


TO: GENERAL COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Casino Community Engagement Results

PREPARED BY AND KEY CONTACT: Cheri Harris, Communications Advisor x4714 

SUBMITTED BY: Rebecca James-Reid, Director of Communications and Strategic Initiatives 

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER APPROVAL: Carla Ladd, Chief Administrative Officer 

RECOMMENDED MOTION

1. That Staff Report CSI001-13 concerning the results of the various public consultations related to the establishment of a gaming site solely as part of a hotel /convention/ conference centre in Downtown Barrie, be received.

PURPOSE & BACKGROUND

2. In response to a presentation by the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) to the Finance and Corporate Services Committee on September 26, 2012 concerning the OLG Modernization Plan and Request for Proposal Process for a gaming site, staff were asked to seek public input regarding the establishment of a gaming site solely as part of a hotel /convention/ conference centre in Downtown Barrie.
3. Seeking public input is the first of four steps before the OLG can establish a new gaming site in a municipality, followed by:
 - a) Council passing a resolution supporting the establishment of the gaming site
 - b) Getting zoning approval for a gaming site
 - c) Entering into a host municipal funding agreement with the OLG.
4. The presentation by OLG outlined their plans to modernize its lottery and gaming operations to become more customer focused, expand regulated private sector delivery of lottery and gaming and to renew OLG's role in the oversight of lottery and gaming.
5. The motion approved by Council was used as the basis of the question asked in all forms of public input:

"Barrie is within a potential area for the location of a new gaming site/casino. The provincial government requires the municipality to seek public input concerning the establishment of a gaming site/casino. City Council will utilize this input to determine whether or not it will pass a Resolution supporting the establishment of a casino in Barrie. A majority response in favour of a casino does not necessarily mean that Barrie will be chosen as a site for a casino, as the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation must then determine if there are vendors interested in operating a site.

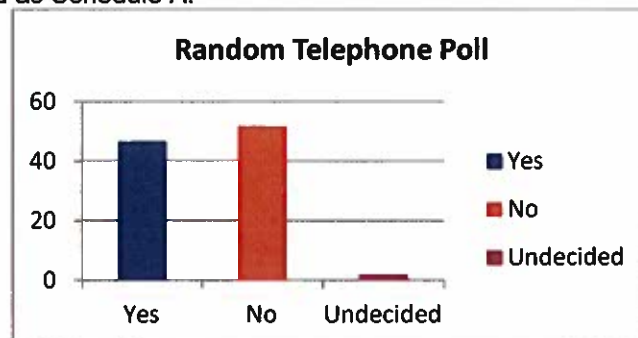
Question(s): Barrie is considering a new casino to be operated by a vendor on behalf of the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation solely as part of a hotel/convention/conference centre in downtown Barrie.

Do you approve of a casino solely as part of a hotel/convention/conference centre in downtown Barrie?"

6. The City of Barrie falls into what is identified by the OLG as Zone C5 that also includes part of Simcoe County (Town of Innisfil and the Township of Oro-Medonte).
7. The proposed gaming zone in the City of Barrie would have an allowed range of 1,200 slot machines and a to-be-determined allowed range of table games.
8. The City of Barrie initiated the public input process on November 11, 2012 for five weeks ending on December 17, 2012. As part of this consultation process we heard from approximately 2,000 Barrie residents.
9. The public input opportunities on the establishment of a gaming site/casino in the City of Barrie were promoted for a period of five weeks in the following outlets beginning on November 11, 2012.
10. The main article in *This week in Barrie* ran on November 15, 2012. It has run every week since the 15th making for a total of five advertisements in the Barrie Examiner.
11. Quarter page advertisements ran in the *Barrie Advance* November 15, 22, 29 and December 6 and 13.
12. Radio advertisements ran the weeks of November 11, 18, 25 and December 2 and 9 on *Rock 95, KOOL FM and CHAY* two to three times a day. The campaign ran for a total of 5 weeks.
13. Website materials and social media posts initiated on November 8, 2012.

ANALYSIS

14. The random telephone poll was conducted by Oraclepoll Research between the days of November 22, 2012 and November 26th, 2012. A total of 1,200 voting age residents (a total of 120 per ward) were randomly selected to participate in the poll.
15. Respondents to the random poll appear divided on the issue of a casino development with slightly more residents not approving (52%) compared to those supporting the proposal (47%). The margin of error for this 1,200-person poll is +/- 2.8%, 19/20 times. Results from cross-tabulation breakouts are higher and vary with Ward breakouts being +/- 9%, 19/20 times. The complete report is provided as Schedule A.



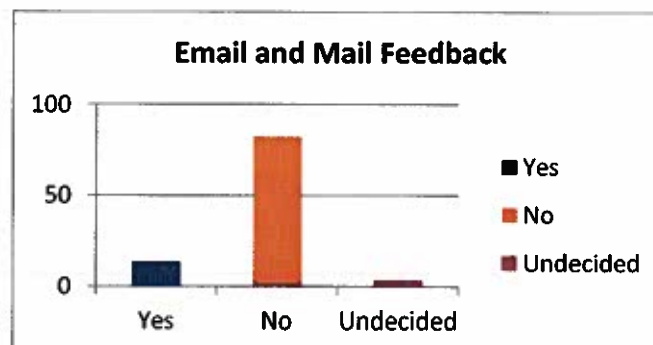
16. More males (50%) compared to females (43%) support a casino, while those in the 35-49 age cohort (60%) were most like to be in favour, followed by 18-34 year olds (47%), in relation to older residents 50-65 (34%) and 65 or older (34%). Ward results were for the most part consistent but support was highest in Wards 4 (53%) and 7 (53%), while lower in Wards 3 (40%) and 8 (40%). The margin of error for this 1,200-person survey is +/- 2.8%, 19/20 times. Results from cross tabulation breakouts are higher and vary with Ward breakouts being +/- 9%, 19/20 times.

		Do you approve of a casino as part of a hotel/convention/conference centre in downtown Barrie?		
		Yes	No	Don't know
Ward 1		44.8%	51.5%	3.7%
Ward 2		45.0%	53.0%	2.0%
Ward 3		40.3%	58.9%	.8%
Ward 4		53.2%	44.4%	2.4%
Ward 5		47.1%	51.9%	1.0%
Ward 6		49.2%	50.0%	.8%
Ward 7		52.8%	44.3%	2.8%
Ward 8		40.2%	58.2%	1.6%
Ward 9		46.1%	52.2%	1.7%
Ward 10		47.9%	50.7%	1.4%

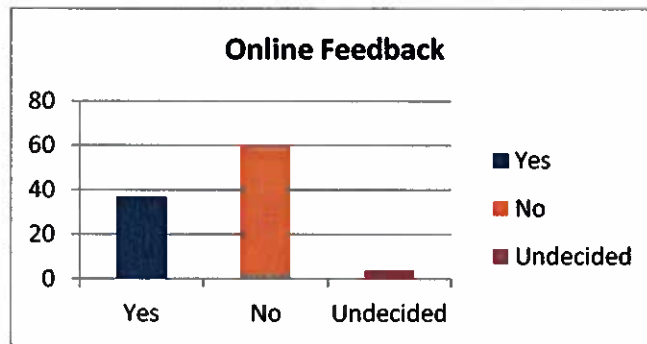
		Do you approve of a casino as part of a hotel/convention/conference centre in downtown Barrie?		
		Yes	No	Don't know
AGE	18-34 years	47.0%	50.7%	2.3%
	35-49 years	59.7%	39.1%	1.2%
	50-65 years	33.6%	63.5%	2.9%
	65 years and over	34.1%	64.4%	1.5%

		Do you approve of a casino as part of a hotel/convention/conference centre in downtown Barrie?		
		Yes	No	Don't know
GENDER	Male	50.3%	48.4%	1.3%
	Female	43.3%	54.4%	2.3%

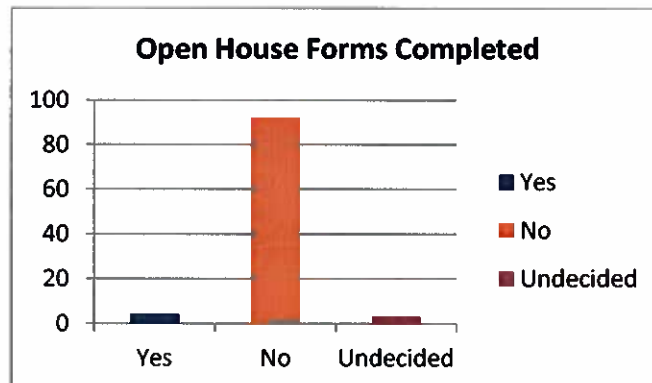
17. A total of 338 emails and mailed responses were received. The results were 13.7% YES, 82.7% NO and 3.6% undecided. The open ended feedback/comments are provided as Schedule B.



18. A total of 719 online feedback forms were completed from our website www.barrie.ca. The results were 36.9% YES, 59.4% NO and 3.8% undecided. The 384 open ended feedback/comments are provided as Schedule C as well as the feedback gathered on social media.



19. On Thursday, December 13, 2012 as part of the Transportation and Economic Development Committee a presentation was given by OLG. Council were able to ask staff representative's questions. There were approximately 100 attendees, 19 deputations made to the committee and 90 feedback forms where the results were 4.4% YES, 92.2% NO and 3.3% undecided. A summary of feedback forms are attached as Schedule D. The summary of the deputations made will be circulated separately by the Transportation and Economic Development Committee.



ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

20. There are no environmental matters related to the recommendation.

ALTERNATIVES

21. This is a political decision on whether or not there is a desire from City Council to adopt a resolution concerning support for the establishment of a gaming site/casino in downtown Barrie solely as part of a hotel/convention/conference centre. Council could:
- a) Pass a motion in favour of a casino as part of a hotel, convention, conference centre to be located in the downtown.
 - b) Council could choose to not pass a motion in favour of a casino as part of a hotel, convention, conference centre to be located in the downtown.

FINANCIAL

22. There are no financial implications of this motion at this time.

LINKAGE TO 2010-2014 COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

23. The recommendation(s) included in this Staff Report support the following goals identified in the 2010-2014 City Council Strategic Plan:

Improve and Expand Community Involvement and City Interactions

Schedule A

Random Telephone Poll Report

Schedule B

Email and Mail Comments

Schedule C

Online Comments

Schedule D

Public Meeting Form Comments

Schedule E

Stakeholder Letters

Schedule A – Random Telephone Poll Report

**November 2012
Casino Survey Report**

By:



For:

The City of Barrie

November 27, 2012

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METHODOLOGY & LOGISTICS

STUDY SAMPLE

- This report represents the findings from a survey of 1,200 voting age residents (18 years of age or older) of the City of Barrie.
- One respondent from each household was interviewed.
- A total of 120 respondents were interviewed from each of The City of Barrie's ten (10) Wards.
- Interviews were conducted between the days of November 22nd to November 26th 2012.

CONFIDENCE

- The margin of error for this 1,200-person survey is +/- 2.8%, 19/20 times. Results from cross-tabulation breakouts are higher and vary with Ward breakouts being +/- 9%, 19/20 times.

SURVEY METHOD

- The survey was conducted using computer-assisted techniques of telephone interviewing (CATI) and random number selection. A total of 20% of all interviews were monitored and the management of Oraclepoll Research Limited supervised 100%.

LOGISTICS

- Initial calls were made between the hours of 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. Subsequent callbacks of no-answers and busy numbers were made on a (staggered) daily rotating basis up to 5 times (from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.) until contact was made. In addition, telephone interview appointments were attempted with those respondents unable to complete the survey at the time of contact.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

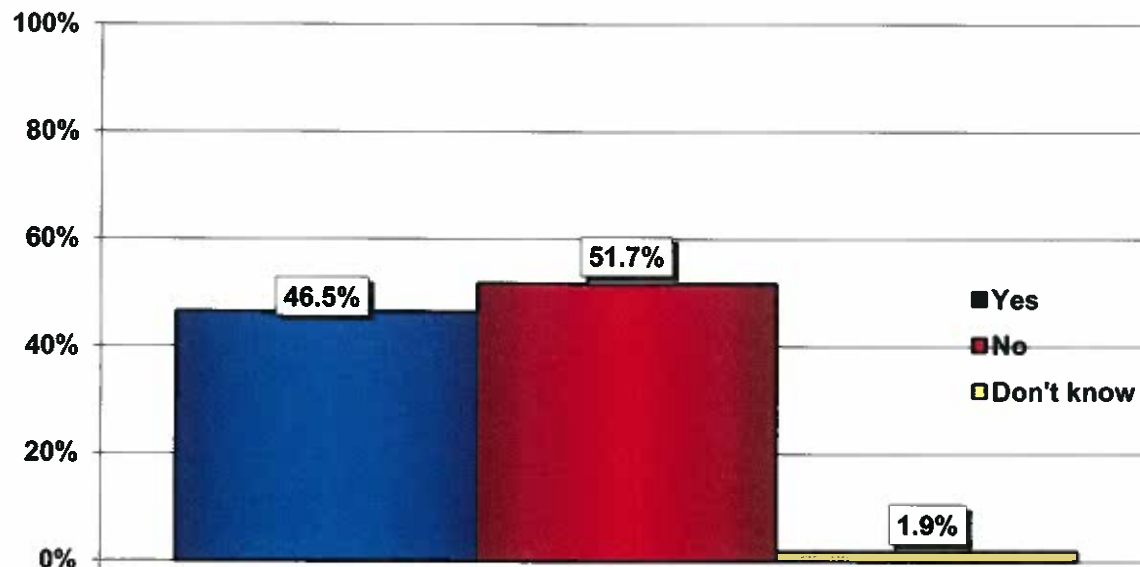
All respondents were first read the following preamble outlining the proposed casino project. They were then asked if they approve of a new casino being part of a hotel, convention, conference centre to be located in the historic downtown.

