

# EX33.2.3

Deputation regarding expanded gambling in the Toronto area.

Item number EX33.2

I'm writing this deputation to express my concern regarding the expansion of gambling in the GTA. Anytime the availability to gamble increases, there is a potential for an increase in problem gambling. Problem gambling is a serious psychological problem that involves excessive gambling, chasing, erroneous beliefs about being able to win, extensive borrowing to gamble, financial desperation for money, and in some cases criminal activity, or even suicide. The Woodbine area already has electronic gambling machines, but will be adding table games to their venue. While the bulk of problem gamblers in treatment play electronic gambling games, it is important to know that table games allow much larger bets and can result in enormous losses in a single day.

In going ahead with expanded gambling, the city must also ensure that any expansion in gambling is countered by an increase in prevention oriented services including warning about potential losses. Another particular concern that has emerged recently is bus tours to casinos. More effort is needed to ensure that people who take buses to casino are informed about the risk of gambling.

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