

TO: CITY MANAGER 1995 August 09

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

SUBJECT: **CORRESPONDENCE FROM CITIZENS  
AGAINST GAMBLING EXPANSION (CAGE)**

PURPOSE: To respond to correspondence regarding Provincial Government gaming regulations.

---

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

**R E P O R T**

On 1995 July 24, Council received correspondence from Citizens Against Gambling Expansion (CAGE) regarding their concerns with a Provincial government announcement directing the Gaming Commission to remain moderate in their approach. CAGE is concerned that the Provincial government is abdicating its responsibility by delegating responsibility on gaming and not allowing for sufficient public input, and that the lack of accountability results in policy changes which are not moderate.

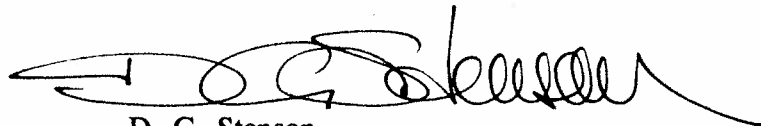
Staff have obtained copies of news releases from the Ministry of Government Services dated 1995 May 09, May 24 and June 28 regarding gaming, and discussed recent activity in the area with Ministry of Government Services' staff and the Chair of the B.C. Gaming Commission. The news releases advise that gaming negotiations between the Provincial government and the First Nations summit have been ended by the Province, that video lottery terminals (V.L.T.s) will not be introduced in B.C. and that generally there will be no major changes in gaming in B.C. These news releases do represent less policy changes than was indicated in the handout "A New Gaming Policy For British Columbia", which was released in the fall of 1994. The one significant change which remains is that the 1987 moratorium on new charitable casinos will be lifted, which means that municipalities like Burnaby may receive more applications for charitable casinos.

City Manager  
Correspondence from CAGE  
1995 August 09 - Page 2

In terms of accountability and process, there have not been any substantive changes in the Gaming Commission in recent years. The Commission is a quasi-independent body made up of seven (7) government appointees (largely citizens) which serve a two-year term. The Provincial government may review the decisions and replace the Commissioners if it feels their decisions are not in conformance with government policy.

The Chair of the Gaming Commission indicated that the Commission receives any public input through the elected officials of the jurisdiction in which the proposed gaming facility is located. The Commission informs the Mayor and Council directly of any applications for gaming facilities, who then have the option of seeking public input in a manner of their choosing. In Burnaby, gaming facilities are permitted only through CD Comprehensive Development District zoning, thereby ensuring that all new sites for gaming facilities go through the rezoning process, including the required Public Hearing.

This is for the information of Council.



D. G. Stenson  
Director Planning and Building

BW:lf