# The Potential Health Impacts of a Casino in the City of Peterborough



Dr. Rosana Pellizzari, Medical Officer of Health March 5, 2013



# Prevalence Rates of Problem Gambling

- For adults (18+): Ranged from between 1.2% to
   5.9% with an average rate of 3.6%
- In Peterborough, this would translate to roughly 3,985 problem gamblers
- Among young adults (18 24 years): 6.9%
- In Peterborough, this would translate to 904 young adults



## **Access and Proximity**

- EGMs and live gaming tables = gambling activities most identified by problem gamblers
- Prevalence rates doubled in first year after a casino opened in Niagara Falls (from 2.5% to 4.4%)
- In Peterborough: a doubling of the rates would result in an additional 3,984 residents (18+) becoming problem gamblers from 3,985 (3.6%) to 7,969 (7.2%)
- A study in New Zealand found that the people who lived closest to the casino were more likely to gamble and to become problem gamblers



## **At Risk Populations**

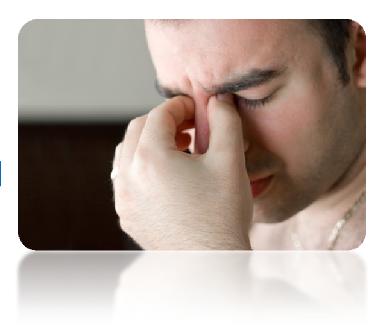
- Problem drinkers/heavy alcohol use
- Seniors
- Youth
- First Nations
- People living on low income
- Casino workers
  - = commonality ⇒ low income, greater financial risk taking





#### **Health Costs**

- Individual: mental and physical health issues
- Family: divorce, family breakdown, compromised child development through neglect and poverty
- Workplace: lost productivity and job loss





#### **Financial Costs**

- Estimated annual cost: \$20,000 and \$56,000 per problem gambler
- Prevalence rate for problem gamblers of 3.6% = 3,985 problem gamblers in the City and County of Peterborough
- In Peterborough: Cost x # of problem gamblers = range of \$79.7 million to \$223.2 million annually





# Impact on Broader Social Health Issues

- Employment
- Economic development
- Crime
- Neighbourhood impacts
- Social safety net





## **Strategies for Mitigating Risk**

- Intervention for problem gamblers 

  1 to 2% seek treatment
- Prevention
  - a) Education and Awareness
  - b) Policies to reduce harm (e.g., limiting hours; slowing EGMs down; reducing maximum bet sizes; mandating a daily loss maximum)

