member	United Church
121	Lenore Beecham	Retired Reverend	United Church of Canada
122	Lillian Perigoe	Rev. Dr.	United Church of Canada
123	Linda Anne Wheler	Minister of Pastoral Care	Islington United Church
124	Linda C. Nicholls	Area Bishop of Trent-Durham & Suffragan Bishop, Diocese of Toronto	Anglican Diocese of Toronto
125	Linda Levin	Rev	United Church of Canada
126	Linda Parsons		The United Church of Canada
127	Linda Pennock	Minister of Christian Development	Windermere United Church
128	Lloyd Ricketts	Elder	Mt Zion
129	Lois M Wilson	Former Moderator	United Church of Canada
130	Lois Maxwell	Chair, Stewardship and Finance	Kingston Road United Church
131	Lois Wilson	Former Moderator	United Church of Canada
132	Louise Mahood	Reverend	United Church of Canada
133	Lucy Reid	Priest-in-charge	Anglican Church of St Aidan in the Beach
134	Lutia Lausane	Reverend	United Church of Canada
135	Maggie Keates	Rev	United Church of Canada
136	Margaret Fleck	Reverend	Church of St Augustine
137	Mariam Ali	Director	Islamic Private Board of Education (Ontario)
138	Marie Goodyear	Minister	Deer Park United Church
139	Marie Harvey	Chair-Outreach	The Donway Covenant United Church
140	Marilyn Zehr	Pastor	Toronto United Mennonite Church
141	Mark Schemeit	Volunteer	Jerrahi Sufi Order of Canada
142	Marlene Amonsens	Order of Ministry	United Church of Canada
143	Martha ter Kuile	Minister	Bloor Street United Church
144	Mary Bell-Plouffe	The Rev.	Anglican Church of Canada
145	Mary Jo Leddy	Founder	Romero House
146	Mary Lewis	The Reverend	Anglican Church of Canada
147	MaryAnn Jansen	Reverend	United Church of Canada
148	Maureen Hall	Chair of Council	United Church of Canada
149	Maureen MacLeod-Oliver	Reverend	United Church of Canada
150	Merv Budd	Sr. Minister	North Burlington Baptist Church
151	Michael Bourgeois	Associate Professor of Theology	Emmanuel College
152	Michael Stone	Dharma Teacher	CentreofGravity.org
153	Michal Shekel	Executive Director/Rabbi	Toronto Board of Rabbis
154	Michelle Childs-Ward	The Reverend	Anglican Diocese of Toronto

Signatories to the Interfaith Statement Opposing Casino Expansion in the GTA

	Full Name	Position/Title	Name of Faith Organization
155	Milton Basil	Minister	West Ellesmere United Church
156	Miriam Little	Director of Children's Ministries	Yorkminster Park Baptist church
157	Miriam Margles	Rabbi	Danforth Jewish Circle
158	Mohamed Huque	Board Member	The Tessellate Institute
159	Mourad Mhiri	President	Muslim Association of Canada
160	Muhammad Kamil	Interfaith Manager	Jamia Riyadhul Jannah
161	Muneeb Nasir	President	Olive Tree Foundation
162	Murray Balfour Henderson	Rev.Canon	Anglican Church of Canada
163	Murray MacAdam	Social Justice & Advocacy Consultant	Anglican Diocese of Toronto
164	N. Bruce McLeod	The Very Rev. Dr. - Former Moderator, United Church of Canada	United Church of Canada
165	Nabeel Ahmed	Board Member	The Tessellate Institute
166	Naheed Syed	Vice Chair	Islamic Circle of North America -Sisters Mississauga
167	Nima Basharat	Teacher	Muslim
168	Norma M Cowan		Donway Covenant United Church (United Church of Canada)
169	Octavio Torres	Reverend	Gracia de Dios Iglesia del Nazareno
170	Orville Green	Designated Lay Minister	United Church of Canada
171	P.G.Walker	Pastor	Anglican Church
172	Pamela Del Couture	Chair of Church and Community	Emmanuel College
173	Pandit Suraj Persad	Minister and Chaplain	Hindu Dharma Mission (Canada)
174	Patrick Yu	Bishop	Anglican Diocese of Toronto
175	Paul Yuke	Pastor	Toronto City Church
176	Peter Fenty	The Venerable	Anglican Diocese of Toronto
177	Peter G. Harris	Member	Sub Committee on Child Poverty Anglican Diocese of Toronto
178	Peter S. Thompson	Manager, Spiritual Care St. Michael's Hospital	United Church of Canada
179	Philip Der	Rev.	St. Elizabeth's Anglican Church
180	Philip Poole	Suffragan Bishop	Anglican Diocese of Toronto
181	Phyllis Airhart	Professor	Emmanuel College
182	R.Walter Ridley	Retired Clergy	United Church
183	Rabbi Geoffrey Haber	Director of Spiritual Care	Baycrest
184	Ralph Carl Wushke	Ecumenical Chaplain	Ecumenical Chaplaincy at U of T
185	Randall Baker	Teacher, Vice President	Satipanna Insight Meditation Toronto
186	Rasma Caune	Pastor	Epiphany Lutheran Church
187	Raymnd Whitehead	Retired Professor	United Church of Canada
188	Regena Torres (Gena)	Pastor / Director	The Sharing Place
189	Rena Arshinoff	Rabbi	Toronto Board of Rabbis
190	Renate Koke	Rev	Anglican

