



家和專業輔導中心

CHINESE FAMILY SERVICES OF ONTARIO

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Re: EX24.1 Executive Committee: Considering a New Casino in Toronto November 5, 2012

To the members of the Executive Committee, Toronto City Council:

I am writing on behalf of the Chinese Family Services of Ontario to express our view in response to the new casino in the City of Toronto. We strongly oppose a new casino in City of Toronto.

We have witnessed an increase of 36% problem gamblers in the past years. The problem gamblers in Ontario is estimated at 3.4% and 9.6% of Ontarians (family members, significant others and friends of problem gamblers) are being negatively affected by the problem gamblers as indicated by the Responsible Gambling Council. The estimated Chinese population in Greater Toronto is 400,000.

According to our experience since 1994, 96% problem gamblers have financial difficulties with the financial institutes and the loan sharks; committed crimes in order to pay their debts and being chased by the loan sharks. The loan sharks also threaten their family members. Some problem gamblers committed suicide and some of them have suicidal ideation. We have estimated that at least 38,400 people in the Chinese community are being negatively affected by the problem gamblers.

We know that there are 82% problem gamblers who do not come out to seek help because problem gambling is an invisible illness. Gambling in Chinese community is a well-accepted recreational activity and many problem gamblers cannot differentiate the boundary between problem gambling and recreation. In fact, most of them are problem gamblers.

Research findings have indicated that there will be more problem gamblers if there are more opportunities for gambling. We can anticipate that more problem gamblers, family members and more Torontonians will suffer in the future if a new casino is established in City of Toronto. The City of Toronto should be responsible for all the detrimental effects and consequences if a casino is established in the City of Toronto. We all know that a responsible government should be aware of their social responsibility.

We would like to oppose and express our deep concern in relation to any gambling expansion in the City of Toronto.

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