



## Ontario Charitable Gaming Association Fact Sheet

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### Charitable Gaming and Bingo Revitalization

#### ***What is “Charitable Gaming and Bingo Revitalization”?***

The initiative is a 7-year old partnership between OLG, Ontario charities, municipalities, and commercial Bingo Centre operators to ensure charities have a long-term viable way to fundraise. The focus is on preventing further decline in charity revenues and over time, starting to grow those revenues. Charity fundraising through bingo has been in decline for more than a decade at a rate of 8% to 10% per year. A decade ago, more than 6,000 Ontario charities were raising funds in about 230 Bingo Centres. Today, there are 61 halls remaining, supporting fewer than 3,000 charities such as food banks, women’s shelter, programs for special needs children and seniors. This initiative is all about supporting charities and non-profits across Ontario.

#### ***What does this initiative involve?***

The initiative has several components designed to give charities a viable way to fundraise to support local programs. It includes offering customers a new entertainment experience, redesigned Bingo Centre interiors, providing more focus on customer service, making available better quality food and amenities, and the introduction of electronic versions of traditional charitable gaming products that can be played on touch screens alongside traditional paper products. Products include electronic bingo, electronic bingo and break open ticket - themed instant tickets, and electronically dispensed break open tickets.

#### **Was the decision to cancel the slots-at-racetracks program because of Charitable Gaming and Bingo Revitalization?**

The government’s decision to cancel the slots-at-racetracks program and the Charitable Gaming and Bingo Revitalization are not connected in any way. OLG has partnered with charities, Bingo Centre operators, and municipalities on this initiative since 2005 with six successful pilot electronic bingo sites – one each in Sudbury, Barrie, Kingston, Peterborough, and two in Windsor. The decision was made in August 2010 to expand beyond the original six sites to interested charities, operators, and municipalities across the province.

#### **Are there going to be slot machines in bingo centres?**

There are no slot machines in bingo centres and no plans to put them in. The technology being used is electronic versions of paper-based games that have been part of charitable gaming for decades, for example, electronic break open ticket dispensers are just that – a machine that electronically dispenses a paper break open ticket that gets scanned and appears on the screen when it is being dispensed.

#### **Are Bingo Centre operators getting a fair percentage of the revenues?**

It has been suggested by some in the race track industry that the financial compensation for Bingo Centre operators is too high, particularly compared to the slot “host” fees that have been paid by OLG to racetracks. However, the racetracks are not responsible for actually running the total operations of these facilities. The staffing, other physical infrastructure, and ongoing operations of racetrack slots are provided and paid for directly by OLG, including providing high levels of government subsidies for racing prizes.

Under Charitable Gaming and Bingo Revitalization, Bingo Centre operators not only provide the facility and renovations, but are responsible for day-to-day operations, including costs such as capital improvement, facility maintenance, local advertising and promotion, and all staffing. The Bingo Centre operator’s revenue share reflects this significant operational role.

#### ***For more information contact:***

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