

Fort McMurray Catholic Schools

Operating Policies and Procedures

OP 530 - School Fundraising through gambling

Policy

The Board recognizes that generating additional revenue in support of programs can enhance student learning and development, through curricular, co-curricular and extracurricular opportunities.

Funds raised benefit students, enhance the quality and relevance of education for learners and contribute to the development of responsible citizens. Fundraising shall not be used to address basic educational needs.

The Board of Trustees supports the principles underlying the diocesan policy on gambling. The Board believes that the issue of schools fundraising through gambling activities or any other activities is not solely a Catholic education issue; rather, it is fundamentally a social justice issue and an issue relating to the province's responsibility to provide adequate and sustainable funding for all aspects of public education.

The Board expresses the view that no school or school community in Alberta should have to raise money through gambling activities in order to meet children's educational needs. Further, the Board does not see this type of fundraising as a meaningful engagement in children's education.

Guidelines

There are a range of practices that fall under the title "gambling," from harmless raffle tickets to activities that feed addictive personalities and cause great harm, such as casinos. The policy pertains only to three harmful gambling practices, namely, casinos, VLTs and high-stakes bingos.

Catholic Schools should not seek to profit from activities that are known to harm others, especially the poor. From this it follows that:

- formal co-operation in these activities for fundraising purposes is not to take place;

- application for grants from sources funded solely by harmful gambling practices is not to be made; and
- monies offered by groups that have raised them through the harmful gambling practices are to be respectfully declined

Permissible sources of gambling revenues

The following activities or receipt of gambling revenues are still permissible:

- Revenues derived from harmless gambling activities that do not feed addictive personalities and cause great harm. Example of permissible activities include raffles or low-stakes bingos;
- Funding or grants from external agencies where gambling revenues are combined or pooled with other sources of funds. In such situations, the following additional conditions shall be present:
 - the school does not exercise any control over the manner in which the agency collects or spends its revenues;
 - the grant is not tied to a specific source of funding related gambling; and
 - gambling is not the main source of funding for the external agency.
- Schools may still participate in programs or activities provided by an external agencies or in facilities that are funded through gambling revenues as long as the school does not exercise control on the manner in which the agency or facility is funded.

<p>References: Alberta School Act, Section 60(1)</p> <p>Board Policies: EL2 - Students Growing in Catholic Faith EL18 - Fees and Fundraising</p>	<p>Approval:</p> <p>Consent Agenda, Regular Board Meeting May 20, 2014</p>
<p>Cross Reference: OP 505 - School Generated Funds</p>	<p>Revised:</p>