



# British Columbia Lottery Corporation – Gaming Requests

May 8, 2024





## Overview:

1. Context
2. Background
  - a) Gaming timeline
  - b) Facilities
  - c) Moratorium
3. Options and Next Steps
  - a) Options analysis
  - b) Recommendations
4. Questions

## Context

- In late 2023, staff received interest from BCLC in potentially expanding gaming at the City's two casinos: Parq and Hastings Racecourse
- Expanding gaming could
  - lead to additional revenue, which the City would be entitled to 10%, or additional public benefits pursuant to a rezoning
  - cause public health, social, and economic impacts, the extent of which have yet to be assessed – consultation required with Vancouver Coastal Health and Vancouver Police Department
- No applications yet due to City's 2011 moratorium on applications to expand gaming venues

## Background – Gaming Timeline

- Extensive Council discussion and consideration since 1987 with respect to slot machines and gaming in Vancouver
- In 2002, the Province enacted the *Gaming Control Act*, which gives local governments the ability to
  - Approve or deny hosting gaming facilities in their jurisdiction
  - Regulate specific aspects of the gaming facility (size, number of slots and table games, and related issues like responsible gaming)
- The Provincial Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch regulates all gaming in BC, including regulatory oversight of BCLC, which conducts and manages commercial gaming

# Background - Gaming Facilities in Vancouver

- Two gaming facilities in Vancouver – Parq casino and Hasting Racecourse casino
- As the host local government, the City receives 10% of the net casino revenue
  - In 2022/2023, the City received \$7.2 million: \$6.2 million from Parq and \$1 million from Hastings Racecourse
- The City also receives funding to offset the negative impacts of gaming: \$600,000 annually from Parq and approximately \$130,000 annually from Hastings Racecourse; Hastings Racecourse also pays the City operating fees of \$1.75 million per year for use of the City land at Hastings Park
- The City regulates the amount of gaming at each casino:

	Parq (permitted)	Parq (current)	Hastings (permitted)	Hastings (current)
Slots	600	600	600	446
Table games	75	61	0	0

# Background - Gaming Moratorium

- Adopted by Council in 2011, in effect until Province or BCLC
  - Undertakes comprehensive public consultation on issue of expanded gambling; and
  - Implements internationally recognized best practices in responsible gaming and protection against money laundering and other criminal activity
- Prohibits any and all applications to expand gaming venues in the City of Vancouver
- The Moratorium directs the City to not accept either of
  - (1) applications to develop, use or operate a facility as a new gaming facility as described in section 18 (1) (a) of the Gaming Control Act or
  - (2) applications to substantially change the extent of lottery schemes at existing gaming facilities under section 18 (1) (c) of the Gaming Control Act.
- To allow a fulsome review of applications, the Moratorium would need to be addressed

# Options Analysis

Staff have identified four options to address BCLC's inquiries:

1. **Amend the Moratorium to allow consideration of applications for expansion of gaming at existing facilities (recommended option)**
2. Lift the Moratorium entirely
3. Retain the Moratorium as the status quo
4. Have staff lead and resource a full assessment and analysis of public policy implications associated with amending or lifting the Moratorium

# Options Analysis

	Option 1 (Amend Moratorium)	Option 2 (Lift Moratorium)	Option 3 (Retain Moratorium)	Option 4 (Staff Assessment)
Benefits	<p>Allows for assessment of gambling expansion without erasing limitations.</p> <p>Supports potential increase in City revenue.</p> <p>Cost of public health and safety and economic impacts assessment required of the applicant.</p>	<p>Supports potential increase in City revenue.</p> <p>Sends clear message for potential future casino applications.</p> <p>Cost of public health and safety and economic impacts assessment required of the applicant.</p>	<p>Avoids additional public health and safety impacts of gambling expansion.</p>	<p>Provides a fuller, updated public policy analysis on gaming as a whole.</p>
Risks	<p>Potential public health and safety and economic impacts (to be considered as part of application assessment).</p>	<p>Potential public health and safety and economic impacts (to be considered as part of application assessment).</p>	<p>No opportunity to consider expanding gambling in the City.</p> <p>Lost opportunity to potentially increase City revenue.</p>	<p>Delays timeline to application consideration and potentially increased City revenue.</p> <p>Assessment is not on current workplan.</p> <p>Cost of assessment would fall to the City.</p>



# Recommendations and Next Steps

## Recommendations

- A. THAT Council amend the gambling moratorium adopted by Council at its meeting of April 19, 2011 generally as described in Appendix A.\*
- B. THAT Council require that any applications brought forward for Council consideration for gambling expansion in the City include an assessment of the health, social, and economic impacts of the proposals.

\*The amended moratorium (Option 1) would allow for applications for gaming expansion at existing gaming facilities, but not new facilities

- Next steps (if recommendations adopted): BCLC could submit rezoning or development permit applications for gaming expansion depending on the change



Thank you and questions