"Barrie is within a potential area for the location of a new gaming site/casino. The Provincial government requires the municipality to seek public input concerning the establishment of a gaming site/casino. City Council will utilize this input to determine whether or not it will pass a resolution supporting the establishment of a casino in Barrie.

"A majority response in favour of a casino does not necessarily mean that Barrie will be chosen as a site for a casino, as the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation must then determine if there are vendors interested in operating a site."

*"Now here is the question. Barrie is considering a new casino to be operated by a vendor on behalf of the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation solely as part of a hotel/convention/conference centre in Downtown Barrie."
[IF NEEDED: THIS IS IN THE HISTORIC DOWNTOWN]*

"Do you approve of a casino as part of a hotel/convention/conference centre in downtown Barrie?"



Respondents appear divided on the issue of a casino development with slightly more residents not approving (52%) compared to those supporting the proposal (47%).

More males (50%) compared to females (43%) support a casino, while those in the 35-49 age cohort (60%) were most like to be in favour, followed by 18-34 year olds (47%), in relation to older residents 50-65 (34%) and 65 or older (34%). Ward results were for the most part consistent but support was highest in Wards 4 (53%) and 7 (53%), while lower in Wards 3 (40%) and 8 (40%).

RESULTS BY QUESTION

PREAMBLE:

"Barrie is within a potential area for the location of a new gaming site/casino. The Provincial government requires the municipality to seek public input concerning the establishment of a gaming site/casino. City Council will utilize this input to determine whether or not it will pass a resolution supporting the establishment of a casino in Barrie."

"A majority response in favour of a casino does not necessarily mean that Barrie will be chosen as a site for a casino, as the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation must then determine if there are vendors interested in operating a site."

"Now here is the question"

"Barrie is considering a new casino to be operated by a vendor on behalf of the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation solely as part of a hotel/convention/conference centre in Downtown Barrie."

[IF NEEDED: THIS IS IN THE HISTORIC DOWNTOWN]

"Do you approve of a casino as part of a hotel/convention/conference centre in downtown Barrie?"

Yes	46.5%
No	51.7%
Don't know	1.9%
Total	100.0%

Thank you. The following question is of a personal nature and involves collecting demographic data. This information is statistically important for this survey and will be used for overall reporting only. Once again please be assured that all individual responses are kept in strict confidence.

Which of the following age groups do you fall into?

18-34 years	28.9%
35-49 years	33.9%
50-65 years	20.1%
65 years and over	17.1%
Total	100.0%

Gender

	Valid Percent
Male	45.6%
Female	54.4%
Total	100.0%

CROSSTABLATIONS

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		Do you approve of a casino as part of a hotel/convention/conference centre in downtown Barrie?		
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GENDER	Male	50.3%	48.4%	1.3%
	Female	43.3%	54.4%	2.3%

Schedule B – Email and Mail Comments

Yes, No or Undecided*			Email Feedback
Y	N	U	
	1		Gambling/Casino in Barrie will damage facilities and cause increased poverty from people "clutching at straws" to try and win to get out of debt. Inner City in Barrie is not appropriate - university??? NO! Why no questions from public allowed - what are the organization for casinos afraid of? Suicides accompany every casino. Men/women can lose homes in one night of gambling - and weeping as they dread telling wives and family - no home - lost it. Gambling degenerates people, areas, and eventually town or city. Addicted players cannot function in family life, therefore, breakdown of families as well as addict.
	1		A casino will not have a positive impact on downtown businesses. A casino will bring people to the downtown core by the bus load but these people will not be shopping or patronizing downtown restaurants, bars and other businesses. They will instead be inside the casino adding nothing to the local businesses. Promoting a casino is not in-line and consistent with Barrie's goal to promote and encourage a university locating in Barrie
1			If the City of Barrie says no, there will simply continue to be a casino in Innisfil. Given this undisputable fact, any arguments opposing a casino as a whole hold no weight. The question is simply, should the casino pad Innisfil's coffers, or Barrie's?
	1		Economic development in Barrie should be based on the City's existing strengths. Barrie has a beautiful natural location. How can this be developed to attract more visitors to the City? Barrie is a sports town. Could an NHL franchise ever be a possibility here? The costs associated with a casino would outweigh any benefits. Please do not allow one to be established in Barrie.
1			
	1		Bingo hall already here. Many OLG gaming outlets here. Myriad of stores already selling scratch tickets here. Enough misery already downtown here. Service club fundraising will disappear here.
	1		
	1		I think slot machines will cheapen our City. Do we really need a downtown that is full of bars and slot machines. I know a casino brings in money but our City and lakefront has a lot to offer. We can build a vibrant downtown without this blight on society. How does a downtown university fit with bars and slots?
	1		A slots casino of 2-300 machines is not a tourist draw. It will simply suck more money out of local residents by increasing the convenience. As a downtown resident, I think the City should focus on more family friendly attractions.
	1		Innisfil slots are close enough. Let's concentrate on a better way to attract tourism to downtown Barrie. We need a hotel or convention centre but I do not feel gamblers spend a lot in our community. I want tourists to eat in our downtown restaurants and attend our many events. As we grow and develop, I am sure we will attract a developer that would be more than happy to build by our waterfront.

1		I believe that the problems that would accompany a casino/conference centre are multiple, e.g. loss to downtown businesses, gambling problems, erosion of certain values such as working hard and honestly to maintain life's basic necessities. As a teacher, I am worried about how a casino/conference centre in Barrie might affect the youth - both college-aged and the younger vulnerable children who may be part of a family with parents who may spend monies at the casino (for entertainment) instead of ensuring that their children have all that they need to feel nurtured and cared for.
1		If is a hotel/convention/conference/or resort/entertainment centre, I agree for this! Never casino, no way. For families and society sake, in the long run it is not worth it. I do not want to have to wait in line at a store, when someone else and/or others buy lottery tickets and such. Please keep that as is. If they want to waste their money and time betting, I shouldn't have to wait for them to decide what to do and how to do it.
1		A casino will suck the life out of the immediate community. No dollars will be spent there. The hotel/convention centre is just bait. Its purpose is to keep gamblers there and tempt the City into supporting the project. *Lets build a five hotel near waterfront instead of in ugly and boring mall area. What will be going on in that hotel? Crime, prostitution and drug trafficking.
1		1st major concern: improper/lack of opportunity for a fair representation of the public, residents and businesses of Barrie to be properly informed of this application process. Little time has been provided for public to be consulted and the timing of this consultation has been poor. A casino question has been one sided by Council and it cannot be done so in good question when you start on the wrong beginning!
1		Need more police and cameras to control the streets (downtown) presently. Bringing a casino means more crime, more police and thus more money to pay for taxes to cover police salaries. After working 18 years in Orillia I am aware of men who gambled and their families lost their homes. Some could not face the consequences and committed suicide. The gamblers get so involved that they don't want to leave their machines and have to wear diapers so as to relieve themselves. Asking staff to identify red flag signs is not easy to do - confrontation is not easy face to face with an individual who is overspending, etc. Because I worked in Orillia as a supervisor for 18 years, I am aware of numerous suicides and people losing their homes or people spending their mortgages.
1		
1		I don't feel downtown is an appropriate location for a casino. We have more than enough problems to deal with already in the downtown core. There are already a number of people with addictions downtown. A casino would not be a healthy addition. If a casino is necessary, why not locate it in an area with plenty of space and lots of parking close to the 400. There are better locations for a casino.
1		I do not believe that a casino in downtown Barrie would be beneficial to the reputation and future planning of the City. The downtown area at the present time has its own problems that need to be addressed first. Also if we are seriously getting the City university ready, a casino almost right next to the university campus would definitely not be a plus!

1		I believe we are dealing with two issues: a casino; a casino in downtown Barrie. While I am against the idea of a casino because of the numerous social fall-out issues associated with a complex of this nature, I am very much opposed to a casino in downtown Barrie. (Reasons: Prime waterfront/not family-friendly/current and future social issues and impact/potential site for college/too residential (condos).
1		I oppose the casino wholeheartedly and unreservedly. Social costs are enormous (addiction, suicide, lost houses, family). Too close to social services that serve disadvantaged such as Salvation Army, Busby Centre - will deepen misery of those least able to resist. Moves against the family friendly atmosphere of Barrie. Will not benefit downtown merchants as all money will flow to casino. Degrades moral fabric of community (something for nothing win/fall mentality). Lived in Barrie for 36 years. Ontario alone - 12 people in 2006, understated. 9x more likely to die by your own hand. Homicide rate 1.73 per 100,000. Suicide rate 15 per 100,000. City of Barrie 15-20 suicides a year. This can be ? and prevented! If there is one suicide in Barrie as a result of this casino, I see it is too ? Commendable to have a convention centre. Pay in \$ But \$ spent gambling is \$ not spent downtown. Downtown location (vulnerable location).
1		I do not support a casino in downtown Barrie. We actually have enough gambling outlets in this area. Gambling costs the social services in terms of children, wives affected by excessive gambling. We are saturated. I don't want Georgian Downs to be closed. The money is spent within the complex thus will not assist the downtown merchants
1		Increased traffic in downtown Barrie on weekends.
1		As far as a casino is concerned I have no opinion but I definitely do not want or feel that a casino belongs downtown. Anywhere but not in downtown Barrie.
1		Kingston has refused a downtown casino. Maybe the decision was based on the fact that they have a very large university population at Queen's downtown.
1		I agree with all who spoke at the mike. I also am concerned that we will have even more problems with parking downtown. This would increase crime and other problems. This would be a terrible idea. Not in downtown Barrie.
1		Council faces a downtown choice - a casino or a university. I support the university choice. Thank you.
1		As consideration is given I encourage Council to reach out to the communities where the OLG has closed establishments to gauge the fall-out in those communities. They present a nice picture of what the partnership will be like as long as the expected revenues are generated. It is a different story if expectations aren't met. Ask the Mayor and Council in Ft. Erie, ON.
1		Do not approve, no other ones, puts people in money problems. Than government has problems welfare, people loosen homes, nothing to retire with. "Bad Idea"
1		It would be a problem in so many ways, and the people's lives and direction of the City would move towards a less healthy one. I would consider moving should a casino be built.
1		We do not need a casino in Barrie. We have enough crime all ready! We have a lot of poor people here living in this City. The casino in Innisfil is all we need.