Signatories to the Interfaith Statement Opposing Casino Expansion in the GTA

	Full Name	Position/Title	Name of Faith Organization
191	Rev Dr Karen Dimock	Minister	Morningside-High Park Presbyterian Church
192	Rev Tom Quinn	Regional director GTA Region	The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada Western Ontario District
193	Rev. Cathie Ellarby	Clergy	United Church of Canada
194	Rev. Claire Goodrich Dyer	Parish Priest	Anglican Church of Canada
195	Rev. Dale Rose	Minister of Pastoral Care	Yorkminster Park Baptist Church
196	Rev. Dr. A. H. Harry Oussoren	Retired Minister	United Church of Canada
197	Rev. Dr. Andrew Stirling	Senior Minister	Timothy Eaton Memorial Church
198	Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes	Senior Pastor	Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto
199	Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes	Minister of the Congregation	Yorkminster Park Baptist Church
200	Rev. Dr. Paul Shepherd	Minister	Wesley Mimico United Church
201	Rev. Dr. Robert Faris	Associate Minister	St. Andrew's Church (Presbyterian)
202	Rev. Hugh D. Reid	Coordinating Minister	Kingsway-Lambton United Church
203	Rev. Jim Parker	Minister	Bethany Baptist Church
204	Rev. John G. Smith	Ministry Leader	Leaside United Church
205	Rev. Karen Robinson Joseph	North York Team and Community Pastor	Youth Unlimited
206	Rev. Lauren Hodgson	Ordained Minister	The United Church of Canada
207	Rev. Pam Prideaux	Priest in Charge	St. George on Yonge Anglican Church
208	Rev. Paul Hutchison	Minister	St. Mark's United Church
209	Rev. Robert Raymont	Retired Minister	United Church
210	Rev. Sister Constance Gefvert	Priest and Sister, St. John's Convent Toronto	Sisterhood of St. John the Divine (Anglican)
211	Rev. Susan Eagle	Chairperson	ISARC Interfaith Social Assistance Coalition
212	Rev. W. Philip Heinze	Director, Public Policy and Service Ministries	Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
213	Rev. Warren Wilson	Parish Priest	St. David's (Donlands) Anglican Church & St. Andrew's Japanese Anglican Church
214	Rev. Paul J. Cusack, C.P.	Pastor	St. Gabriel's R.C. Parish
215	Richard Chambers	Director	Multi-Faith Centre, University of Toronto
216	Rob Howard	Pastor	Mimico Presbyterian
217	Rob Metcalf	Voluntary Associate Minister	United Church of Canada
218	Robert McElhinney	Retired minister	United Church of Canada
219	Robert Desmond McCalmont	Retired UC Minister	Jubilee United Church
220	Robert Lawal	Reverend	Celestial Church of Christ
221	Robin E. Sherman	Reverend	United Church of Canada
222	Ron N. Nickle	Reverend (Retired)	United Church of Canada
223	Roopnauth Sharma	President	Hindu Federation
224	Ross Leckie	Reverend	Grace United Church
225	Sam Lee	Minister of Youth	Yorkminster Park Baptist Church
226	Sam Vesuna	Chair Interfaith Committee 7 Past President	Zoroastrian Society Of Ontario

Signatories to the Interfaith Statement Opposing Casino Expansion in the GTA

	Full Name	Position/Title	Name of Faith Organization
227	Samira Kanji	President & CEO	Noor Cultural Centre
228	Samuel Peter Wyatt	The Rev. Prof.	United Church
229	Sarah Bourcier-Miller	Minister	Eastminster United Church
230	Scott Boughner	Reverend Doctor	The United Church of Canada
231	Shabir Ally	President	Islamic Information & Dawah Centre International
232	Shahana Kamil	Spokesperson	Jamia Riyadhul Jannah
233	Shivaram Trichur	President	Sri Chinmoy Meditation Centre
234	Simon Si-Hung Li	Rev./Rector	St. John's Anglican Church (Chinese)
235	Sister Elizabeth Ann Eckert, SSJD	Reverend Mother	The Sisterhood of Saint John the Divine
236	Sohail Siddiqui	President	Canadian Association of Multicultural people
237	Stelios Papadopoulos	Reverend-Minister	Greek Gospel Church
238	Stephen Bede Scharper	Associate Professor	Department for the Study of Religion
239	Steve Long	Senior Leader	Catch the Fire
240	Stewart VanderVelden	Community Development Coordinator	Toronto Youth for Christ / Youth Unlimited
241	Sue Cowan	Pastor	Emmanuel United Church
242	Sukhlal Patel	Chairman	Hindu Awareness Organization of North America
243	Susan J Thompson	The Reverend	
244	Susanne McKim	Rev.	Anglican Church of Canada
245	Susanne VanderLugt	Minister	Eglinton St. Georges United Church
246	Syed Soharwardy	Imam	Jamia Riyadhul Jannah
247	Taha Ghayyur	Member of Board of Directors	DawaNet
248	Taigen Ian Henderson	Abbot/Sensei	Toronto Zen Centre
249	Tamara L Olson	Minister	Church of the mster United Church
250	The Most Reverend Colin R. Johnson	Anglican Archbishop of Toronto and Metropolitan of Ontario	Anglican Diocese of Toronto
251	The Rev. Canon Dr Duke Vipperan	Incumbent	Church of the Resurrection
252	The Rev. Dr. Michael J. Pryse	Bishop	Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
253	The Rev'd Canon John Wilton	Priest-in-Charge	St. George's-on-the-Hill Anglican Church
254	The Reverend Canon Joseph Asselin	Rector	St Cuthbert's Anglican Church
255	Thomas E Reynolds	Associate Prof of Theology	Emmanuel College of Victoria University
256	Tim Hegedus	Dr	Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
257	Tim Reimer	Pastor	Danforth Mennonite Church
258	Tina Grimberg	Rabbi	Congregation Darchei Noam
259	Tom Crothers	Retired United Church Clergyman	Ret. OM
260	Victoria Ingram	Reverend	Unitarian Universalist
261	Vinod Sharma	President / Director	United Hindu Congress Canada
262	Virginia Huebsch	Co-Chair, Pastoral Care Committee	Kingston Road United Church
263	Vivian Yarwood	Rev	United Church

Signatories to the Interfaith Statement Opposing Casino Expansion in the GTA

	Full Name	Position/Title	Name of Faith Organization
264	Wayne Walder	Minister	Neighbourhood Unitarian Universalist congregation
265	William Ingram	Minister	St. Andrew's Church, Toronto
266	William Kervin	Professor/Minister	Emmanuel College/United Church of Canada
267	Yusuf	Imam	Islamic Foundation of Toronto
268	Zahid Rafique	General Secretary	Islamic Supreme Council of Canada (Toronto Chapter)

Translations: Interfaith Statement Opposing Casino Expansion in the GTA

Enclosed you will find 10 translated interfaith statements in the order listed below. If you would like electronic copies of these translations, please visit www.nocasinotoronto.com.

