



Integrated Illegal Gaming



Enforcement Team (IIGET)



Implementation Plan of Operations



RCMP 'E' Division



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Prepared by:



Sgt. Bruce Hulan



NCO i/c IIGET



Personal Information

## **Background**

The Integrated Illegal Gaming Enforcement Team (IIGET) is a joint initiative between the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch (GPEB) of the Ministry of Public Safety, the Solicitor General and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). The team is made up of twelve members of the RCMP and one Public Service Employee. Of these, six will work out of the Burnaby GPEB office. The remaining six will work out of the GPEB offices in Kelowna, Prince George and Victoria. The rank structure for the RCMP members will be one Staff Sergeant, one Sergeant, one Corporal and three Constables, all working out of the Burnaby office. The three satellite offices will each be staffed with one Corporal and one Constable. It is anticipated all the personnel will be identified by September 2004. The GPEB component of IIGET is comprised of one Deputy Director / Manager, five investigators, one Complaint Co-ordinator and one Administrative Assistant at the Burnaby office; one Regional Manager, two investigators and one Administrative Assistant at the Kelowna office; one Regional Manager, one investigator and one Administrative Assistant at the Prince George office; one Regional Manager, two investigators and one Administrative Assistant at the Victoria office.

## **Goals**

The Integrated Illegal Gaming Enforcement Team is in place to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute Criminal Offences in connection with illegal gaming activities in the Province of British Columbia.

## **Responsibilities**

The RCMP component of IIGET is responsible for:

- Enforcement of the Criminal Code
- Investigation of Criminal Activity in Illegal venues
- Investigating Illegal Gambling
- Recommending charges to Crown Counsel
- Collecting and disseminating intelligence
- Liaising with RCMP Detachments, Municipal Police Agencies, Federal and Provincial Government organizations

Investigators with the IIGET unit are responsible, as with all members of the RCMP, with enforcement of all aspects of the Criminal Code. The specific mandate of the unit is the enforcement of Part VII of the Criminal Code as it relates to Illegal Gaming. IIGET members will investigate unlawful activity in legal venues, such as loan sharking, threatening, intimidation and money laundering. Investigating illegal gambling in common gaming houses where among other things poker games or video gambling machines are being played.

IIGET members will prepare reports to Crown Counsel in relation to Illegal Gaming. They will work with Crown Counsel throughout the court process to ensure a successful prosecution.

IIGET members are tasked with the collection and distribution of intelligence. This role will fulfil several functions:

- f) It will provide members with current knowledge of criminal activity in legal and illegal venues
- b) It will assist IIGET members in determining the scope of illegal gaming activity in the province of British Columbia

IIGET members will develop working relationships with RCMP and Municipal Police Departments to enhance the sharing of information and further criminal investigations. A working partnership will be developed with Federal and Provincial Government Agencies, (IE: Revenue Canada, Liquor Control and Licensing Branch and Consumer Taxation), to conduct joint investigations where circumstances dictate.

### **Roles and Responsibilities of Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch (GPEB) are**

- Enforce the Province of British Columbia Gaming Control Act
- Enforce terms and conditions of Registration and Certification
- Receive complaints
- Investigate regulatory violations
- Produce reports to Crown Counsel on regulatory offences in conjunction with police
- Impose sanctions
- Assist police in the investigation and prosecution of unlawful activity in legal venues and illegal gaming.
- Collect and produce intelligence
- Participate in prosecutions

## **Priorities for the IIGET unit are**

### **TRAINING**

RCMP members assigned to the unit have a diversity of experience in conducting criminal investigations, but limited experience in illegal gaming activities. To develop the unit members knowledge, ten positions have been secured on the 2004 Gaming Investigator Course held at the Ontario Provincial Police Training Facility. The remaining members of the unit will receive the training in 2005.

### **Records Management**

GPEB members will continue to fulfil their investigational requirements and will maintain their current reporting systems. When a GPEB file is identified as an IIGET file it will fall under RCMP Policy.

IIGET members will utilize the services of the 'E' Division Headquarters records facility situated at the Surrey Satellite Complex, for the drawing of all files. RCMP and GPEB members will operate under RCMP Policy with regard to records management, reporting requirements, and confidentiality requirements.

## **INVESTIGATIONAL PRIORITIES (Long Term)**

- Illegal video gambling machines
- Common gaming houses
- Internet gaming
- Illegal lotteries
- Proceeds of Crime
- Bookmaking
- Loan Sharking

## **PRIORITIES (Short Term)**

- Illegal video gambling machines
- Common gaming houses
- Development of Intelligence
- Development of working relationships with RCMP Detachments and Municipal Police Forces

IIGET members will, in the short term, focus on two specific areas of illegal gaming. Illegal video gambling machines and common gaming houses. The reasoning for this is two fold, it is the most visible form of illegal gaming. Secondly, it will provide IIGET members hands on experience in the investigations of illegal gaming prior to all members having received formal training at the Gaming Investigators Course. Traditional methods of developing intelligence and enhancing working relationships with other police jurisdictions will be utilized.