

Ontario's Charitable Gaming News - February 2019



eRaffle Update

In late January 2019, the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario hosted two eRaffle Information sessions. The sessions focused on Phase II of the Electronic Raffle Framework. For a copy of the presentation, please click on AGCO Raffle Information below.

If you have any questions after reviewing the material, please send them to connect@agco.ca.

On January 18th, 2019, there was a media event announcing the eRaffle changes. To read the Media Release from the Ministry of the Attorney General, please click on Media Release below.

[AGCO Raffle Information](#)

[Media Release](#)

cGaming's Contribution to Communities

As of February, over **\$228 Million** has been contributed across Ontario through the efforts of cGaming charities and the private sector. The Ontario Charitable Gaming Association is again organizing media events across the province beginning in early spring to promote awareness and the benefits of cGaming funds. Invitations are extended to MPPs, mayors and media. These events celebrate the monies raised and the resulting services provided in local communities.

TAP 'N PLAY Side Game Campaign – Launched February 18th

As the industry continues in the rebranding of some of the electronic gaming in the centres, OLG and industry representatives have been working on promotional material to not only share the new brand, but to market the new and existing games. Formerly Play on Demand Games (POD), the newly branded Tap 'n Play Games are continuing to evolve. We have seen the addition of new games, with more on the way, the phasing out of some of the older product, and transition to the new brand on player devices.

New marketing material is being shared with operators across the province for the 'Tap Into Something New' campaign. This includes social media images, video, and in-centre signage including posters, standees, side cards/clips for bingo player devices, and more. Please share this exciting new brand and these great games where you can as charities benefit directly from these revenues. In addition, these provide a very significant opportunity for growth with thousands of fixed-base player units in our 31 cGaming locations. Contact your Charity Coordinator for more information to share with your community.

There is more work being done to continue to evolve this product with other updates and player interface changes coming soon.



Ontario's Charitable Gaming Conference 2019

Mark your calendar, the 2019 Charitable Gaming Conference focused on the Ontario marketplace will take place on Monday November 18th and Tuesday November 19th at the Hilton Mississauga Meadowdale. We will share more information as it becomes available.

Sad News

It is with great sadness that we learned of Frank Chapman's passing on February 12th. Frank was one of the founding volunteer directors and was instrumental in setting up OCGA. Frank served as President of the Board through the creation years, prior to the incorporation of OCGA in 1996, until late 2000. Frank was very passionate about charities across the province and the opportunities that

fundraising through bingo provided. As a former principal of Quinte Secondary School, his involvement in the Belleville community was extensive and this was evident by the hundreds of people that attended his funeral. Frank believed in collaboration and partnership - values that are still embedded in OCGA today. We are so grateful for his leadership and our thoughts are with his family.

Charitable Gaming Supporting the Industry – The Niagara Military Museum

The Niagara Military Museum is a tri-service (land, sea and air) military museum that "Preserves and Shares the Military History of the Niagara Peninsula" with an emphasis on military activities in the Armoury since it was erected in 1911. The Niagara Military Museum is located in the historic Niagara Falls Armoury, Victoria Avenue, Niagara Falls and was established to guard the frontier from the possibility of invasion by the United States. It functioned as a military establishment until late 1999 when the Department of National Defence closed the building.

The funds that come to the Niagara Military Museum from bingo events at Delta Bingo Niagara Falls are **absolutely vital** for funding the day-to-day operations and museum related activities. Museum activities include constructing displays, purchasing expensive supplies for artifact restoration and preservation and the occasional purchase of artifacts for display.

Volunteers always try to greet the patrons at the main door of the gaming centre to wish them all the best of luck. They do this small gesture to show their appreciation for the players coming out to play and as a result of their patronage the Niagara Military Museum can continue to exist. This past New Year's Eve, the volunteers went beyond their duties. They were all dressed in formal attire and greeted all the guests throughout the evening. The feedback from the patrons was overwhelmingly positive.



BOT Admin Fee Advocacy Campaign – So far, so good

OCGA continues to be very active with the new government on the BOT Admin fee issue. We've been pressing hard on the need to eliminate this unjust fee, which functions like a tax on top of licensing fees that charities already pay.

The response we've been getting has been positive and encouraging. New government officials have been very receptive to our concerns and have taken the time to meet with us and to get to know the issue. Clearly, they have been listening to charities' frustration with more than 10 years of inaction by the previous government and millions of dollars of hard-earned charity revenues being siphoned off into government coffers over the years.

While we had hoped that the new government would act quickly to remedy this situation, particularly given their willingness to do so on many other legacies of the previous government, we have since been advised that our issue will be considered, along with many others, in the deliberations leading up the next budget, expected some time this spring.

OCGA members will recall that we received that same message a number of times from the previous government, but we continue to be very hopeful that this time is truly different.

To continue to press our case, we are requesting meetings with both the Minister of Finance (who has the final say on the “fee”) and the Attorney-General (who oversee the AGCO, which administers the “fee”).

In the meantime, we need all OCGA members to continue to be active on this issue.

Previously, we asked you to email your MPP as part of raising general awareness among politicians and we are grateful for the response of many organizations and individuals.

Now, we need you to send a positive and supportive message directly to Minister of Finance Vic Fedeli.

Please go to botfairness.com. There you’ll find the Minister’s email address and a draft email that you and other charity volunteers can send to him.

It’s a simple message: We appreciate being heard. We appreciate the positive reception and understanding. And, it’s time to act.

National Volunteer Week – April 7-13, 2019

This year’s National Volunteer Week is April 7-13, 2019. The theme of this year’s campaign is: The Volunteer Factor – Lifting Communities. Volunteer Canada has developed a campaign kit which includes: web and social media graphics and tips, and print, event, media and government relations materials. For more information, please visit the [Volunteer Canada website](http://volunteer.ca).



Alberta – Charitable Gaming Model Review

Alberta Gaming, Liquor, and Cannabis is conducting its first substantial review of charitable gaming since 2010. This review follows a slight slump in charitable gaming revenues of \$5 million in fiscal 2017-2018 compared to revenues raised in 2016-17 (\$331.2 vs. \$336.2). This review will look at the eligibility and use of proceeds. Both charitable organizations and the public will be able to provide input.

Motivation to Volunteer Article

This article looks at what motivates different generations to volunteer, and a shift to short-term, one-off volunteer opportunities. To read the article, please click [here](#).

2019/2020 OCGA Membership Renewal

Membership renewal time for 2019/20 is here with the new membership year beginning on April 1st. Membership fees remain the same as last year and packages will be emailed to Charity Coordinators/Administrators, key board members and key contacts over the coming week. If you are a member of a centre association, you do not need to do anything. The charity coordinator or hall administrator will deal with this on behalf of charity members. If you have any questions, please contact Patricia Petrolo via email at ppetrolo@charitablegaming.com or by calling 905-539-0065.