The enclosed translations were done by volunteers, not professional translators, from within these communities.

1. Simplified Chinese
2. Traditional Chinese
3. Portuguese
4. Vietnamese
5. Italian
6. Japanese
7. Arabic
8. Hebrew
9. Spanish
10. Hindi

[Traditional Chinese]

信仰聯盟堅決反對在 GTA 擴建賭場之聲明

我們是大多倫多地區的信仰組織領導及代表, 我們團結一致, 極力反對安省博採局提議的在大多倫多地區擴建賭場的計劃, 我們全力支持由 www.NoCasinoToronto.com 發動的反對賭場遏制賭博的運動.

我們謹代表多倫多市多元信仰社區, 以獨特的遠見, 原則, 聖言, 傳統與教義為基準, 堅決反對賭勢的擴展。我們持一致立場, 堅信賭博是與我們傳統的倫理道德背道而馳的, 因為賭博對我們信仰團體以及整個社會造成危害。

賭博引起家庭破裂, 憂鬱症, 癡癲, 破產, 犯罪, 這嚴重背離了我們的信仰, 我們的使命是加強個人, 家庭與社區的紐帶。

根據我們的信仰傳統的教導, 政府的存在必需為維護社會秩序, 發揚正義, 提倡共融公益。我們篤信政府必須向社會上的每一個成員, 包括公職人員, 宣揚教育、勤勉、社會公正與熱愛勞動的美德等價值觀, 消除任何不勞而獲的幻想。

賭博利用人性的弱點, 引誘人成癮, 政府必需保護社會上的最脆弱的群體, 使其不受侵蝕。我們極力呼籲政府拒絕在大多倫多地區擴建賭場, 摒棄依靠這種掠奪性行業獲利作為解決經濟及財政困難的想法。

我們強烈勸諭各位市議員投票共同反對在我們的大多倫多地區修建賭場。我們同時號召信仰團體內的每一位兄弟姐妹起來響應, 關注建賭場之事態的發展, 並向所有由民眾推選出來的各位政府官員們表示我們的堅決反對立場。

[Simplified Chinese]

信仰联盟坚决反对在 GTA 扩建赌场之声明

我们是大多伦多地区的信仰组织领导及代表, 我们团结一致, 极力反对安省博采局提议的在大多伦多地区扩建赌场的计划, 我们全力支持由 www.NoCasinoToronto.com 发动的反对赌场遏制赌博的运动.

我们谨代表多伦多市多元信仰社区, 以独特的远见, 原则, 圣言, 传统与教义为基准, 坚决反对赌势的扩展。我们持一致立场, 坚信赌博是与我们传统的伦理道德背道而驰的, 因为赌博对我们信仰团体以及整个社会造成危害。

赌博引起家庭破裂, 忧郁症, 癖瘾, 破产, 犯罪, 这严重背离了我们的信仰, 我们的使命是加强个人, 家庭与社区的纽带。

根据我们的信仰传统的教导, 政府的存在必需为维护社会秩序, 发扬正义, 提倡共融公益。我们笃信政府必须向社会上的每一个成员, 包括公职人员, 宣扬教育、勤勉、社会公正与热爱劳动的美德等价值观, 消除任何不劳而获的幻想。

赌博利用人性的弱点, 诱人成瘾, 政府必需保护社会上的最脆弱的群体, 使其不受侵蚀。我们极力呼吁政府拒绝在多伦多地区扩建赌场, 摒弃依靠这种掠夺性行业获利作为解决经济及财政困难的想法。

我们强烈劝谕各位市议员投票共同反对在我们的大多伦多地区修建赌场。我们同时号召信仰团体内的每一位兄弟姐妹起来响应, 关注建赌场之事态的发展, 并向所有由民众推选出来的各位政府官员们表示我们的坚决反对立场。

A comunidade de fé Toronto está a posicionar-se em oposição à expansão de casinos na nossa cidade e assinaram a declaração de inter-religioso. Estamos incentivando todos a agir e assinar a petição online no [www.nocasinotoronto.com /take-action](http://www.nocasinotoronto.com/take-action) ou em escrito para expressar sua oposição à um mega casino e jogo expandido em Toronto.

Declaração de oposição inter-religioso contra Expansão Casino no GTA

Nós, os líderes religiosos e representantes na Grande Área de Toronto, estamos unidos na oposição à expansão dos casinos propostos pela Corporação da Loteria e jogos de Ontário em apoiar a campanha anti-casino liderada pelo www.NoCasinoToronto.com.

Nós representamos comunidades diversas de fé com perspectivas únicas, princípios, textos sagrados, as tradições e os ensinamentos que formam a base da nossa oposição ao jogo expandido. Estamos unidos na nossa posição de que o jogo é contra às normas éticas das nossas tradições que causará impactos negativos as nossas comunidades de fé e público em geral.

Estamos convencidos que os casinos contribuem a depressões entre vício, falências, crime e portanto, são a antítese da nossa missão especialmente entre famílias. Isto é antitético as tradições de fé que advortalecem os indivíduos, famílias e comunidades.

