

Problem gambling report finally in— February 27, 2002. Canadian Press. REGINA – A report on problem gambling in Saskatchewan is finally in the hands of government. But there are hints that the report doesn't contain any big surprises. It's been almost a year since the Saskatchewan government launched its study on problem gambling. Saskatchewan Health Minister John Nilson says the report appears to confirm information they had 10 years ago which suggested that one or two per cent of gamblers actually has a problem. But he says the findings will help shape the government's programs to help those with gambling problems. Eighteen-hundred Saskatchewan residents were asked a variety of questions about their involvement in gambling as part of the government study. Nilson expects the report to be released in the next three or four weeks.

No plans for more casinos: Quebec government— February 27, 2002. Canadian Press. Quebec has no plans for now to open any more casinos, Finance Minister Pauline Marois said Wednesday. Her announcement at a cabinet retreat came after recent criticism aimed at the government for allegedly not doing enough to address the problem of chronic gambling in the province. Loto-Quebec currently runs three casinos in Montreal, Gatineau and La Malbaie. "We must attract more people to our casinos but I have no plans to increase the capacity of these casinos at the moment," Marois said. The Quebec City region has expressed interest in getting a casino to serve the millions of people who visit the area every year.

Alberta to lift ban on casino construction— March 1, 2002. By Jill Mahoney. The Globe and Mail. Edmonton – The Alberta government is scheduled to lift a moratorium on new casinos today, a move that paves the way for the province's first casinos on reserves. Many natives hope casinos will increase employment and improve conditions on reserves. But critics say Alberta is not adequately considering problems associated with gambling.

Request to bar youths from bingo gets an N-O— March 1, 2002. By Maria Blackburn. The Baltimore Sun. A Baltimore County grandmother's effort to restrict the age of people playing bingo in Carroll County has failed to win the support of the county delegation. Betty Lou Hollenbaugh, spoke with the Carroll commissioners last

week about setting an age limit on bingo playing. Although state law prohibits gambling by people younger than age 18, no state law regulates age for playing bingo, according to county attorney Kimberly A. Millender. Because it is not within the commissioners' jurisdiction to change state law, they referred Hollenbaugh's request to Sen. Larry E. Haines. But after receiving Hollenbaugh's letter and petition signed by 100 people who support the age limit, Haines said it was too late in the legislative session to address the issue. While Haines said that he has "never been a proponent of gambling," he also questioned whether it was the responsibility of the state to legislate what he said is essentially a local issue. Brenda Hay, chairwoman of the bingo committee at Pleasant Valley Community Fire Company said an age restriction would hurt her company's fund-raising efforts. A limit could prohibit junior firefighters, who are age 10 and older, from helping with the company's weekly games, which draw between 130 and 150 people.

Finance Committee may cut frequency of lottery drawings— February 28, 2002. Taipei Times. Newly elected convener of the Finance Committee Chu Hsing-yu, expressing concern over social morals, put forward a proposal to the Ministry of Finance yesterday to decrease Public Welfare Lottery drawings from twice a week to once a week. The move was immediately signed by the other 14 committee members. The committee also moved to invite Minister of Finance Lee Yung-san to report on lottery-related matters. DPP caucus convener Ker Chien-ming approved of the proposal and said it would cool down the gambling fever that has followed the lottery's introduction. KMT legislative caucus whip Lin Yi-shih said that he anted to investigate whether there was a relationship between a decrease in the incidence of lottery drawings and a decrease in gambling fever. Finance officials said that they have already asked TaipeiBank to provide a review and response plan on how to ease gambling fever. Once the bank has submitted its suggestions for amendments, the ministry will make a decision on the matter. TaipeiBank says that it will abide by any call from the Ministry of Finance to decrease the frequency of draws, but added that the situation may get even more out of hand since the jackpot may become even bigger.