	1	Would the casino/centre produce more job? We already have free transportation to Georgian Downs. Has the casino closings been as a result of no profit being made.
	1	You made the call. So we are here to express our opinions on the topic of installing some form of casino in downtown Barrie. Off the top (like a straight deal) let me say I'm ante the idea. I believe the best place for a new gambling establishment is Wasaga Beach. There's already a casino at Rama. Barrie should not bet on a full house here. We don't need to compete with Rama. So let's pass, no dice to a casino here. Send gaming down the riva, down the Nottawasaga. There will be no profit to us in a casino, no payback, but loads of flops. Let's not be blind to the downside to slots and tables. Let's not stake our city on chance. Flush this idea where it belongs. We'll pass. We don't want a full house of problems associated with these addictive pastimes. Let's not go into this blind. When the chips are down, let's not look for the easy way. Take the idea off the table and let the city be flush with pride. Proponents of gambling are full of craps. If I have my way I'd pass on gambling and put my money into a Barrie-based university. Let's become known for a great college, a thriving hospital, and a university. Sounds like a skills and knowledge-based community, not a gambling den. A casino is not in the cards. Let's bet on a sure thing.
	1	I believe that people need the opportunity to gamble and spend their hard earned money on slot machines and such. Let's boost our economy here. This will lead to more drunks downtown and more of our economies. \$ given to OLG. Not to mention 3 or 4 new jobs. Let's do it.
	1	
	1	I'm surprised this issue has reached this far in debate. The City already has enough projects and plans underway that adding casino into the mix is laughable. In terms of providing a place to gamble downtown, I feel it is a bad idea. As a revenue generator, also a bad idea. City needs to get a handle on their finances in a long-term strategy. As for the casino hotel as an amenity for downtown, I think this serves as an insult. Businesses have had no support and this does not reflect a "historic neighbourhood" like the Mayor pretended he wanted it to be. This along with recent projects make the City look amateur.
	1	Because Casino Rama hasn't brought any benefits to downtown businesses in Orillia!!!!
	1	
	1	Bad public policy.
	1	I am strongly opposed because it will bring with it a much greater cost than the benefits it can bring.
	1	Statistics show that the closer the gambling venue is, the more apt people are to become addicted. The social costs far outweigh any financial benefits the casino might bring to the City. People who come to gamble, do not spend their money in restaurants, bars and stores. Many addicted people resort to stealing, etc. and even to suicide.
	1	I do not think that a casino can help Barrie. May bring some money but it create more problems with crime. I strongly oppose it. I am considering leaving Barrie if a casino is approved.
	1	No casino! They are a tax on the poor, everyone looking for something for their buck. The addiction rate is already deplorable. When they add up the cost of treatment (which most cannot even get) it's astronomical. Barrie already has enough crime, prostitution and bars without creating the need for more. No casino!

1		I am opposed to having a casino in any shape or form in our wonderful City of Barrie. I feel it will be a downfall to our City as it will cause heartache and despair as people who are trying to make fast money, more than likely will lose it. I have a person friend who lives with her sister and the sister has become an addiction to gambling at Georgian Downs and bingos. This has caused great loss, strife and even stealing from her sister to go back and try to regain her losses. A casino will only cause people heartache. Please don't bring it to Barrie.
1		Barrie has 2 casinos within a 1/2 hour drive. We don't need to lower the standards and status that Barrie has by putting in a casino in Barrie. Some may think it will generate revenue for Barrie but most of the \$ will not go to local business but to the casino. It will cost the City morally and in expenses to fix problems that the casino and gambling will cause. In the end the city and its citizens will lose!!
1		Downtown is only one part of this City. Our elected representative would do well to remember downtown is only one part of this City.
1		Please take your casino somewhere else.
1		A casino would suck the local economy dry, attract the vulnerable and youth, those with the least money to spend. People are having a hard time with paying rents now; many things to say.
1		The poverished will lose. We have enough addiction centres for serious problems. The funds will grow Barrie, but push out homeless. Welfare recipients will be in worse situations.
1		Casino is not a requirement of the City. We need other things first.
1		I don't think our young people need to be exposed to gambling.
1		Do not need one because there's one in Innisfil and one at Rama. We need growth in other ways. Not a healthy climate from a casino.
1		It is totally immoral to try to make money on the backs of those who are addicted to bad habits. It makes the poor poorer and the rich richer. If you would really want to find out how many people support the idea, put it into a referendum with the next election.
1		There are a lot of low income people who live in walking distance. Too many will spend what little they have. Casinos take out more than they put in Barrie.
1		Way too many negative social impacts.
1		
1		I do not believe that a casino is good idea in Barrie. There are a lot of people who can't be trusted around a casino. People lose their homes and lives because they gambled their livelihoods away.
1		Casino in downtown not a good use of commercial space.
1		Casino will affect the lives of many citizens in the region in a negative way. Along with the racing industry and its economic impact to the region and provincially.
	1	Not sure why question is relates only to a hotel/convention/conference centre. What is unclear about OLG presentations to-date is why existing gambling infrastructure and market is being challenged with the expansion into existing markets.
1		In my view, Barrie should remain true to its roots and not invite the many problems that a casino would bring to the City. Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion on this question.

1		Gaming does not add value as does buying an article from a store. Gaming is an end. People who gamble, only gamble, they don't spend anywhere else but the casino.
1		We don't need to provide a place like a casino for people to gamble their hard earned money away. Do you want more people lining up at the food bank? What about the cost of more police to cover the extra trouble?
	1	Your destroying jobs, costing tax payers money, making ON more broke than what they already are. Leave thing alone.
1		Absolutely not!! Wasaga Beach is close enough. Downtown can't handle the traffic, more drunks, or on the expense of policing.
1		How can you promote a lifestyle of gambling (casino) that has such devastating effects on a person - on a family. Please act as responsible councillors promoting a high moral lifestyle for the community of a devastated one as a result of casino influence.
1		Do not want a hotel or casino on the lakeshore. There is enough traffic and congestion all ready and too many high rises block our view especially Memorial Sq. Excuse my spelling.
1		You had your chance.
1		Not interested in the least. Too many demands on community services and no revenues to stimulate local economy from gambling.
1		We need high paying jobs in Barrie/not low paying mim wage jobs. There are already enough casinos in the area! Rama, Innisfil, Niagara. We do not need this, it will not bring investment or tourism!
1		Should have been done at original opportunity. A dozen years ago!
	1	We do not need any more problem for downtown Barrie. A convention centre but definitely not a casino. People can visit Rama or Toronto if they get one.
	1	A terrible answer to a potential revenue stream.
	1	The provincial government does not have to be in the gambling business - they need to start concentrating on the teachers and the doctors. Barrie is also wanting to attract a university to our City. Should this become a reality, do we really want our university students spending their OSAP loan money on casino entertainment? Please, give this whole issue a break! Barrie need new plumbing, new infrastructure, new road repairs and needs to deal with matters at hand. We have hobbled along thus far without a casino. No thanks!
	1	I feel it would be too addicted
	1	Casino - a very destructive addition to our beautiful waterfront, especially hazardous for the young and most vulnerable. No No No
	1	The damage increased gambling is so much greater than the money can pay for
	1	It breaks too many hearts
	1	
	1	Please do not turn our great City into Potterville - with all the social and economic fallout that would imply.
	1	Just what this town needs - I think not!
	1	
	1	No way! Absolutely not!

1	A casino is not an asset to the community!
1	We don't want one
1	We don't want one
1	We don't need it
1	A casino in the City of Barrie is out of the question!
1	A casino would be a blight on our model city
1	Definitely no to a casino in downtown Barrie
1	We don't want one

Yes, No or Undecided*			Mail Feedback
Y	N	U	
1			We [names removed] are in favour of a OLG casino installed within a Hotel Convention Centre in downtown Barrie.
1			Yes - to casino in downtown Barrie as part of hotel/convention center / casino. It's just what downtown Barrie needs.
	1		No to casino's in the Barrie area. There's enough issues on our streets open your eyes wake up drunks homeless hand outs people sleeping in around bushes on the waterfront dirty needles urinating on buildings It's very sad to see Barrie in this condition Taxes will go up, we'll need more police and counsellors in the crisis centres There's Rama and Georgian that's not far away. More families will break-up then we'll need more food in the food bank.
2			My wife and I recently took our granddaughter to the Innisfil Recreation Complex for her swimming class. What an impressive recreational building!!! If this building was financed by money received from the Georgian Downs slots, I say the slots have served a very useful community purpose. I say that even though I haven't spent a nickel at the slots in Innisfil or at Casino Rama. The presence of these gambling facilities in our area doesn't force people to go there. However, some people like to gamble and the Township of Innisfil has received revenues amounting to more than four million dollars per year from the slots at Georgian Downs. If a casino were to be approved for Barrie would the City of Barrie reap financial "rewards" similar to the money received by Innisfil? If so, I would certainly like to see the City of Barrie receive those millions of dollars!! The people who go to Georgian Downs or Casino Rama are not just local residents - they come by the bus loads from other areas so let's take their money and say "thanks very much" ! We vote for the casino in Barrie IF the City of Barrie receives an appropriate financial return similar to what the Township of Innisfil received. Thank you.
	1		I am writing my views on a proposed casino in our fair city. I am very much against such a place wether (sic) it is in a convention center or by itself. We have more people lining up at our food banks every month and I'm sure the lines would grow even more if such a facility were allowed. Our downtown core causes enough problem for our police. Why saddle them with more responsibility which would eventually make us hire more police. Our budget does not have room. Please do what is best for our citizens.

1

The City of Barrie is hoping that a new casino being part of the hotel/convention centre complex for downtown Barrie would vitalize the downtown and would bring more money and tax dollars for Barrie. The casino would not provide extra revenue for the downtown businesses as Mayor Lehman seems to suggest because gamblers are not going to spend their winnings while here in Barrie. They are going to return home elsewhere with their winnings. Losers won't hang around either. Other areas that have casinos have not done well economically at all from casinos in their own backyards. Mainly Orillia and Port Perry. Merchants along Water Street and Queen Street in Port Perry nor Mississauga and Peter Streets in Orillia both considered downtown hubs for these two communities (sic) have not seen an increase in business from the casinos. Why does Barrie think they will. All gamblers head for the highways upon leaving and don't stay around. Why does Barrie Council think they will. Again, they are dreaming at City Hall. Shoppers at Casino Rama might browse and buy something in the arcade shops between the casino and the hotel and not in downtown Orillia. The Chinese Community of Scarborough are great on gambling and go to Casino Rama by the bus loads to gamble on a daily basis 24/7 and have to return to the GTA after 5 hours. They certainly would not be shopping at all in downtown Barrie because they are cheap and tight with their money. They go to gamble period. The gamblers won't be attending the Maddy Centre or the MacLaren either. The downtown area has been cleaned up a lot in the last five years. A lot better now that it was when I moved to Barrie from the Big Smoke in the Water View six years ago. This proposal is to put Barrie back to the same level of drunkenness and easy availability to drugs that was occurring before moving here. The City and Police are asking for more trouble that they have now. Do you want these additional problems? Of course not. You are all dreaming again if you think these problems are going to go away. The casino is strictly a NIMBY scenario as I am totally against it. Is the OLG trying to create smaller casinos in every block and city? I think the Hon. Paul Godfrey should retire from the OLG and smell his own roses at age 75 let alone promoting smaller casinos across the province if he is thinking that way. This would also have an effect on the new student population at the proposed university planned for Bradford Street (behind this condo building) if approved by the Province. Are we going to have 3000 19 year old students at the casino nightly losing little money that they have on the slots instead of studying. Another set of problems for the university and the police. The same would also apply to students attending Georgian College. I am against all these proposals if they come to fruition. Would the casino bring in the extra tax dollars for the City of Barrie alone? Not that much more than you would receive from the hotel/convention centre on its own. This Council and previous Councils have failed horribly in not balancing their books. This has to be done before going forward. You are bankrupting all property owners in the City. There is only so much money available to us all around the world to-day. You cannot go on increasing taxes until you balance your own books. After all money certainly is not grown on trees nor available at the trough all over this planet/ This City has not learned from lessons past. The Corporation of the City of Barrie is totally bankrupt. The City should admit it and apply for Bankruptcy protection (Like Chapter 11). Again, the answer for the casino from me is NO.