Nossas tradições de fé ensina-nos que os nossos governos deveriam manter a ordem, preservar a justiça e promover o bem comum. Acreditamos que os nossos governos devem tomar uma posição para promover os valores de educação, trabalho, da justiça social e da dignidade do trabalho, e rejeitar a ilusão de dinheiro fácil, tanto para os indivíduos e aos cofres públicos.

Nossos governos devem proteger os mais vulneráveis na nossa sociedade de casinos que exploram as fraquezas humanas em alimentar vícios. Pedimos aos nossos governos em rejeitar a expansão de jogo e rejeitar esta indústria predatória como uma solução para os problemas econômicos e fiscais.

Instamos nossos Conselhos Municipais de votar contra casinos na área de Toronto. Nós aconselhamos aos nossos irmãos e irmãs nas nossas comunidades de fé para se informar sobre o assunto e exprimir a oposição ao jogo expandido para os nossos funcionários eleitos.

Thông điệp:

Cộng đồng đức tin Toronto đang đứng đối lập với việc mở rộng của các sòng bạc ở thành phố của chúng tôi và đã ký vào các báo cáo tín ngưỡng dưới đây. Chúng tôi khuyến khích tất cả mọi người phải hành động và ký tên vào bản kiến nghị trực tuyến tại www.nocasinotoronto.com hoặc trên giấy nhằm lên tiếng sự phản đối của bạn đến một sòng bạc lớn và việc mở rộng cờ bạc ở Toronto.

Bản Tuyên Bố Phản Đối Việc Mở Rộng Cờ Bạc Trong Vùng Phụ Cận Toronto

Chúng tôi, các nhà lãnh đạo đức tin và đại diện trong khu vực vùng phụ cận Toronto, đứng ra thống nhất trong việc phản đối sự mở rộng của các sòng bạc được đề xuất bởi Tổng công ty xổ số Gaming Ontario và hỗ trợ các chiến dịch chống casino do www.NoCasinoToronto.com đứng đầu.

Chúng tôi đại diện cho các cộng đồng đức tin khác nhau với quan điểm duy nhất, nguyên tắc, bản văn thánh, truyền thống và giáo lý mà hình thành cơ sở phản đối của chúng tôi về việc mở rộng cờ bạc. Ở vị trí của chúng tôi, chúng tôi thống nhất rằng cờ bạc là trái với các chuẩn mực đạo đức truyền thống của chúng ta bởi vì nó tác động tiêu cực đến cộng đồng đức tin của chúng tôi nói riêng và lớn hơn nữa là cộng đồng xã hội nói chung.

Chúng tôi tin tưởng rằng các sòng bạc là nguyên nhân của việc phá vỡ gia đình, tạo nên sự trầm cảm, nghiện ngập, phá sản và tội phạm, và tất cả những điều đó đều trái ngược với nhiệm vụ và mục tiêu của chúng tôi là giúp đỡ, tăng cường và phát triển từng cá nhân, gia đình và cộng đồng.

Truyền thống đức tin của chúng tôi dạy chúng tôi rằng các chính phủ của chúng tôi cần phải duy trì trật tự, bảo vệ công lý và thúc đẩy lợi ích chung. Chúng tôi tin rằng các chính phủ của chúng tôi phải lấy một chỗ đứng để thúc đẩy các giá trị của công tác giáo dục, cần cù, công bằng xã hội, và nhân phẩm của lao động, và từ chối những ảo ảnh của sự kiếm tiền dễ dàng, cho cả cá nhân và ngân quỹ của công chúng.

Chính phủ của chúng tôi phải bảo vệ nhược điểm trong xã hội của chúng tôi về việc khai thác điểm yếu của con người và nghiện ngập từ các sòng bạc. Do đó, chúng tôi kêu gọi các chính phủ của chúng tôi từ chối mở rộng cờ bạc và từ chối ngành công nghiệp cướp bóc này như là một giải pháp cho các vấn đề kinh tế và tài chính.

Chúng tôi mạnh mẽ yêu cầu Hội đồng thành phố của chúng tôi bỏ phiếu chống lại bất kỳ sòng bạc mới trong khu vực phụ cận Toronto. Chúng tôi tiếp tục thúc giục anh chị em trong cộng đồng đức tin của chúng tôi để nắm rõ về vấn đề này và lên tiếng sự phản đối của họ về việc mở rộng cờ bạc đến các quan chức nhiệm kỳ.

Xin Chân Thành Cảm Ơn!

La comunità di fede di Toronto è in opposizione all'espansione dei casinò nella nostra città e ha firmato la dichiarazione interreligiosa di seguito. Stiamo incoraggiando tutti ad agire e firmare la petizione on-line a [www.nocasinotoronto.com / take-action](http://www.nocasinotoronto.com/take-action)

o per iscritto di esprimere la vostra opposizione a un mega casinò e l'espansione del gioco a Toronto.

La Dichiarazione Interreligiosa in Opposizione all'Espansione dei Casinò a Toronto.

Noi, i leader religiosi e rappresentanti sottoscritti nella Greater Toronto Area, restiamo uniti nell'opposizione all'espansione dei casinò proposti dalla Lotteria dell'Ontario e Società di Gioco (Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation) e sostegniamo la campagna anti-casinò guidato da www.NoCasinoToronto.com.

Noi rappresentiamo le comunità religiose diverse, con prospettive uniche, i principi, i testi sacri, le tradizioni e gli insegnamenti che sono alla base della nostra opposizione all'espansione del gioco. Siamo uniti nella nostra posizione che il gioco è in contrasto con le norme etiche delle nostre tradizioni, perché influisce negativamente le nostre comunità religiose e il grande pubblico.

Siamo convinti che i casinò contribuiscono alla disgregazione della famiglia, depressione, dipendenza, i fallimenti e la criminalità e, quindi, sono antitetici alla nostra missione di tradizioni di fede, di rafforzare gli individui, le famiglie e le comunità.

