

For immediate release
September 27, 2005
2005/nr-087

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT RELEASES REPORT ON PROBLEM GAMBLING *Report To Assist Government In Renewing Problem Gambling Strategy*

TORONTO – Health and Long-Term Care Minister George Smitherman today released Stanley Sadinsky’s report, *Review of the Problem-Gambling and Responsible-Gaming Strategy of the Government of Ontario*. The government is reviewing the report and will take it into account as it revises Ontario’s problem gambling strategy.

“Ontario’s \$36.7 million investment in the prevention, treatment and research of problem gambling is the largest by any jurisdiction in the world,” Smitherman said. “We will give careful consideration to Mr. Sadinsky’s suggestions for ways to build upon the work that has made this province a pioneer in helping people with gambling problems through accessible, community-based treatment programs.”

Ontario’s problem gambling services have attracted world-wide attention. In addition to general programs to meet the needs of people with gambling problems, specific initiatives are designed to meet the needs of key populations such as youth, women, older adults and culturally diverse communities.

“For most people, gambling is a recreational activity with no adverse effects,” said Smitherman. “However, for a small, significant group of people, gambling is an addiction and we want to make sure that those people continue to have access to the help they need.”

In 2004, the government commissioned Sadinsky – a former Chair of the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation – to conduct a review of problem gambling. His report contains 72 recommendations for the development and implementation of responsible gaming strategies in Ontario. The report can be found at <http://www.health.gov.on.ca>.

-30-

For further information:

Members of the media:

David Spencer
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care Office
416-327-4320

Dan Strasbourg
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
416-314-6197

Members of the general public: 416-327-4327, or 1-800-268-1154

This news release, along with other media materials, such as matte stories and audio clips, on other subjects, are available on our website at: <http://www.health.gov.on.ca> under the News Media section.

For more information on achievements in health care, visit: www.resultsontario.gov.on.ca.

Version française disponible