	2		We wish to register a "NO" vote to having a casino in Barrie.
	1		No Casino. Reasons 1. My sister's husband cash his wages cheque head to casino his three boys and my sister live on can soup. Divorce is only answer. Live on Welfare. 2. Georgian Downs casino is close to Barrie. 3. My grandson gambles his wages instead of fixing his teeth going around complaining about tooth ache saying ok I might win big next time. 4. Rama casino walk threw to music entertainment people playing slots the building full people. People old coats on could have new clothes with the money they spent at the casino. 5/ Welfare is the answer because of casino gambling. 6. You know its true. Suicide hang themselves in casino bathrooms even bet their house leave family no roof over heads. No casino please.
		1	(Copy of an OLG ad with "Last year alone" and "\$110 Million to their communities" is underlined.)
	1		Thank you for giving the opportunity for public input on the discussion about a Casino. I am really concerned about many aspects of opening a Casino in Barrie. The following are some of my personal concerns, having attended the Meeting at City Hall last night, as a Citizen of Barrie. I was truly grieved and horrified to hear that as many as FIVE suicides too place IN THE CAR PARK OF A CASINO, in a six week period. Doesn't that speak to the damage that occurs, when casinos are easily accessible, to people who gambling, lose everything (perhaps in one night of gambling) - then in utter despair they commit suicide before even leaving the Casino Car Park. I heard years ago that it was not unusual for the man who owned a motel near the Casino to see men come back into the motel with tears streaming down their faces. The impact of this on a persons' marriage and on the children when the papers concerning ones house has become the property of the Organization - as a result of gambling debt - and these families have lost everything. Often, in a low income area where there are many welfare recipients, people gamble in desperation, "clutching at straws" in order to access more money. The children are deprived of food, nice clothing and have few toys. This too is a tragedy from which ever way you view it. Finally the fact that some people actually wear diapers in order to continue gambling demonstrates the degenerate nature of gambling. To even entertain the idea of opening up in Barrie is beyond belief.
	1		A hotel/convention center at Kempenfelt Bay has always been for the last 30 years a conception that councils in the past and present have had a positive look on because: 1) It increases tourism to the city by developing facilities that will attract people to enjoy the beauty and recreational activity of the area. 2) It provides business the opportunity to hold meetings, conventions with a excellent location, providing everything, yet still close to the largest population center in Canada. 3) It is a positive income source for the City, without any associated costs such as environmental (industrial) or major changes in roads or servicing. 4) Associated retail locations will start up to service the increased tourism traffic. A great idea, however when you add a casino, it changes everything. Today is so much different that when I was 20 years old. Society has changed and continues to change at an even quicker pace. People texting which they walk down a concourse, speaking on a cell phone when they are walking. Heck, they have to use the phone then they are driving whether they have blue tooth or not. With today's society everything is now. This has led to problems of course. The main problem is that more and more people are compulsive. It is proven that if a person is compulsive in onearea, he is subject to being compulsive in other areas such as drinking, drugs and gaming. When a person visits a casino, the only thing that he is interested in is gaming, not sight seeing, not recreational activities, just

		<p>gaming. Look at Rama, the surrounding area does not benefit from increased traffic through their area. If I have a corporation and I am thinking of holding business meetings in a relaxed format, I won;t want to be beside a casino. If I am holding a convention, I don't want to compete with a casino. If I want to take my family to a vacation spot that offers recreational activities and sporting opportunities, I don't want a casino. We, the people of Barrie have a beautiful, natural location and we can benefit from this resource if we develop the land correctly. Gaming brings people, of that there is no doubt. However gaming distracts other groups of people that we want to come to our City to enjoy it. These are the people we want, not the gamers.</p>
1		<p>In response to your request for feedback, I wish to remind you of the cruel truth about lotteries and gaming facilities; they are a regressive tax on the poor, however voluntary participation is. Sadly, the Provincial government, which relies increasingly on the lottery for funding, goes out of its way to tell people that 'gaming' is a good idea. They've sidestepped the moral issue of regressive taxes by substituting the term 'gaming' for 'gambling' and using psychologically persuasive advertising. Lotteries and gaming are regressive taxes on the poor, first because a ticket costs more to the poor relative to their net income, and second they are the most avid buyers given their need and hope for greater income. An abundance of statisitcs are available to support this. Further, they are redirect resources that would otherwise be used largely in the local economy, making job gains in the community a wash. The gaming facility in Innisfil requires a vehicle to get to, introducing a dissuasive distance between the poor and a regressive tax, however voluntary. Yet it could well be that distance is no deterrent for the urban/suburban poor who are truly motivated. I readliy understanf that enormous resources flow from Barrie to Innisfil through Georgian Downs, which is a hair-pulling frustration to our city counselors and management who wish to see our city grow. So as a worst-case compromise, any gaming facility within Barrie should be placed as far from the urban poor as possible. As a resident of Barrie for nearly six years, I'm proud to live in a city with beautiful green spaces, effective infrastructure, and a dynamic population. Our young family has flourished in many ways here, like in swimming and hockey at the Holly Recreation Center. As a taxpayer I am aware that our ratesare higher than neighbouring municipalities, but the quality of life we enjoy here is worth it to me. I am willing to pay higher taxes so that the poor will not be taxed regressively, which is an injustice of medieval proportions. Furthermore as one of the pastors at the Christian REformed Church on Shirley Avenue, I have a deep admiration for the social services available in Barrie. Many members of our church and other Christians I have met in the community serve the poor as a reflection of the love of God for them. Please do not disservice the poor by leading them into more temptations that there already are. Hence, I urge you to vote against a casino in downtown Barrie.</p>

Schedule C – Online Comments

Site	Yes/No	Feedback
Facebook Survey	No	I am strongly opposed to any development of a casino in downtown Barrie /we are 2 people and we both strongly don't want a casino in Barrie. We don't mind the race track and slots in Innisfil. It is more interesting and fun than a casino
Survey	No	30 years ago the people on a Plebiscite on the municipal ballot voted against Slot machines and casinos in Barrie. This prevented the Race track getting Slot machines and a casino being Built on Dunlop St. I would like a Legal opinion from the City lawyer if this vote still is in effect? If so the City of Barrie is Prevented from having any gambling Joint providing Slots casino within the City Limits. If they want to change this law they must hold a Plebiscite on the next municipal election whether to change this law and allow a Casino in the City limits. Can someone from the City Law office answer this Question?
Survey	No	A casino downtown or anywhere else in Barrie would make us a "seedy city" and ruin what we are trying to make better downtown. We have 2 of this close by now - so we do not need a casino here ever!!!
Survey	Yes	A casino in a hotel/conference centre would only serve to benefit the citizens of Barrie. Gambling is a choice anyone can make, like going into a LCBO or purchasing cigarettes. You have a choice whether you will use it or not. Barrie's taxes would have to be lower - look at Innisfil for example. Also a hotel/convention centre would definitely boost the city's appeal. Vote yes for the casino/centre from our household. Thanks.
Survey	No	A casino in Barrie is wrong; there are too many cons and not enough pros. There are so many issues like parking, taking away business from small businesses in the downtown. The casino would be in the same area as all of Barrie's social services. Barrie would become reliant on this cash infusion like a bad addiction. With the chance of a University in the downtown this temptation shouldn't be readily available to the potential students of the university. I believe the citizens and Barrie city council will make the smart decision and not take the easy money. It is disappointing that council would entertain the idea OLG is offering at the same time trying to secure a university with the government of Ontario. Are we about education or gambling. I find it disturbing that the councillor for this ward was not present at this most important presentation. How can she have any indication of the emotion shown at the meeting when not present? Thank you for reading my comments.
Survey	No	A CASINO IN BARRIE WILL HURT THE POOR AS MOST likely the poor will be the most to gamble ,
Survey	No	A casino in Barrie will bring a burden on the population in the form of welfare, counselling etc.
Survey	Yes	A casino inside a Hotel/Convention Centre would more than likely increase foot traffic to the Down Town area. Also the Council would have opportunity to do some great things for the City of Barrie with the kick backs from the casino.
Survey	No	A casino is not needed in our downtown core as part of its revitalization and may encourage the opposite with the social pitfalls that abound such as addiction, unwanted loitering and infiltration of a new criminal element. The potential for a permanent Downtown Farmer's Market (bus station), the Centre of Excellence in Education along with continued development of our beautiful waterfront, downtown shopping amenities and theatre/art centres should be tried first before considering a casino.

Survey	No	A casino is the last thing Barrie need we have one in Rama and Georgian Downs putting one downtown would bring even more low lifes and scumbags then there already are downtown what we could do is build more affordable housing and increase transit service
Survey	No	A casino of any type in the City of Barrie would be a horrible decision. You need to bring jobs to this city and re-vamp the downtown, beautify it, don't destroy it! A casino only takes money from people with addictions, and brings the wrong kind of revenue. Work on making our downtown nicer and more attractive to tourists and our own residents, that's a great way to keep our local economy blooming! Think of cities like Ottawa or Peterborough....beautiful cities! NO CASINO!
Survey	Yes	A casino will be great for the city, and provide more entertainment downtown either than just drinking at bars. We have a heavy enough police presence downtown so crime rate shouldn't be affected too much, and we currently have 2 other casinos (Georgian Downs & Rama) within a 45 minute drive so it's not like it will increase the amount of gambling addicts like the media seems to be making it look like.
Survey	Yes	A casino will bring jobs to Barrie which many people need. This will help adults, and even students helping to pay/save money for tuition. It will also bring more revenue to Barrie, for the casino and other local businesses.
Survey	Yes	a casino would bring in a lot of people who support local business and ease the tax burden on everyone
Survey	No	A casino would change the socio-demographic transient population in the downtown core. An area already plagued with social issues. The increase in police staffing as a result of the casino would not be a benefit to the rest of the downtown core, only the casino area. As a Barrie resident, I would rather see an investment in a stadium structure with a proper running track and sports field where City and area sports at all levels can be held. It would attract larger multi-sport events to the Barrie area. That is the more desired transient population for our city.
Survey	No	A casino is another tax on the poor. Barrie cannot afford the negative social effect a casino would have on the city and its citizens.
Survey	No	A hotel/convention centre in Barrie is a great idea. I have no desire whatsoever to have a casino in Barrie. Georgian Downs and Rama are nearby for those looking to gamble. Let's focus instead on getting a university campus in downtown Barrie and all the positive spin off from that. Other than added revenues I see no other positive aspects to a casino. Unfortunately casinos seem to attract people who probably can't afford to lose the money they lose. Please consider this very carefully and look beyond the money.
Survey	Yes	A previous city council by voting no to casino at the old fairgrounds cost the city a fortune in lost revenue. Its time to move ahead not sit still and lose out again.
Survey	No	A previous council had the chance to have had in place the necessary lands for such a project. I am talking about the Essa Road fairgrounds. Fickle judgement at the time prevented Barrie from the use of the lands. We do not need such an operation in downtown Barrie. The downtown should be a family gathering place not the wino alley that it has become!
Survey	No	A really bad idea all around. Are we void of new ideas? Crime and social problems follow casinos. The is a family city. Let's keep it safe and beautiful.
Survey	No	Absolutely do not agree with a casino downtown Barrie.
Survey	Yes	Address requirement for this survey should be in postal code format to increase privacy

Survey	No	After looking at the research on line, I have begun to think that a casino such as Casino Rama is a viable option. Anything less comprehensive and located in an urban area would be of very little value to Barrie since it would tend to recycle dollars which would otherwise be spent here generating little new income for the area. A smaller venue which does not involve substantial tourist dollars would serve to increase crime and exacerbate some personal and family problems without creating enough income to provide the increased policing and social services that would be necessitated by a smaller facility. A larger facility such as Rama generates adequate income to cover those costs, and, in fact, to be self-policing. Let's be careful that we don't allow a limited facility casino to increase cost of policing and social services in Barrie.
Survey	No	Although a Casino would be great for the City, I think the city is becoming too full and adding a Casino will only make it more cluttered and busy.
Survey	No	Although a casino would bring jobs it would detract from Barrie's attractiveness for families. Gambling is an addiction for some people and a casino would increase the problems of drinking downtown as well as encouraging the drug trade and perhaps prostitution. The downtown is already rough enough. This is not the kind of tourism or business we want.
Survey	Yes	Although, I live in Toronto I have a few investment properties in Barrie -- so I have a vested interest in this city and I believe a casino as part of a hotel/convention/conference would be a great way to create jobs and attract business through conventions and conferences. The casino is just an added incentive for clients to book the venue for their next event.
Survey	Yes	Amazing idea to save this shit whole.
Survey	Yes	Any income is good income.
Survey	Yes	Anything bringing local (well paying) ADULT employment to the city is much needed. Cost of living is on the rise (property taxes, garbage tags, gas etc), yet the employment options remain primarily retail at minimum wage or just above. With a clear employment bias towards teenagers. Pathetic.....what are you offering to keep families here?
Survey	No	As a resident who lives and works in the downtown area, I feel that this would be a step in the wrong direction.
Survey	Yes	As a Tourism Management Graduate from Georgian College, and resident since 2001, I believe that having a casino as part of a hotel / convention centre downtown would bring money to town. It needs to be higher quality than what we have now if we want to draw on a different experience. Barrie is a destination. However I feel it is not utilized as such. The tourists we get today are either weekenders for a hockey tournament which all their time is spent in the arena or daytrippers. The daytrippers come to Barrie to enjoy the beach or a festival. They don't spend any money because they don't have to. They bring their lunch, parking is free, and they leave town at night. Not only does Barrie need to start to collect from the daytrippers but offer a different experience. Since a casino is entertainment and a destination itself, having it a part of a hotel / convention centre will make businesses choose Barrie as the site of their next conference / convention. Having it downtown near the water, will encourage boaters from all over the lake to come to Barrie's waterfront and get out of their boats. It will also draw weekend tourists; people who will now come to Barrie and leave their money in town. They will come to gamble, eat in our restaurants, shop in our stores, see a play, enjoy a festival, etc. Think the draw of Niagara Falls on a smaller scale. It will also bring jobs which are not retail. I think the positive economic benefits, not only for the businesses in town but for the City with the OLG cheques, far outweigh the potential negatives. Barrie is a great city to live and raise a family, but it could be so much more!