Le nostre tradizioni religiose ci insegnano che i nostri governi dovrebbero mantenere l'ordine, preservare la giustizia e promuovere il bene comune. Crediamo che i nostri governi devono prendere posizione per promuovere i valori della formazione, il duro lavoro, la giustizia sociale e la dignità del mano d'opera, e respingere l'illusione del denaro facile, sia gli individui che le casse pubbliche.

I nostri governi dovrebbero proteggere i più vulnerabili nella nostra società dai casinò che sfruttano le debolezze umane e le dipendenze. Chiediamo quindi ai nostri governi di respingere l'espansione del gioco e rifiutare questa industria predatoria come una soluzione ai problemi economici e fiscali.

Spingiamo i nostri Consigli Municipali di votare contro eventuali nuovi casinò nella Greater Toronto Area. Inoltre, incoraggiamo i nostri fratelli e sorelle delle nostre comunità di fede di essere informati su questo problema e esprimere la loro opposizione all'espansione del gioco ai nostri funzionari eletti.

トロントの多種多様な信仰共同体が一丸となってカジノの拡大に反対表明することとなり、以下にある声明文に署名いたしました。トロントにおいて巨大なカジノ増設とギャンブルの拡張反対にご賛同いただける方は、www.nocasinatoronto.comにて請願書に署名してくださるよう切にお願いいたします。

信仰共同体のGTAカジノ増設反対の声明

我々、グレートトロントエリアの各宗教、各分野の代表及びリーダーはオンタリオ州の宝くじ及び賭博公社とwww.nocasinatoronto.com率いる反カジノキャンペーンによって提案されたカジノ拡大に反対することに賛同いたします。

我々は地域の異なった信仰共同体を代表し、その教義、儀礼、展望、伝統、聖典を基礎に反するギャンブルへ反対いたします。ギャンブルが我々の伝統の倫理基準とは相反し、信仰共同体の皆様だけではなく多くの市民の皆様新たな社会的問題を生み出す事になるという見解で一致しています。

家庭崩壊、うつ病、中毒、破産、犯罪にカジノが深く関与していることは認知されており、我々のミッションである個人、家族、地域をより向上させていく方向とは相容れない事を確信しています。

我々の伝統の倫理基準が教えてくれているように政府は秩序を維持しつつ公益を生み出さなければなりません。政府は教育、ハードワーク、社会正義と労働の尊厳の価値を促進するという立場を取って、個人及び公共の両方にあぶく銭から財源確保を導こうとすること遠ざけなければなりません。

政府は人間のギャンブルに対しての弱い面と中毒になりやすい面を認識し保護すべきだと思います。したがって、我々は政府に経済・財政問題への解決案として提示されているギャンブルの拡大及び略奪する産業を拒絶するように強く求めます。

我々は市議会にグレートトロントエリアにおける新しいカジノ建設に反対の投票をするよう強く主張します。さらに、我々は一部の議員により提案されているギャンブル拡張の問題を皆様の信仰共同体の兄弟、姉妹に伝え、反対の声をあげていただく事を切に望みます。

The Toronto faith community is standing in opposition to the expansion of casinos in our City and have signed on to the interfaith statement below. We are encouraging everyone to take action and sign the petition online at www.nocasinatoronto.com/take-action or on paper to voice your opposition to a mega casino and expanded gambling in Toronto.

يقف مجتمع معتققي العقائد الدينية في تورنتو معارضاً وبشدة توسع وانتشار أندية القمار والمراهنة في مدينتنا، وقد قمنا بتوقيع البيان المدون أدناه. إننا نحث الجميع على اتخاذ موقفاً حاسماً بتوقيع الالتزام المدرج على الموقع الإلكتروني www.nocasinatoronto.com/take-action، أو حتى خطأً للتعبير عن معارضتكم لبناء نادٍ ضخم للقمار وألعاب المراهنة وتوسع وانتشار ألعاب المقامرة في تورنتو.

Interfaith Statement Opposing Casino Expansion in the GTA

We, the undersigned faith leaders and representatives in the Greater Toronto Area, stand united in opposing the expansion of casinos proposed by the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation and support the anti-casino campaign led by www.NoCasinoToronto.com.

We represent diverse faith communities with unique perspectives, principles, sacred texts, traditions and teachings that form the basis of our opposition to expanded gambling. We are unified in our position that gambling is contrary to the ethical norms of our traditions because it negatively impacts our faith communities and the wider public.

We are convinced that casinos contribute to family breakdown, depression, addiction, bankruptcies and crime, and thus are antithetical to our mission as faith traditions to strengthen individuals, families and communities.

Our faith traditions teach us that our governments should maintain order, preserve justice and promote the common good. We believe that our governments must take a stand to promote the values of education, hard work, social justice and the dignity of labour, and reject the illusion of easy money, for both individuals and public coffers.

Our governments should protect the most vulnerable in our society from casinos that exploit human weaknesses and addictions. We therefore call upon our governments to reject gambling expansion and reject this predatory industry as a solution to economic and fiscal problems.

بيان مجتمع معتققي العقائد الدينية المعارض لتوسع نواد القمار في منطقة تورنتو الكبرى

نحن، الموقعون أدناه قادة وممثلي معتققي العقائد الدينية في منطقة تورنتو العظمى، نقف يداً واحدة ضد توسع نواد القمار والمراهنة المقترحة من قبل هيئة اليانصيب والمقامرة باونتاريو، وندعم ونساند الحركة المعارضة لانتشار هذه النوادي بقيادة www.NoCasinoToronto.com.

نحن نمثل مجتمعات ذات عقائد دينية متنوعة تتميز بوجهات نظر، مبادئ، نصوص مقدسة، وتقاليد وتعاليم تشكل أسس معارضتنا لانتشار ألعاب القمار والمراهنة. إننا مُتحدون ومتفقون على أن القمار مُناقض و مُخالف لكل المعايير الأخلاقية لأعرافنا ومعتقداتنا الإيمانية، لما له من آثار سلبية على مجتمعاتنا العقائدية والمجتمع الأكبر ككل.

