

Are we becoming Canada's gambling capital? — September 4, 2003. By Keith Gerein. The Edmonton Journal. Welcome to Edmonton, the gambling capital of Canada. Those who prefer the current City of Champions motto may be out of luck, because Edmonton is taking its chances with a new image, a gambling expert told city councillors on Wednesday. University of Alberta researcher Garry Smith said there are more casinos in the Edmonton area than in any other major city in Canada, though Calgary is close behind. Five casinos are currently operating in and around the city, including Casino Yellowhead, the largest in the province. That number is poised to rise to seven. The provincial government plans to grant one more casino licence in the Edmonton area, an opportunity that has drawn interest from more than half a dozen firms. In addition, the Enoch Cree native band hopes to construct its own casino near 79th Avenue and 215th Street. And the Baccarat Casino north of downtown has applied to expand its facility. There is also gambling at the Northlands Park racetrack, which features not only horse-race betting but also hundreds of slot machines. "I certainly can't think of any other Canadian municipality that has as many as six casinos," Smith told councillors at an executive committee meeting. "Is that what you want to be known for? Maybe it is." Mayor Bill Smith said he isn't worried the city's reputation will be tarnished ... [More...](#)

Corralling Gamblers on the Net Frontier: Feds ponder how to lasso a largely unregulated online gaming industry — September 01, 2003. By Michael Burnham, Medill News Service. Gambling in the borderless world of cyberspace is much like playing cards in the old West. Virtually every island on the modern map seems to operate an online casino, much as almost every railroad stop in Nevada had a card table. The comparison doesn't end there: Not only is cyberspace borderless, it's seemingly lawless. States are finding ways to regulate gambling effectively in traditional brick-and-mortar casinos, leaving the job of policing Internet gambling to Washington lawmakers. Yet even the federal government concedes that shooting down all illegal e-gambling is virtually impossible. Clearly, there's a regulatory abyss: States can set age limits to control who can buy a lotto ticket in a gas station, bet in a casino, or pull a tab ticket in a bar. [More...](#)

'Racino' is safe bet for 2004 — September 3, 2003. By Cheryl Cole, Birmingham Post. Ian Penrose, managing director of Arena Leisure yesterday said the UK's first racecourse casino at Wolverhampton should be up and running by Christmas 2004. Arena submitted a planning application in June for the 35,000 square foot gaming facility and the expansion of the existing 'Holiday Inn' hotel to 110 bedrooms. Mr Penrose said: "We expect to get some feed back by the end of the autumn, clearly if we get the answer as a positive, we would be looking to build so that we were open by Christmas next year." The new 'Racino' as the company has dubbed it forms part of a £12 million revamp of the existing Wolverhampton all-weather racecourse. The company is developing the site - the only one of its type in the UK to have a gambling permit - in partnership with Gala, the gaming and entertainment group. "It will be the first casino on a horse racing track in the UK and moreover probably be the leading sports and gaming destination in the UK if not in Europe," said Mr Penrose, who added that a couple of hundred jobs would be created. Arena, which owns six of the UK's 59 racecourse but stages a fifth of all races, hopes it can develop the concept at other racecourses in its portfolio. [More...](#)

Hardline Bill targets pokies — September 2, 2003. By Helen Stirling, Manurewa Week. Nearly half the pokie machines in Manurewa bars and clubs face the scrapyard if a new gambling law gets through Parliament. And charitable trusts funded by gambling losses will have to prove individual machines were "okayed" prior to October 17, 2001, or face confiscation of all machines on one site. Manurewa has the most pokie machine outlets in Manukau with 14 sites containing 224 machines. The proposed Responsible Gaming Bill currently before Parliament limits sites approved after October 18 2001 to no more than nine machines. Sites with the current maximum of 18 machines will have to remove half. The new law would give local authorities power to stop pokie machines and sites spreading further, but only specifies those installed after October 2001. While some politicians agree the law changes will help tackle spin-off factors such as poverty, others believe it doesn't go far enough. Mayor Sir Barry Curtis says the proposed legislation does not allow adequate control of gaming venues ... [More...](#)