Survey	Yes	As long as there is adequate parking and the traffic is well planned for.
Survey	Yes	as long as they respect the residents of downtown im all for it.
Survey	Yes	As long as this would help with the clean up and rejuvenation of Barries downtown core.
Survey	Yes	As part of the proposed development - transportation upgrades and potentially a new off ramp should be discussed
Survey	No	As someone who was born and raised in Barrie, I liked it when the city turned down the opportunity to have gambling at the Barrie fairgrounds. I am still opposed to gambling within the city limits.
Survey	No	Ask your own staff how they like cleaning up the downtown streets each morning when it's patio season. It's already disgusting but a casino might go well with the bars and gentlemen spa.
Survey	No	Barrie already has way too many bars / clubs that create policing and other problems - no more please!
Survey	No	Barrie chose to shut down the race track, they now need to live by their decision, being greedy now cannot undo past mistakes. Rama is near enough for anyone wanting to gamble. What's next whore houses, drug dens, if this is their plan for city revenues then it's a sad reflection on our moral values.
Survey	No	Barrie does not need a casino in any form, whether part of a hotel or convention centre, or as a stand-alone. We do not need ANY of the problems attendant with gambling addiction. There is no point in encouraging people to spend money they cannot afford, and destroying families, relationships, lives. I cannot adequately express my very strong feelings against a casino here.
Survey	No	Barrie doesn't need a casino as part of it's event/conference facility.
Survey	No	Barrie doesn't need to bring in a socially detrimental activity. Casinos wouldn't be in business if they didn't take away peoples hard earned money. What do you do once you have spent all your money....social assistance vagrants in the street? There is no pot of gold that we are all lead to believe. Not to mention it breaks up families and morals. legalize sex, drugs too while were at it.
Survey	No	Barrie don't need a casino let them turn the already Georgian down into a casino
Survey	No	Barrie doesn't need it. Georgian down is fine. leve it there ,
Survey	No	Barrie had its chance many years ago for a casino type facility. I am however in favour of a convention centre/hotel for downtown to draw in major business for corporate events, currently any major company holds their events in Toronto. We have many things to offer to the corporate community.
Survey	No	Barrie had its chance to have a casino, but the old foggies did not want it. Now that they see how much money Innisfil has made. They want one. There should be a gaming regulation the casinos should be a maximum of 40 mile apart.
Survey	Yes	Barrie has long been a destination because of the lake. Lakefront property has reached ridiculous prices. This would be the ideal way to attract tourism dollars while keeping our taxes from going up.
Survey	Yes	Barrie is in dire need of a convention centre. There is no place in our fair city where we can bring in large groups of people for conferences or conventions, so I am very happy to support initiative if it means that we will get a convention centre. We miss so many economic opportunities because of a lack of hotel rooms and meeting spaces, this can't come soon enough. Casinos are great for generating funds in communities - bring it on!

Survey	Yes	Barrie lost the racetrack when it wouldn't allow the olg in for the slots. We have lost a lot of potential revenue and jobs. If this was a moral issue, I don't understand how the city can allow strip clubs on their main streets and other rub and tug "spas" in their downtown core and that is morally ok??? If a casino wants to come to Barrie and bring new jobs and tourist to the city that is great, please don't stop them!
Survey	No	Barrie missed its chance for a casino when they passed up the opportunity to have the Georgian Downs in Barrie and now it's Barrie's downtown is congested and crowded enough without adding a convention center/casino.
Survey	No	Barrie needs a casino like it needs a university. It needs neither. This is not a time to keep up with the Jones. Fix up Central S.S. and introduce night school courses. Include a couple of university credit courses but mostly art, technical and computer courses. Thousands of adults live within walking distance to this school. Many would appreciate a chance to continue to learn. Another comment, since you asked...don't turn Lakeshore into a getto of high rises. It creates stress and conjection and there is enough of that now. More parkland is needed. Let nature prevail. Regards, Michael
Survey	No	Barrie needs the jobs and Barrie needs any financial income it can get A casino as part of a hotel/convection ctr best, but not necessary
Survey	Yes	Barrie or Wasaga would be two great places.
Survey	No	Barrie's identity as a casino town would make us consider moving. We prefer the university idea for Barrie.
Survey	Yes	Barrie's motto is, Barrie Means Business. Well if this is true, then why does Barrie not allow these places to open up and start their Business'. Take for example the "Ethanol Plant". Barrie said no to it for the fact that they said people would complain about the smel;l. So they turn down hundreds of jobs for what they say a few of the 150,000 people think. By brining the casino to Barrie it will promote more jobs and more tourists to the Barrie area.
Survey	No	Bars downtown already are a problem, Georgian students, and talk of another university with more students. Students and gambling/drinking don't mix. Barrie already has unemployment problem and an easily accessible place to gamble would add to problem without adding enough employment. Keep the casinos away from cities, where it could be a fun outing, not an everyday activity.
Survey	No	Besides the horrible social problems associated with gambling and gambling addiction, I think it's also important to look at this from an urban planning perspective. A healthy downtown is one that provides a multitude of small and easily accessible services to all residents. A casino is a large people sucking machine that turns what is supposed to be a public downtown, to a private downtown. What great thriving world cities have casinos in their downtowns? None. Think of the unattractiveness of Windsor, Ontario's downtown. In theory, a small slot facility might not appear too harmful, but who's to say (if we did get a casino) that the facility wouldn't take over the entire hotel and conference centre due to popularity? Council must be cautious that inviting a casino into Barrie will also invite a laundry list of problems to the downtown. Right now, Barrie looks desperate that we are even considering this. I know times are tough financially, but do not give into this "get rich quick" idea that will ultimately become the second death of the downtown.
Survey	No	Bringing a Casino to downtown Barrie will only add to the city's reputation. I never walk downtown and haven't for years as I don't feel safe there as I used to. Driving through it is the only thing I do, with the doors locked!! Please, think of the people of Barrie and not just the money it will bring to the city. Innisfil Casino is close enough.

Survey	No	Building a convention centre and/or casino does not guarantee new business in the community nor is it likely to attract the type of down town activities one normally associates with a family community. A convention centre would be great if could attract new events into the city. Convention attendees typically spend money with local communities and businesses which is not something attributed to people seeking a night out at a casino.
Survey	No	casino in Barrie will only benefit the casino and hurt all other bussnes in Barrie
Survey	No	Casinos are close already in Innisfil and Orillia. Barrie needs more family friendly activities
Survey	No	Casinos are for the likes of Niagara Falls and Las Vegas. Like Barrie needs more drunken brawls and addicts. Please consider making Barrie into an attraction not like Niagara, but a cultural one. More arts and music.
Survey	No	Casinos are just not healthy venues to have, preying on those who can least afford to gamble, all that money invested in a casino complex would go a long way in spawning new business enterprises to provide work with proper wages for people who will then spend in their communities and support other businesses. Win win.
Survey	No	Casinos as a rule create a significant drain on the health system, primarily the mental health system. With our medical professionals already overtaxed with cases, why would it be considered a good idea to increase the load on them? Improving the downtown core, means bringing reputable businesses into the area. The downtown core already has issues with addicts of all kinds, I don't think having gambling in the downtown area is going to help the existing businesses in any way.
Survey	No	Casinos do not support a healthy lifestyle. Gambling becomes an addiction which affects so many people. It also involves liquor which also feeds alcoholism. The family needs to be supported in a healthy manner and if people use their limited resources in gambling casino's we end up causing more unstable families. People need to put their resources into healthy priorities not ones that rob from the person and their families. It also affects the health of a person and can cause mental illness which again affects the family and society. Why would we want to support another casino to only cause more dysfunction.
Survey	Yes	Communications Rock!
Facebook	No	Conference centre? YES! Live entertainment venues? YES! Casino? NO! Don't need it, don't want it, don't get it!
Survey	No	Definitely no: attracts organized crime, creates loan sharking opportunity and promotes criminal activity by the losers to pay the loan sharks. Destroys families and individual lives due to gambling addiction. No net benefit to the community
Survey	Yes	Did your predecessors on council take a poll to find out if we should have so many bars on Dunlop? Casinos are also legal. Even if more than 50 per cent of Barrie residents say 'no' to a casino, why would you deny the rights of the rest of us?
Survey	No	Didn't, "WE" the people of Barrie vote "NO" to a casino in Barrie not that many years ago? Georgian Downs is located in Innisfil! Because "WE" the people of Barrie voted against a casino and WON! Whatever happened to democracy?
Survey	Yes	DO IT
Survey	Yes	do it
Survey	No	Does the financial gain to the community justify the ruin and heartache of many families victimized by gambling?
Survey	Yes	down town Barrie would benefit greatly from a hotel convention center and a casino would help the convention center thrive. People are going to gamble

		somewhere. Barrie may as well receive the taxes
Survey	No	Downtown .. or Uptown is a seedy enough area at night, a casino will push residents away from downtown even more. I work in downtown and I hear LOTS of comments from people saying they will not venture downtown at night because of the trouble that there ALWAYS is. A casino, will make downtown even more undesirable to visit after the sun goes down
Survey	No	Downtown Barrie has enough Policing issues with the excessive number of bars. This would only cause additional problems and attract unsavory folks since it is easier to access than in Innisfil or Rama.
Survey	No	Downtown Barrie needs to be seen as an attraction to the High and Middle class and not as an attraction to the Lowest classes, a casino will do little for our economy in exchange for a great deal of damage to our public image. It will attract the types of people and business that is detrimental to our current social status and will further corrupt our beautiful waterfront with crime and drugs. Please reconsider this endeavour.
Survey	No	Downtown has a lot of problems now, perhaps a better location could be considered.
Survey	No	Downtown is not the place for a casino and could support a convention center without one. Innisfil is close enough
Survey	Yes	Downtown really needs to be revitalized!!!! Being just north of Toronto & on one of the most beautiful lakes in the World we need A tourist destination feature. The Casino combined with the Hotel & Convention Centre could provide that. Get rid of the college bars & insert instead some nice retail, boutique shops, destination dining, & upscale lounges. Barrie also needs to allow free parking as many residents & tourists just keep on driving (to Georgian Mall, south end, Park Place where parking is available & free).
Survey	No	Downtown revitalization has been quite transformative over the last decade. Please do not let a casino within 30 metres of our bay ruin the revitalization efforts. This has the potential to be the worst council-approved decision (to even allow OLG to consider us) in the city's history. The choice is up to you council.
Survey	No	Downtown will be way too congested and cannot support a Casino.
Survey	No	Downtown would be the worst location for the casino. A more appropriate area would be the Maplevue / 400 area.
Survey	No	Enough bars downtown, we do NOT need a Casino too!! Not enough Parking for a Casino. We don't need anymore rowdy parties etc. in downtown. Our downtown is improving, let's keep it that way.
Survey	Yes	Finally deciding to bring tourism in. Good job
Survey	No	Focus on getting a university.
Survey	No	For all the talk by council of making downtown safer for families I find it crazy that they voted in favor of perusing this avenue.
Survey	No	Gamblers come to town for one reason only & that is to gamble!! They will not be interested in visiting shops, etc.They will not add to the downtown area in a good way.They will make it even less likely that Barrie residents will visit the downtown & they will only create more problems down there. I thought we were trying to revitalize the downtown - not totally kill it!
Survey	No	Gambling is an addiction and I simply do not support it.
Survey	No	Georgian Downs and Casino Rama are close enough venues for those who like to gamble. The closer the venue the more likely is the development of problem gambling. This addiction can lead to serious financial, emotional, health and marital problems even suicide .Please act now to inform the council of your opinion..

