



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

December 7, 2016

Auditor General reports on community gaming grants

VICTORIA – The Office of the Auditor General of B.C. has released a new report on the provincial government’s Community Gaming Grants program.

According to the report, government has a suitable framework in place to manage this program but improvements are needed.

The report recommends that government enhance how it measures the program’s performance. Currently, government collects and publicly reports detailed information on how it distributes almost \$135 million each year to about 5,000 eligible non-profit organizations. Greater information is needed to allow stakeholders, like communities and non-profits themselves, to see the successes of the program, and to better understand how well this program is being managed.

“We recognize that many organizations depend on this funding,” said Auditor General Carol Bellringer. “But \$135 million is a lot of money to give out without this kind of information.”

The report also points to government’s need to improve its processes to better ensure its funding decisions are consistent and defensible, and grants are used as intended. “Ministry staff assesses grant applicants against the program guidelines but the guidelines need clarifying and updating,” explained Bellringer.

Additionally, the report states that it’s time for government to re-assess the program to ensure its design is efficient and effective. Government hasn’t stepped back to look at the program since 2011.

Bellringer added that at the time of the audit, government was already working to improve the program. The Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch has undergone internal reviews that resulted in operational and organizational changes. And, in April, the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development took over the administration of grant awards to increase efficiency.

The full report is available on the Office of the Auditor General website at www.bcauditor.com. Auditor General Carol Bellringer will answer questions pertaining to the report via a news conference.

News Conference Date: December 7, 2016

Time: 11:00 a.m. (Pacific time)



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The Auditor General is a non-partisan, independent Officer of the Legislature who reports directly to the Legislative Assembly. The *Auditor General Act* empowers the Auditor General and staff to conduct audits, report findings and make recommendations.

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