

## Volume 1 Issue 4

Friday, June 28, 2002

The National Council on Problem Gambling held its 16th annual national conference on problem gambling on June 13<sup>th</sup> through June 15<sup>th</sup> in Dallas, Texas. The conference entitled *30 years of progress: Honoring the past and shaping the future*, hosted a wide range of prominent participants including researchers, treatment providers, government representatives, industry leaders, and prevention experts. The International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors took the opportunity to hold a pre-conference symposium as a follow-up to the Second International Think Tank on Youth Gambling Issues, held in Montreal in May, 2001. Over one hundred participants from six countries were present and offered comments and valuable suggestions to set the tone for further initiatives in the domains of research, awareness, governance, youth involvement and fund raising. A large number of volunteers agreed to participate on several committees. A special thank you to our sponsors for this follow-up event: Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre, Harrah's Entertainment Inc., and British Columbia Lottery Corporation. For more information contact Jeff Derevensky, [Jeffrey.Derevensky@mcgill.ca](mailto:Jeffrey.Derevensky@mcgill.ca).

Numerous presentations throughout the conference focused upon youth as a high-risk group for developing gambling problems. McGill's International Centre also hosted a hospitality suite for its International Advisory Board Members and international collaborators. The Centre congratulates Jennifer Felsher, M.A., currently a doctoral student in our Centre, who received the NCPG 2002 Student Award for her Masters Thesis focused on adolescent lottery playing and Hermano Taveres, M.D., Ph.D., for winning the outstanding Doctoral Dissertation award for his outstanding research. Centre collaborators including Drs. Howard Shaffer, Randy Stinchfield and Ken Winters were also recipients for their many valuable contributions to the field. The Centre congratulates all the award winners.

The *International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors* launched the very first province-wide poster contest in Quebec aimed at the prevention of gambling problems amongst youth; one of the many prevention efforts undertaken by our center. The goal of this contest entitled "The True Colours of Gambling," was to raise awareness amongst youth and the population at large of the risks associated with gambling.

Several Francophone as well as Anglophone High Schools in Quebec participated in this contest. A total of 184 students coming from 21 different schools throughout Quebec participated. The efforts and artistic talents put forth by the students were quite remarkable. The students expressed having learned a lot about gambling while producing their posters, and teachers were pleased with the knowledge their students gained. Also, since the project fit so well into the existing curriculum, some teachers inquired if there would be another contest next year.

The five members of the jury met on April 25th to select the winners. The members of the jury included: Anne-Elyse Deguire, Prevention Specialist, International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors, McGill University; Lynne

Board member of the International Centre for Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors, McGill University.

Two French posters as well as two English posters were selected as first and second place prizewinners. The first prize winners received a Digital Camera and the second prize winners received an MP3 Player on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2002 at the International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors. The prizewinners for the French poster are Kim Auclair (1<sup>st</sup> prize), and Karen Quirion (2<sup>nd</sup> prize). The prizewinners for the English poster are Natascia Tamburello (1<sup>st</sup> prize), and Tina Lippert (2<sup>nd</sup> prize).

Posters will not only be posted on our website but will also be reproduced and distributed to secondary schools throughout Quebec as part of our comprehensive prevention campaign aimed at sensitizing youth about the possible dangers associated with gambling. Congratulations to the winners!



**Natascia, Anne-Elyse, Kim, Tina** Duguay, Research and planification agent, Ministry of Health and Social Services, Government du Québec; Mario Carrière, Vice President Production, CogniScience; Serge Chevalier; Sociologist, National Institute of Public Health; and Scott Conrad; Educational Consultant and