Survey	No	Georgian Downs is 15 minutes south, Casino Rama is 30 minutes north and a much larger venue. Why do we need a casino? I do agree with a hotel/shopping/convention centre downtown in conjunction with a university campus spin off.
Survey	No	Georgian Downs is already very close to Barrie and shuttle service is provided. Having a 2nd casino within the city of Barrie itself is redundant and totally unnecessary. Want to have better tourism via Georgian Downs? Make it easier to win using their slots. At Georgian Downs there's not enough winnings and what winnings there are meager compared to dollars spent. The odds are stacked too greatly in favour of the house. Better odds for the gambler will attract tourism.
Survey	Yes	Good for economic growth and lower taxes or tax avoidance Increase tourism attraction
Survey	Yes	good idea that will save Barrie
Survey	No	Granted a casino would provide employment, and bring people to Barrie, but it is not something that is going to benefit the social structure of Barrie. I doubt that many visitors to the Casino are going to be spending money elsewhere in the city. There are enough people with addiction problems in the city, to offer yet another chance to cause financial hardship to people who can't afford it, and an outlet for gambling addictions is not in the citizen's best interest. If it were put downtown it would be one more drain on parking resources, and again, is not going to help improve the downtown as a place for people, particularly families. I'm not worried that it would increase violence due to drinking, but stealing/robbery, perhaps.
Survey	Yes	Great IDEA
Survey	Yes	Great idea! More jobs in Barrie.
Survey	Yes	Great idea, the money the City of Barrie earns because of the casino will be great for Barrie, people will go any distance to gamble so why not keep the money in Barrie.
Survey	No	Having a casino so readily available in downtown Barrie would be detrimental - too many people gambling who shouldn't be (ie. low income families, welfare recipients, etc), not to mention the added burden on the already overtaxed police force.
Survey	Yes	Hotel and Convention centre is exactly what the downtown core needs to maintain its standing as central Ontario's premier waterfront community. Slot machines and casino games will ensure the viability of the convention centre while attracting business to the downtown core which will aid in its revitalization
Survey	No	Hotel/convention centre is a great idea...but its been talked about for years. Get on with it! A casino would be harmful for Barrie in my opinion. It won't be the type of casino that would attract big rollers/out of town players like Rama or Fallsview. We could never match that downtown. A casino in the middle of one of the most vulnerable areas will only add to the problems we are experiencing in that area with prostitution, drug dealing, drunkenness, etc. The marginalized in downtown Barrie have enough distractions as it is downtown. OLG admits that gambling can be addictive (put money towards rehabilitation). Why would be inserting that into an already volatile area of Barrie and risk more problems with a segment of our population who already can't handle the addictions and other issues they have? I am not a gambler so I personally wouldn't step foot in the place. If it's not big enough (shows, shopping, etc.) then would this not just end up being 'recycled' money that coming from mostly Barrie residents only? I think it's a short-sighted, irresponsible idea to even consider for Barrie. A hotel/convention centre large enough to bring customers and business from OUTSIDE our area is a great idea and it is continually discussed but never moves forward. No

		casino in downtown Barrie is my vote.
Survey	No	I absolutely do NOT want a casino in Barrie.
Survey	Yes	I agree as long as Barrie remains a family oriented City.
Facebook	Yes	I agree with Nicole 100%, Barrie needs something like this to save the city, it is falling apart. Without something like this Barrie will remain a dead end city where it is impossible to find jobs. Not to mention this would bring hundreds. I'm all for a casino, anything to brighten up the city.
Survey	Yes	I am 100% for this. It will create jobs and attract visitors to Barrie. It will also help surrounding businesses. I cannot see how this could have a negative impact on the residents of the city. Any of those against it are probably against gambling in general and probably could care less. I don't think there are any innisfil residents that are against Georgian Downs. In fact, when there was talk that Georgian downs would shut down because of a Toronto "mega casino", the mayor and residents were against the idea of Georgian downs closing. I don't understand why the idea for the city of Barrie to have a casino/conference center in the downtown core would be debated. All in all, those against will not be affected by it, just looking for a reason to complain. THANKYOU
Survey	No	I am afraid people who can't afford a car would be tempted to wager money they can't afford in hopes of getting rich. Getting rich is the real goal of gambling, not the fun of the game. Casinos don't bring decent paying jobs, which are desperately needed in Barrie.
Survey	No	I am completely opposed to a Casino in Barrie. I understand the financial impact that a casino may bring, however, that is not how I see "My Barrie". I want a place that my children can grow and excel within. I am for the development of the downtown core--and I have ideas to support that. I like that the waterfront is being maintained and added to without losing its integrity. I also support bringing in a university to the city. New life, revitalize the downtown area (more than just bars), activity, education, forward thinking minds etc. None of that can hurt. Just make it a true educational experience and not just some class rooms in a building. That being said--please don't put a casino in Barrie. Barrie is great for what it is. Bring in larger companies (like TD), bring a university and everything that goes with it, and continue with the revitalization. Our Barrie is amazing and can still be amazing.
Survey	No	I am concerned about the social costs of gambling and am opposed to raising money from the proceeds. Although your survey does not mention downtown as a site, news reports suggest that would be the location. A single "higher end" destination will not make up for all the bars and the costs associated with them and could add to problems. Please, be honest and open. Raise money for municipal services through the tax base. These comments reflect the opinion of one property owner at this address.
Survey	No	I am concerned that the first question is misleading on the input questionnaire. The implication is that one does not wish a casino without a hotel. This would allow of course for a casino with a hotel. I wish to have neither and I am deeply concerned that the question was put the public in a manner that could be massaged later to indicate a perspective that the public may not intend. The social implications as described by the Simcoe County Health Officer letter sent to council Dr. Gardner (Nov. 14, 2012) is very clear a casino in Barrie is not good for the lower income section of society and it will likely have significant impact on the middle class as addiction levels to gambling will likely rise for those who live in the City of Barrie. It should also be noted that the increase of 1000 to 1200 slot machines is also complimented by an increase of 300 slots in the Wasaga B/Collingwood area proposal from OLG. This is a 50% increase in machines and as Dr. Gardner

		explains in his letter the negative aspects of gambling increase with the expansion of gambling availability. This should be a "no go" from the start.
Survey	Yes	I am in favour of a casino in Barrie because it would bring much needed revenue to the municipality and provide a local source of entertainment to residents.
Survey	No	I am more concerned with the proposed downtown location, rather than the establishment itself. Downtown Barrie does not need to be a destination for drugs, alcohol, prostitution and other vices inherent to gambling. While the advantages may outnumber the disadvantages, it should be noted that the disadvantages are significant enough that they should be wisely considered. Casinos can indeed bring fun and funds, but they also pose some danger.
Survey	No	I am not in support of gaming in our city. I do not believe the industry adds value to our community or our citizens. At a time when we are looking for people to invest in our small businesses in the downtown why would we encourage a business whose sole purpose is to suck money out our community. I will be deeply saddened if council decides to travel down this road.
Survey	No	I am not opposed I guess.. Just be careful. I lived in Niagara for years and from my point of view a casino is attractive on the outside, but that's about it.... People WILL get addicted.. Locals WILL get addicted, more poverty WILL be down town Barrie, more drugs WILL be in Barrie..
Survey	No	I am strongly opposed to this, there is already so much trouble caused by downtown bars.
Survey	No	I am totally opposed to all forms of gaming in downtown Barrie. We have enough problems every single week as a result of the concentration of liquor establishments and stupid people. And for the record, while I think our Mayor is doing an otherwise excellent job, can we try to agree on what is "downtown" vs. "uptown"?!
Survey	Yes	I approve of a casino in downtown Barrie for two reasons - to help attract foot traffic to the downtown core, and ONLY if the revenue is used to help keep taxes down and to prevent an increase.
Survey	Yes	I approve of the Casino in principal; I am disappointed we lost the race track and ultimately the casino. A missed opportunity by Barrie Council Bureaucracy that will cost more money now to build.....but I do support a casino....I just wish we hadn't lost the first one
Survey	No	I attended the recent meeting of council where the OLG presented their proposal to build a casino in Barrie. I appreciate the fact that Councillor Nuttall let me know that the meeting was taking place. I understand I was not the only person who did not receive notification from the city. I recognize that the city staff attempted to notify the public, but as discussed at the public meeting, did not have the full out-reach to the community one would have hoped for. In particular I am concerned about the warnings from Doctor Gardner - Simcoe County Health. In his letter to council (appendix to the Dec. 13th meeting package) he states the dangers to the people within our community are significant. Many of the issues mentioned by the public at the Dec. 13th meeting are extremely important to review (in no particular order) 1) Economic impact - what will a casino do to housing values and therefore taxes 2) Social impact - what is the cost of policing - who will pay 3) Budget implications - would City of Barrie spend out the Casino boom of 40 million or would it cut taxes. 4) Education - Many would like to see a University or Revised High School within the downtown Barrie core. It is hard to imagine a worse combination than a gambling casino side-by-side an educational institution. This surely would be a plus for another city comparing campus opportunities to Barrie's casino hot spot. 4) From the seats watching the councillors it was really disconcerting to see what looked like a "done"

deal. At this stage of the game there should be open and even review of materials. There is a bad side to the casino proposition and before anyone votes For or Against it, it is necessary to have full disclosure and notification to all parties involved - well in advance of any decisions being made.

Survey	No	I believe a casino would be a negative influence for the future development of the downtown area. I also think that Rama and Slots in Innisfil more than adequately meet the demand.
Survey	No	I believe a casino would hurt the City of Barrie. We already have enough people in this province addicted to gambling & having it within walking distance of their house would only make it more convenient for them...The city is already too congested as it is without adding to that... It is starting to become a mini Toronto giving me headaches whenever I am running errands.
Survey	Yes	I believe that a casino will help the City in more ways than just generating revenue. Hopefully, when hiring people, they give preference to residents of Barrie for a job rather than to people outside the City. My only concern is the possible increase in criminal activity. With that being said, you would have to increase police presence downtown and from what I understand, there is no more money to give to the police. I'm already afraid to go downtown. I've lived in Barrie since 1977 and when driving through downtown now, all I see are crack junkies and beggars. I avoid the area as much as possible.
Survey	Yes	I believe that the old raceway site would be a far better location and would benefit the City by bringing in a convention centre supported by a major hotel chain. Downtown will not likely attract this type of investment.
Survey	Yes	I believe that this venture will finally place Barrie where it needs to be with creating many local jobs and will revitalize our downtown once and for all... I also think that it will displace the lower echelon of the food chain and push the Busby center, the salvation army and drug houses out of the core. good luck
Survey	No	I believe where the casino is geographically is best for the casino. If it were to go downtown, where is the parking? It should be placed away from residential areas, close to hwy. 400. The new owners will have the expense of a whole new building; Innisfil was \$45 million. There cannot be two casinos in one zone. It's too bad Barrie didn't vote yes before Innisfil got it; the old race track was a perfect location. Barrie can't control the bars downtown, I can't think of anything positive about having a casino downtown... homeless, prostitution is not something casinos want to be connected to.
Survey	Yes	I completely agree that there needs to be a quality hotel in downtown Barrie, and if a casino is part of that, fine, but it's hardly a creative solution. I keep hoping Barrie will look for creative options and apply them with strategic, long term thinking. If there's a university coming downtown there's so much more that could go along side that, where does a casino fit in there?
Survey	Yes	I currently work for OLG Slots in Innisfil but have lived in Barrie my entire life. I think a casino * could be a great employer as long as this new company does not bring all its own people and pay Barrie residents low wages and offer Part time hours. We in Barrie DESPERATLY need Full time, good paying jobs with benefits and pensions. I would also only want a Casino in Barrie as long as they transfer all the employees from Innisfil to the new Barrie Casino.
Survey	Yes	I do approve of a casino in Barrie. The question that a casino be "solely part of a hotel/convention centre", need not be the case. I would approve of a standalone building as well.
Survey	No	I do not approve of any gambling establishments.

Survey	No	I do not believe that a casino will add to the attraction of downtown Barrie or benefit the downtown merchants. Most people going to the casino will be indoors and will use the inside amenities provided either by the casino or the hotel. They will not be outside shopping or eating in the restaurants. I also feel it is unnecessary to have a casino in Barrie when there are the slots at Innisfil and the Rama Casino so nearby.
Survey	No	I do not believe that a casino would be of any benefit to the businesses in the city. Also, I feel that gambling is addictive and would create more social problems.
Survey	No	I do not support building a casino anywhere within the city of Barrie.
Survey	No	I do not think a casino in the downtown core would be beneficial to the city. While it may bring an influx of tourists to the area the downtown core is already congested and this would only increase matters making local residents avoid utilizing the downtown core on a regular basis. Plus I think it would hinder the city's attractiveness in its effort to get a university campus in the downtown core.
Survey	No	I do not think the city of Barrie needs a casino especially downtown. Casino 'brings more money problem into people lives. You will have more broken families and children living in poverty. As you know it is not the winners who built casino ramma and who keep it going. It is those addicted to gambling.
Survey	No	I do not think this is a good idea for Barrie, far too many social implications.
Survey	No	I don't believe a Casino is a benefit to the city. There is enough problems downtown Barrie without adding hundred of more people into the downtown core.
Survey	No	I don't believe we need to add a casino to a downtown area that has already become party central to the yahoos that abuse the services at the local establishments. Too many rowdy people flow out of the local bars already. It does not make walking in the downtown area with my spouse or friends late into the evening a very enjoyable experience. I'm afraid we may attract more people who can ill-afford to spend their money frivolously, adding additional social problems.
Survey	No	I don't object to the concept of a casino in Barrie. Just not in the downtown core. We already have policing issues and social services issues downtown. Adding a casino into the mix would increase the need for a police presence as well as place more stress on our already over-burdened social services. If we must have a casino, place on the outskirts of the city. It will still create problems but will not add them to the downtown.
Survey	No	I don't support a casino in downtown Barrie. I think downtown is already congested and they should move the casino on the outskirts of town or how about in another town all together.
Survey	No	I don't think a casino belongs in downtown Barrie. It will attract the wrong kind of environment for a small downtown.
Survey	No	I don't think it would be a good idea as downtown already has many bars and is known as a party district. Adding a casino will only enhance this further. I think Barrie needs to decide what it wants to be known for and who it wants to cater to. Think of future generations and general safety of the community. I'm opposed to the idea of a casino being built downtown.
Survey	No	I don't think we need a casino in downtown Barrie as we already have 8% unemployment and it will prey on the people that don't have money to gamble and lose even more.
Survey	No	I don't think you should put it downtown. It is too crowded now and won't make any extra business for the merchants down town.