إننا على اقتناع تام أن نواد القمار تسهم وبشكل مباشر في الانهيار والتفكك الأسري، الاكتئاب، الإدمان، الإفلاس، وارتفاع معدل الجريمة. لذا فهو منافٍ أخلاقياً لرسالتنا الإيمانية التي تهدف إلى تعزيز وتقوية الأفراد، والأسر، والمجتمعات.

إنَّ معتقداتنا الإيمانية تُعلِّمنا أنَّ من واجبات حكوماتنا حفظ النظام، وصون العدالة، والترويج لكل مافيه المنفعة والصالح العام. إننا نؤمن أنَّ على حكوماتنا اتخاذ موقف جاد وفعال لتشجيع قيم التعليم، العمل الدؤوب، العدالة الاجتماعية وكرامة العامل، ورفض أوهام طرق الكسب السهل والسريع للمال سواء للأفراد أو المؤسسات العامة.

على الحكومات أن تحمي أكثر الأفراد عرضةً في مجتمعنا من مخاطر نواد القمار والتي تستغل الضعف الإنساني وسهولة وقوعه فريسةً للإدمان. لذا فإننا نناشد جميع حكوماتنا رفض انتشار وتوسع مشاريع القمار والمراهنة، ونبذ هذه الصناعة الجشعة والخطيرة كحلٍّ للأزمات الاقتصادية وعجز الميزانية.

We strongly urge our Municipal City Councils to vote against any new casinos in the Greater Toronto Area. We further urge our brothers and sisters in our faith communities to become informed about this issue and voice their opposition to expanded gambling to our elected officials.

إننا نحث بكل شدة مجالس مدينتنا البلدية على التصويت ضد إقامة إي نادٍ للقمار في منطقة تورونتو الكبرى. علاوةً على ذلك، فإننا نحث إخواننا وأخواتنا من مختلف الطوائف الدينية على الإطلاع والوعي التام بهذه القضية والاتصال بالمسؤولين المنتخبين في دوائرهم لإعلان معارضتهم القوية لتوسع مشاريع ألعاب القمار والمراهنات.

Las comunidades de fe estamos en oposición a la expansión de los casinos en nuestra ciudad. Abajo hemos firmado una declaración interreligiosa. Todo el mundo tome acción y firme la petición en línea: www.nocasinotoronto.com/take-action o en papel para que se le oiga la voz contra el mega casino y la expansión de los juegos de apostar.

Declaración Interreligiosa Contra la Expansión de los Casinos en el Gran Area de Toronto

Nosotros, los abajofirmantes, líderes y representantes de religiones en el Gran Area de Toronto, estamos unidos en nuestra oposición de la expansión de casinos que propone la Corporación de Lotería y Juegos de Ontario y apoyamos a la campaña anti-casino guiada por www.NoCasinoToronto.com

Representamos diversas comunidades de fe con perspectivas, valores, sagrados textos, tradiciones y enseñanzas únicas, que forman la base de nuestra oposición a la expansión de los juegos de apostar. Estamos unidos en nuestra oposición. Los juegos de apostar están en contra de las normas éticas de nuestras tradiciones por que tienen impactos negativos en nuestras comunidades de fe tanto como en el resto del público.

Estamos convencidos que los casinos contribuyen a las rupturas matrimoniales, la depresión, la adicción, las bancarrotas y el crimen, y por eso son lo opuesto a las tradiciones de fe que intentan fortalecer a los individuos, las familias y las comunidades.

Nuestras tradiciones de fe nos enseñan que nuestros gobiernos deberían mantener orden, preservar la justicia y promover el bien común. Nosotros creemos que nuestros gobiernos deben promover los valores de educación, trabajo, justicia social, y la dignidad de empleo, y deben de rechazar la ilusión del dinero fácil, tanto para el individuo como para los fondos públicos.

Nuestros gobiernos deberían proteger las personas mas vulnerables de nuestra sociedad contra los casinos que aprovechan de las debilidades y adiciones humanas. Entonces les estamos pidiendo a nuestros gobiernos que rechacen la expansión de los juegos de apostar y que rechacen esta industria predatoria como una solución a los problemas económicos y fiscales.

Le estamos urgiendo a nuestros concejales municipales que voten en contra cualquier casino nuevo que se proponga en el Gran Area de Toronto. También les estamos urgiendo a nuestras hermanas y hermanos de nuestras comunidades de fe que se informen sobre este asunto. Comunicasen con nuestros elegidos oficiales para demostrar su oposición a la expansión de los juegos de apostar.

टोरंटों का धार्मिक समुदाय इस शहर में जुआधरों के विस्तार का विरोध करता है और निम्नलिखित प्रस्ताव पर हस्ताक्षर करता है और हम प्रत्येक व्यक्ति से इस बात का आग्रह करते हैं। कि हमारी वेबसाइट www.nocasinotoronto.com/take-action या फिर एक पत्र के माध्यम से जुआधरों का विरोध करें जो चीजें टोरंटों में जुआँ की प्रवृत्ति को बढ़ावा दे रही हैं।

INTERFAITH STATEMENT OPPOSING CASINO EXPANSION IN THE GTA

हम ऐसा समझते हैं कि जी.टी.ए. का नेतृत्व और प्रतिनिधित्व करने वाले लोग एकजुट होकर जुआधरों का विरोध कर जिसका प्रस्ताव ऑनटेरियो लॉटरी एण्ड गेमिंग कारपोरेशन के द्वारा विरोध के समर्थन में किया गया है जो वेबसाइट www.nocasinotoronto.com पर उपलब्ध है।