Survey	No	I doubt that having a casino in downtown Barrie will provide a lot of extra jobs for the area or increase the number of people who visit the surrounding businesses. I am more concerned about the social impact that gambling and gambling addictions could have in our community. I realize that it is a tempting tax grab, but I am totally against it.
Survey	Yes	I feel a hotel/casino would thrive in Barrie, as well as a proper venue for shows and concerts such as casino Rama. Barrie has a thriving music scene, and it would appear that big name artists of all genres are more than willing to come to Barrie, they just need a real venue. I think a facility like this would continue the great strides the city has already taken in giving Barrie its own identity separate from Toronto and give our great city another draw for tourists and vacation goers.
Survey	No	I feel a university campus would be a more positive attraction for Barrie.
Survey	Yes	I feel it's a great opportunity to create new jobs; it seems that it will help clean up the downtown core which is very much needed. I personally open this idea with open arms.
Survey	No	I feel that casinos can potentially destroy a family. Why vote yes for that?
Survey	Yes	I feel that the city would benefit by the added income and jobs that this opportunity represents as long as the casino/convention center are placed correctly. The city also must mandate that a percentage of the employees be hired from the city.
Survey	No	I feel that the current location of the slots at Georgian Downs is a good location and gives funds to a community in need. If a Casino is likely to come to Barrie I would like the city to consider building it somewhere besides the downtown. I would like to see a Hotel/conference centre built in the downtown area but not a casino. Thank you for allowing me to have my say.
Survey	No	I feel that the downtown core needs more amenities for the current and future residents. For example, gas stations, grocery store, pharmacy, hardware etc. kind of like it used to be. We have enough bars, tattoo shops etc that tend to bring in undesirables to the area. The LAST thing we need is a casino! If the city wants to have a downtown bustling neighbourhood, let it cater to its residents instead of solely catering to outsiders.
Survey	No	I feel that the Provincial push to open more casinos is unnecessary for those people who enjoy casinos there is already plenty of opportunities, by opening new casinos you are only going to draw business away from the others not generate new business. I do not believe that Barrie has the population base to support a casino; I do not think it will draw tourism to Barrie, and will it not add any value to the area. With Georgian Downs and Rama nearby, another casino/slots is not necessary. Rama will always have the greater pull for tourists as they get large music and comedy acts, and Niagara Falls has additional attractions.
Survey	Yes	I feel the Casino should be a SMALL component of the convention/hotel complex. The Downtown and Waterfront location should be the main attraction. We need a place for tourists and guests to stay downtown even without a convention or casino facility.
Survey	No	I feel there are enough places to gamble close to Barrie and having one in Barrie is not necessary or needed.

Survey	No	<p>I grew up in the tourist trap town of Niagara Falls. I witnessed Niagara go from a nicer town when it had no casino to the results after. The jobs that were promised from the casino were only lower paying part time jobs. Tourists spent more time in the casino and did not visit other venues. Spending at other venues actually went down. Crime in the city did go up as I have heard from residents still there. Here in Barrie, we already have a large Rama casino complex very nearby so a facility here would be having direct difficult competition. A casino here would also simply encourage more gambling addiction with one already so close; more access means more likely more lost money to gambling. I also remember that Barrie pushed away the old race track because slot gambling was not desired to be included at the same facility (even though gambling was done on horses!?) If gambling as not wanted back then, is there any change in that opinion now? Obviously, I find no attraction nor benefit to having a casino to be included in a downtown hotel for Barrie. I feel it would lessen our city quality, just as what has happened in Niagara Falls.</p>
Survey	No	<p>I have been researching Barrie for the last 3 years and have decided that I will move to Barrie this year probably in the summer or Fall of 2013. If a Casino is built outside or on the city border that would be different and perhaps would not interfere with the type of image and lifestyle of people living in the city. If Barrie has a Casino in the downtown (and I guess it will be near the waterfront). Noise, rowdiness and a certain demographic that are attracted to Casinos, drinking and gambling would affect Barrie in a negative way. I think this would affect the whole feel of the downtown including the waterfront. What about safety/traffic etc.? I know that this has also been a concern regarding local bars in Barrie (perhaps the concern may be -"out of towners", since they have not invested in Barrie like the citizens have. I am also aware that Barrie is trying to revitalize the downtown, encourage growth and attract "the Arts". Perhaps building a Casino could serve financial needs if the location was carefully decided but I think building it downtown would be contra to what Barrie has been trying to promote. A University in Barrie would be great! that would attract me to either teach or take courses. I was already planning to take courses at Georgian College. If Barrie builds a Casino downtown I may reconsider my plans to move.</p>
Survey	Yes	<p>I have family in Barrie, and visit often. We generally head to Casino Rama, but would definitely go to one in Barrie. Would have to be a larger facility than what is at Georgian Downs. At least the size of Rama. Too small, and you'll not attract people. Who wants to go to a casino where all you can do is watch other people gamble because there aren't enough machines?</p>
Survey	No	<p>I have no interest in a casino for Barrie. While government makes money from them, I believe they play havoc on people's lives and it is not conducive to a family community. Say no to a Barrie Casino.</p>
Survey	No	<p>I have no problem with developing a conference centre/hotel/ resort, but downtown Barrie already has issues with drug crime and violent crimes and casinos inherently bring a criminal element of their own. What further exasperates the problem would be the close proximity of other Casinos like Rama and Georgian Downs thereby over saturating the pre-existing market that casinos patrons use....which may force further unemployment issues.</p>
Survey	No	<p>I have owned my house in downtown Barrie for 19 years and intend to retire in this house. I am totally opposed to a casino being built in the Barrie area, primarily because of the financial detriment to those who gamble, most of whom cannot afford it.</p>
Survey	No	<p>I just don't think a casino is an appropriate attraction for downtown Barrie especially with all of the other problems we have downtown on the weekends with bar patrons.</p>

Survey	Undecided	I just have issues as to where the people who shop downtown are going to park if they build there. I have no objection to a Casino just don't think that is a good location for it. Needs to be away from the downtown area as it will not bring any business for the stores people who come to gamble don't go shopping
Survey	No	I just think this is a bad idea for Barrie. The social impact resulting from problem gamblers will outweigh any financial impact. Let's keep things the way they are - leave the slots at the race tracks and help to support this province's horse racing industry.
Survey	Yes	I just want the good shows like Casino Rama has and I hoping them come together?? Big stadium for good shows??
Survey	Undecided	I like the idea of something that will bring more people into Barrie's downtown, but I'm not sure if a casino will mean increased or decreased revenue for the surrounding businesses. Any case studies of casinos coming into similar downtown areas in other Canadian cities? Unrelated note: I think the attempted rebranding of "downtown" as "uptown" is silly and a huge waste of money since it is confusing and will never catch on.
Survey	No	I lived in Niagara Falls from 2004-2009. I spoke to many long-time residents about the casinos there. All were against them saying they never lived up to the hype they were inundated with by politicians and other pro-casino voices. It's never done for the city what people were told they would do. Anyone I spoke to who works or worked in one of the casinos said the jobs and benefits fell far short of what was indicated. Residents are angry because all the money (however much that is as that hasn't lived up to forecasts of the so-called "windfalls to the city either) seems to go just to maintain the immediate surroundings of the casinos i.e. roads. The rest of the city is allowed to go to "pot," literally meaning potholes on streets everywhere. I'm also told by present and former employees that most casinos have a morgue. Suicides as a result of a gambler losing everything are not occasional but actually frequent. The so-called benefits of a casino have been grossly exaggerated and its drawbacks minimized by politicians. Frankly people have been lied to for the all-mighty buck. Every city needs money for something. This is not the easy and painless way to get it. The leaders of the city keep talking about reducing the debt, yet they then talk about some other project and the borrowing they will be necessary i.e. the university and the \$15 million commitment by the city. When does the leadership of this city realize you can't get rid of the mountain if you keep building it? Here's a tip: learn to say, "No." And I haven't even commented on the economic impact to existing small business in the area. Learn from Niagara Falls - it's disgusting.
Survey	No	I LOVE the idea of a hotel/convention centre. I'm very proud of our downtown and waterfront and the festivals and types of activities we have in Barrie. I'd hope that future development expands on those themes (arts, sports, family entertainment). People who come to a casino just come to a casino - research shows that they do not frequent businesses around the casino. Imagine busloads of people coming into downtown Barrie and then leaving again. They're only leaving their money to the casino. Other than tax dollars, the casino needs to have a BENEFIT to our downtown core. I'm already concerned that the predominant message about downtown Barrie is that's where you go to drink and fight. A casino feeds THAT stereotype and not one that we'd like to see for our beautiful city.
Survey	No	I object to the downtown location. I would be more agreeable to a casino located away from the downtown - such as is the case with Georgian Downs.

Survey	No	I oppose having a casino in Barrie as Innisfil already has a fine facility that is easier to get to and if there is anything we should start doing is being a good neighbor rather than a bully taking from the smaller adjacent communities. We need to conduct ourselves like a good neighbor and perhaps put our efforts into a joint venue in developing a convention center and how we can collectively save the horse racing industry rather than destroying something that already works. Isn't taking their land already enough. I feel like I'm the big bully next door. The mayor should stick with his original comments and stop the flip flopping.
Survey	Yes	I really do like the idea if the casino will be an entertainment destination and bring in revenue to our city. Also we need to ensure the OLG promotes social responsibility on responsible gambling.
Survey	No	I run a business in the Downtown The negatives to a Casino in the core far outway the positive.
Survey	No	I say no to any Casino's. Nobody wins but the owners. That's why the mafia loves them so much.
Survey	Yes	I see what the Casino has done for Innisfil and what it could do for Barrie. Our roads are in immaculate condition and the majority of the funding I believe is from OLG.
Survey	Undecided	I support a casino but NOT in the downtown area. Put it in south Barrie in an industrial area etc. where ease of parking and safety would be better. Not near where all the drunks congregate. Thanks
Survey	No	I think a Casino in downtown Barrie (or in any part of Barrie) would only promote negative business. Although it would make the city money, it would not benefit the wholesome and cultural ideal we are looking to facilitate in the downtown core. We have come so far to promote a positive image for Barrie, with the discussion of a Laurentian campus and with the Mady centre, this image would be tarnished by a casino.
Survey	No	I think a casino is a very bad idea for Barrie's downtown and not the kind of revitalization that we need. I would never go to it. It will create more addiction in this city and make the downtown less desirable. The idea of a institute of higher education (ie. university) is a far better idea and what we need to make our downtown more desirable!!
Survey	Yes	I think a casino would be good for Barrie and its tourism and for a percentage of its revenue that the city of Barrie would get.
Survey	Yes	I think a Casino would be valuable to help alleviate some of the tax burden on residents. We have lost a lot of our industrial tax base and this would help to compensate. I have one question: is downtown Barrie the only option for a location?
Survey	Yes	I think Barrie needs more recreational facilities and high end venues for weddings and conferences. People need to learn to control their habits (ie casinos, gambling) and not have politicians dictate what facilities can or can't be brought into the area. I believe it would create more careers in the hospitality industry which would encourage more students to study at Georgian and also create more revenue for the city. Other than going to bars, there really isn't a lot to do for 20-30somethings no kids in Barrie. I think a casino/hotel would be fantastic, especially if located near water, with a marina out front, allowing boaters to bring their money to Barrie.
Survey	No	I think Barrie would profit both financially and tourist wise if there were not so many bars in the down town area. My husband and I (and many of our friends) do not like to go down town in the evenings, particularly at weekends.
Survey	No	I think if managed and located outside of the downtown core a Casino could bring needed revenue to Barrie. However it should not be part of a hotel/convention centre in the core.