हम सभी विरोधी समुदाय परम्पराओं, प्रशिक्षणों पवित्र पुस्तकों (धार्मिक) एवं सिद्धान्तों के आधार पर श्जुआधरों के निरन्तर बढ़ती प्रवृत्ति पर विरोध प्रकट करते हैं। हम सभी लोग जुआधरों के विरोध में सम्भावित हैं। क्योंकि यह विस्तृत जन जीवन पर नकारात्मक प्रभाव डालता है।

हम लोग इस बात पर पूर्णरूप से विश्वास रखते हैं कि यह जुआधर पारिवारिक विघटन, मानसिक दबाव, नशीले पदार्थों का प्रयोग, बैंक दीवालियापन तथा अपराध जैसी समस्याओं को बढ़ावा देते हैं। इस प्रकार यह नैतिकता विरोधी है। और यह लोगों को शक्ति देने, परिवर और समुदाय को मजबूत करने में असफल है।

हम सभी लोगों को परम्पराओं में विश्वास इस बात की शिक्षा देता है हमारी सरकार व्यवस्था स्थापित रखें, न्याय दिलायें तथा सामान्य भलाई को बढ़ावा दें। हम ऐसा विश्वास करते हैं कि हमारी सरकार शिक्षा में मूल्यों, कठिन परिश्रम, सामाजिक न्याय श्रम का गौरव बढ़ाकर सरलता से कमाये जाने वाले धन की मानव प्रवृत्ति की तथा धन संचय के प्रयास समाप्त करें।

(2)

हमारी सरकार सम्पूर्ण समाज में जुआधरों के द्वारा किये गये शोषण, मनुष्यों की कमजोरी एवं मादक पदार्थों के प्रयोग पर रोक लगा कर समाज की रक्षा करें, इसलिए हम सब लोग सरकार से यह आग्रह करते हैं कि बढ़ते हुए जुआधरों की प्रवृत्ति को रोके जो समाज की आर्थिक उन्नति में तथा सामाजिक समस्याओं के निराकरण में सार्थक सिद्ध हो सके।

हम सभी नगर परिषद के प्रतिनिधियों से प्रार्थना करते हैं। कि वह टोरंटों के क्षेत्र में इस प्रवृत्ति का पुरजोर विरोध करें, साथ ही साथ हम अपने भाई बहनों और इसके विरोध में विश्वास रखने वाले सभी समुदायों के लोगों से यह अनुरोध करते हैं कि वह इस प्रकरण पर अपनी जोरदार आवाज उठाये और बढ़ती हुई जुआखोरी की प्रवृत्ति का विरोध करें।

**Submission to the Toronto City Council Executive Committee:
Expansion of gambling at Woodbine Racetrack**

June 30, 2015 – EX 7.4

Many individuals in Ontario gamble. Most do so without causing harm to themselves or others, but **about 2.5% of Ontarians have moderate to severe gambling problems.**¹ In Toronto, there are about 11,000 people with severe gambling problems and over 100,000 more with moderate problems.²

People with gambling problems experience a range of harms including mental health issues like depression, anxiety and substance use. People who gamble are also at increased risk of suicide; a significantly higher proportion of problem gamblers report having thoughts of suicide in their lifetime compared to the general population.^{3, 4} The Canadian Safety Council, an independent advocacy group, believes that more than 200 problem gamblers take their lives each year in Canada.⁵

Many people who gamble also experience dysfunctional relationships and financial difficulties because of their gambling. These harms affect not only the people with gambling problems but also their families and communities.

We recognize that gambling is a reality in Ontario and that it already takes place in many forms at Woodbine Racetrack. But research from around the world shows that increases in gambling availability are associated with increases in problem gambling.⁶ This means that **expansion at Woodbine will likely lead to an increase in the number of problem gamblers**, particularly in the area surrounding the facility.

It's estimated that **a quarter of Ontario's gambling revenues comes from problem gamblers.**⁷ This number is even higher for table games, and for slot machines – which are known to be especially problematic.⁸ Woodbine expansion is anticipated to raise revenues for the municipal and provincial governments, but based on the available evidence, it's reasonable to expect that **a high percentage of these new revenues would be contributed by people who are struggling with gambling problems.**

Ontario provides some of the best and most extensive Responsible Gambling (RG) programs in the world, including the RG work being done by Ontario Lottery and Gaming (OLG). CAMH collaborates with OLG on some of these initiatives. We provide consultation services and train OLG employees on how to intervene with customers who are showing signs of being in trouble. While this work is important, it should also be understood that there is no evidence to indicate that these efforts have a significant impact on decreasing the prevalence of problem gambling in casino venues. We are particularly concerned that there is very limited impact on early prevention of problem gambling.


In conclusion, there is considerable evidence that **expanding Woodbine Racetrack would likely have a negative health impact on some individuals**. CAMH endorses the recommendation by the Medical Officer of Health that City Council maintain its opposition to expanded gambling in Toronto.

CAMH also endorses the recommendation by the Medical Officer of Health that **if the City opts to expand gambling at Woodbine, it should require the facility to close for a minimum of six hours a day**. Many Ontario treatment providers report that a disproportionate number of people with gambling problems play after midnight and that extended hours have negative impacts on their clients.⁹ Closing a gambling venue for a few hours a day allows people with problems to take a break from their extended gambling. Evaluations of restrictions on opening hours in other jurisdictions suggest that policies of this sort can have a measurable impact on reducing gambling-related harms.¹⁰

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camh The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) is Canada's largest mental health and addiction teaching hospital, as well as one of the world's leading research centres in this area. CAMH combines clinical care, research, education, policy development, and health promotion to transform the lives of people affected by mental health and addiction issues.

 **Problem Gambling Institute of Ontario** The Problem Gambling Institute of Ontario at CAMH brings treatment professionals and leading researchers together with experts in communicating and sharing knowledge. Our focus is on collaboratively developing, modelling and sharing evidence-based solutions to gambling related problems, within Ontario and around the world.

¹ William and Volberg (2013). Gambling and problem gambling in Ontario. Report prepared for the Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre and the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

² Toronto Public Health (2012). The health impacts of gambling expansion in Toronto – Technical report.

³ Cook et al. (2010). Ontario youth gambling report: Data from the 2009 Ontario Drug Use and Health Survey. Report prepared for the Problem Gambling Institute of Ontario.

⁴ Nower and Blaszczynski (2008). Characteristics of problem gamblers 56 years of age or older: a statewide study of casino self-excluders. *Psychology of Aging* 23(3), 577-584.

⁵ Canadian Safety Council (2005). Canadian Roulette.

⁶ Williams, Rehm and Stevens (2011). The social and economic impacts of gambling. Final report prepared for the Canadian Consortium for Gambling Research.

⁷ Williams and Volberg 2013

⁸ Williams and Volberg 2013

⁹ Problem Gambling Institute of Ontario (2011). Focus group results from Ontario problem gambling treatment providers.

¹⁰ Gainsbury et al. (2014). Recommendations for international gambling harm-minimisation guidelines: Comparison with effective public health policy. *Journal of Gambling Studies* 30: 771-788.

Opinion / Commentary

The problem with expanding gambling at Woodbine

Current efforts to transform Woodbine into a mega-casino are grossly misleading.



TORONTO STAR

Woodbine race track: The Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp. wants to expand gambling.

By: Rob Simpson Published on Mon Jun 29 2015

The Ontario government's desire to generate revenue and Woodbine's interests in dramatically increasing gambling profits converge in their attempt to orchestrate acceptance and wear down opposition. Nowhere are the hard facts even mentioned, let alone considered, as illustrated in the City of Toronto's recent staff report.

Here are five key considerations that have been ignored:

- The proposed expansion is massive. Above the current 2,704 slot machines, expansion will add 2,296 for a total of 5,000. In addition, it will add 300 table games – by far the most lucrative source of gambling revenue. According to OLG annual reports, each Woodbine slot machine generates \$219,415 in yearly profit. At this rate, the new ones would generate \$503.8 million more per year.

OLG does not disclose table game revenues, but Las Vegas resorts report \$3,737 per table per day (The Venetian/Palazzo). If Woodbine tables generate \$2,000 per table, the 300 new ones would generate \$219.0 million per year. At \$3,000 per table, they would generate \$328.5 million per year.

Adding new revenue projections for tables and slots yields between \$722.8 million and \$832.3 million per year from expansion. These are new net gambler losses.

- Gambling expenditures come from somewhere. The available evidence suggests that the majority of new revenues would come from GTA residents, and there is no compelling evidence to indicate that gambling tourism would increase. In fact, casinos world-wide are dying – 11 of the 14 Atlantic City Casinos have closed, including the state-of-the-art Revel. Las Vegas revenues are now down to 46

per cent from gambling, with 54 per cent from other sources.

It is probable that the \$722.8 million to \$832.3 million in new revenue would come from GTA residents, and would be reallocated from other expenditures. The most likely source would be the Leisure and Entertainment sector, which would be substantially harmed by such losses in revenue. Equally important, this sector supports 2.4 times more jobs per million dollars' revenue than do casinos, suggesting that for every job created, as many as 2.4 would be lost elsewhere. Offsetting job losses are never mentioned in glowing job creation claims.

- Problem gambling is a problem. That slots and tables are the most harmful forms of gambling is never mentioned. The most recent research shows that 5.5 per cent of slots players are high severity problem gamblers, and they generate 31.2 per cent of slots revenue. At the tables, 12.1 per cent of players are high severity problem gamblers, and generate 56.9 per cent of the revenue.

This suggests that, based on the above revenue projections, between \$281.8 million and \$344.1 million of the new revenue would come from people being harmed by gambling. Although much of this harm could be prevented through protective policies and procedures, OLG refused to consider a single one put forward by Toronto Public Health the last time casinos were considered.

OLG cites stable problem gambling rates, but fails to recognize that each year up to 20 per cent of problem gamblers significantly cut back or quit, mostly due to financial duress. Known as "churn," this means that up to 20 per cent of each year's problem gamblers are new recruits, replacing those from whom extraction has been maxed out.

- Generating revenue from gambling is inefficient. At present, only about 35 per cent of gambling revenue is turned over to government; 65 per cent covers operating costs and profits for operators. Why the province considers this a good deal is hard to imagine. And, as mentioned, virtually 100 per cent revenue will be extracted from GTA residents in exchange for a paltry 2 per cent return in "hosting" fees. Surely municipal councillors can see that this is a chump's deal.

For those projecting an influx of tourists, consider the collapse of mega-casinos across North America – ubiquity ensures that destination gambling no longer exists. For those envisioning burgeoning convention business, ask why anyone would choose a location so far from Toronto's existing attractions.

- There is no demand. As for consumer demand, we should turn to properly designed and implemented research rather than Toronto's hastily commissioned and seriously flawed poll. A 2013 study by researchers Robert Williams and Rachel Volberg found no support for expansion in Ontario.

Fully 34.3 per cent of non-problem gamblers and 40 per cent of problem gamblers stated that gambling was too widely available at present. Another 62.9 per cent of non-problem gamblers and 53.3 per cent of problem gamblers said that the current availability of gambling was fine. Finally, only 2.8 per cent of non-problem gamblers said gambling was not available enough, as did 6.7 per cent of problem gamblers. And this was before OLG introduced on-line gambling.

Current efforts to transform Woodbine into a mega-casino are grossly misleading, and more aligned with "decision-based evidence-making" than the "evidence-based decision-making" that the Ontario

public deserves.

Rob Simpson was CEO of the Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre from 2000 until 2010.