Survey	Yes	I think if managed properly, and an upscale Casino this is a great opportunity.
Facebook	Yes	I think if the OLG is considering Barrie they are looking for more than just a casino like Georgian Downs. They will be looking for an entertainment destination location. A property that will bring in tourism and revenue for Barrie. I for one would love the idea if properly managed and promotes social awareness of responsible gaming.
Survey	Yes	I think it is important for the Barrie residents to understand that the crime rate will not go up as stated previously by police chiefs throughout the province. OLG also has one of the world best Responsible Gaming Programs with all employees that are trained to recognize these behaviours. Having the casino close for a portion of the night as suggested by some opinions does not really make a difference to someone who has a gaming addiction now that people can game online (which by the way has been present for a long time). The later hours allows patrons who work shift work an option for entertainment. Lastly someone mentioned that shouldn't Rama be enough? In actuality there is a completely different client base and the two casinos cannot be compared as it stands right now.
Survey	Yes	I think it is very important to consider all forms of revenue generation and a slots program could be a huge windfall for the City. It would also bring much needed dollars to our downtown area
Survey	Yes	I think it would be great to have a casino/conference center/hotel in our downtown. Right now there doesn't seem to be very many hotels in downtown Barrie. Nothing that stands out anyways. I think it would really liven up the downtown area. We need something like this downtown. The only thing I think of is Casino Rama and how it would affect their business. I think it's a fantastic idea though!
Survey	No	I think it would only add to the problems we already have in downtown Barrie. I am not opposed to one on the outskirts of the city. I can only imagine the problems downtown if a casino was allowed along with a lot of university students if that occurred also.
Facebook	Yes	I think it's a great idea creates more job here in Barrie and will bring money into our city that will hopefully go towards things that this city needs
Survey	No	I think money should be put into a University for Barrie. A Casino is only encouraging gambling, why would we want to do that?
Survey	No	I think putting a casino in downtown Barrie is a bad idea. There are already too many problems stemming from the number of bars in the downtown area that police have trouble dealing with and I feel that a casino would just add to those problems. Also, the downtown area should be made MORE family friendly, not LESS and I think that putting a casino in would stop families from coming downtown.
Survey	Yes	I think that a better spot than downtown would be the old race track on Essa Road,
Survey	Yes	I think that a waterfront casino will bring money to Barrie and is a great idea.
Survey	No	I think that Barrie has enough hotels with the capacity to hold conferences. I find it astonishing that Barrie would welcome a casino to their people-casino's take away from families and their financial responsibilities, something that our city currently struggles with. Aside from having a full casino 30 minutes North of Barrie, and a slots/racetrack only 15 minutes South of Barrie, it will bring negative attention to our city, in terms of what we offer our residents and visitors. In my true opinion, it looks as Barrie is jealous of what Innisfil has received in terms of funding and infrastructure from OLG- by welcoming the Georgian Downs into the community- and is looking to get a piece of the corporate pie. If image and reputation are qualities in which this city wishes to embody, then they should be focusing on

		the growth of the people through building a university that fosters that growth, not the growth of debt, which would be the result of a casino. Ultimately, the City of Barrie should focus on the growth of its current population, and ways it can help to improve a safer and happier community.
Survey	No	I think that funding capital projects on the backs of those with gambling addictions is morally reprehensible. It will taint the social fabric of downtown and the city as a whole; individuals and their families will suffer. We have enough problems with addictions downtown, we certainly don't need to add to the dysfunction. A casino will work against revitalization. Despite the predictions, I don't believe gamblers will spend their money anywhere beyond the casino.
Survey	Yes	I think the City needs a full plan in order to have this casino in the downtown core. The plan should be including more recruitments of police officer, traffic/transportation layout, fire and ect. In the end, if all of these factors being thought after, I believe this is a fantastic investment for both residents and the City itself. Good luck with Barrie.
Survey	Yes	I think the city needs a permanent inside market similar to what they have in London, On. downtown.
Survey	No	I think the City of Barrie would prosper to a greater extent by establishing a separate Laurentian campus foremost rather than a casino. I believe the City already has sufficient resources for convention/conference areas (I.e. Multiple hotels and business space available to be leased for such purpose). However, if the current success of Georgian College (top employer, once again) is to be generalized I believe the prosperity of an established separate University within the downtown core could boost the City's economy, quality of life, diversity, and resources to new limits.
Survey	No	I think the downtown area already has more problems than it can handle from all of the bars without adding a casino to the mix
Survey	Yes	I think the downtown location will create a lot of opposition from residents. The old racetrack grounds would also make a suitable, if not better, location for the casino.
Survey	No	I think the downtown should stay as shopping and park and beachfront. Casino just down the highway at Georgian downs is enough around this area.
Survey	No	I think this will raise our taxes more that what they already are. I don't support the casino idea since I chose Barrie to be the city where I am raising my kids
Survey	Yes	I think this would create some much needed employment opportunities for many of our residents.
Survey	Yes	I think this would help to bring more people to downtown Barrie, and really help Barrie economically. It was a terrible idea to give the last casino to innisfil, as they are bringing in millions per year in tax dollars and they built a new city hall, YMCA from and so on from this money that could have all be going into Barrie's piggy bank... we are getting a second chance, lets not make the same mistake twice.. if not downtown, Bradford Street just by the beach could use this development boost!!
Survey	Yes	I think we should have had a casino years ago. The best place to put it is at the old fire hall and the parking lot across the street from it, even the city can take out the road between them, this site would be better then right in the downtown. I think it will bring more people to Barrie and to the downtown area.

Survey	No	I travel throughout Ontario, through towns and cities that make our downtown an embarrassment. The shops and businesses in other communities seem to be able to attract people while Barrie fails miserably with the exception of the bars. Bars like a casino attract the wrong type of people to support local downtown business. With the upscale residences being built along the waterfront, close to the downtown, a casino would be a deterrent to that development. Bus loads of people with only one thing in mind...strike it rich. They aren't going to spend money at downtown businesses when they have a chance to "hit the big one". It would only cause more unnecessary traffic congestion in an area already congested enough, given the state of the streets and parking we have now. You can only pack so much traffic and parking into a limited space. Our downtown space is maxed out now...unless we start filling in more of the lake and that would defeat the development of the lakeshore.
Survey	No	I use to go downtown for the day. Visit the library, stop and have lunch and check the shops. Now I visit elsewhere for the day due to the amount of bars or bar/restaurants downtown and the unsafe feelings walking around down there on your own.
Survey	No	I work and love the downtown, but don't think we should sell out to putting in a casino for the financial benefits. We can do better.
Survey	Yes	I work downtown and believe this would be something positive to bring people downtown.
Survey	No	I worry that a casino in downtown Barrie would alter the culture of the city and the waterfront in a negative way. The presentation provided does not provide information about the social impacts of casinos and gambling facilities to communities. In addition, it does not provide information about the rates of problem gambling in Ontario. Given that OLG spends \$40 million a year on addressing problem gambling, I would hazard a guess that it is a very big issue.
Survey	Yes	I would approve a casino on its own or as part of a hotel/conference centre complex.
Survey	Yes	I would approve, however, not right in the middle of downtown!
Survey	Yes	I would be open to the casino if it was a guarantee of jobs for the city
Survey	No	I would be STRONGLY OPPOSED to the idea of a Casino or Gaming Site of any type coming to the city of Barrie!
Survey	Yes	I would like to make sure that if there is a Casino, that everything BUT the gambling floor is open to all residents, regardless of age. It is very sad that there are great concerts and great acts coming to Rama, but my kids cannot see them. We don't need to duplicate this in Barrie. Build a large theatre as part of this plan and let ALL AGES attend the shows. It would be much better than the Molson Centre for sound.
Survey	No	I would like to see our downtown cleaned up. Most other towns/cities have a much nicer downtown than Barrie's. I also think the bus terminal should be moved out of the downtown area.
Survey	Undecided	I would like to see the downtown area cleaned up before any casino is built. I think the current bus station location would be a good area to build the casino. But I think that downtown Barrie (including moving the bus station to a different area) should be cleaned up prior to any casino being built.
Survey	No	I would not object to a casino outside the downtown area.
Survey	Undecided	I would prefer to have a university in downtown Barrie. Having a casino might lessen the chances of getting a university

Survey	Yes	If and only if you are going ahead with a casino, it must be part of a hotel and convention centre. Personally, I think it is a horrible and not-very ethical way to collect dollars - a former neighbour lost his house to Casino Rama - I have a friend who works there and tells me about the people so down on their luck they sit there for 24 hours trying to win - not moving... the majority of the players are people that shouldn't be playing. That's the reality. I don't feel good about taking from poor people to help our city out. Also, I understood we were trying to clean up downtown - will it attract the right clientele? I am not sure about that, but casino player usually don't leave the casino, so without the hotel or convention centre, it's not going to help out the merchants of downtown Barrie. If you have to do it, do it right. However, most of the other communities who originally wanted in on the casino are backing away. Look at the Big Picture and make sure we can really afford it. There are most costly affects than the 2-4 million dollars you will get every year.
Survey	No	If anything, Barrie needs an IKEA! But seriously, a casino will do more harm than good.
Survey	Yes	If OLG is just going to bring just part time jobs then it not worth the effort. There has to a larger percentage of full time jobs. Also, there should be a provision made that all Barrie residents that have lived in Barrie of more than 5 yrs are the first to be hired or have priority over those outside of the Barrie or Simcoe area.
Survey	Yes	If the casino is built on the right site, with proper infrastructure in place I am all for it. If it going to be anything like other construction sites in Barrie I may be forced to choose a city that understands traffic, safety and having a clean look. 400 north at Mapleview is a disaster; people do not know which lane they have to be in. Please read this entire comment. Thank you
Survey	No	If the city is wise with its spending and decision making, it will move forward without all the negative consequences that comes along with gambling.
Facebook	No	If the OLC feels that Georgian Downs isn't making enough money to keep it open, why is Barrie thinking they can spend millions if not billions on a casino and make it work when the professionals who have casinos and slots all over the province can't keep doing it.
Survey	Yes	If there is a casino it should contain live poker tables not just traditional table games.
Survey	No	I'm concerned with the negative social impact of casinos in communities and, in principal, the idea of our community generating income on the backs of those who can least afford it and are desperate to find a quick fix for their financial problems.
Survey	Yes	I'm ok with the casino in any form, downtown, near Park Place, wherever.
Survey	Undecided	I'm ok with the idea of the hotel/conference/convention but not sure of a casino But it might bring in business for the downtown core
Survey	No	In my opinion, Georgian Downs and Casino Rama effectively serve the needs of the community with respect to gambling. I do not support a downtown location. I don't foresee any economic spinoff since people in the casino stay in the casino.
Survey	No	Is every decision made in life a "money based" choice? Fifty years ago when I was brought up, gambling of any sort was considered dubious at the best and unethical at the worst. Now, lo and behold, a casino is suddenly good for our community because of its "income potential" So our fathers and fore fathers were wrong after all. Or maybe they knew something that we didn't? Maybe they had heard of that old germen saying that "Nine gamblers can't feed one blackbird". Maybe they had seen people in their communities who had gambling addictions? Maybe they felt that it was part of their community service not to introduce a source of temptation to the weaker members of their immediate society and subject them to moral hazard? Maybe they knew

		that wealth is built by thrift and hard work and honest business dealings, and not by easy opportunism and a wheel of chance? For these reasons and a hundred others I vote NO to a casino.
Survey	Undecided	Is it necessary to ONLY be a part of the convention center downtown? I do hope an alternate location(s) can be proposed in order to weigh all options. In all, it would create a great deal of employment opportunities but an even greater boon would be the revitalization of a sleepy downtown core.
Survey	No	It is a no-brainer..! Anyone who has read the statistics knows that the only real winners in the casino business are the government and those who own and operate the casino, Oh Yes, now and then there are thrilling headlines and pictures of the jubilant winners of millions. What the media rarely show are the sad, broken-hearted and addicted. The news of those who see no way out but to commit suicide is carefully shrouded in silence. There is an alarming number every year. In March, 2012. the O.L.G. said that they were targeting the youth and statistics tell us that this is a fast-growing segment of the gambling population. (For more information, Google Canada Safety Council.) The social costs far outweigh any monetary profits that our city might hope to glean. Please do not let Barrie fall victim like Atlantic City. !!! The over-all social costs far outweigh any profits that might come to our city. Thank you for your careful consideration.
Survey	No	It is difficult to fathom why Council is even considering a Casino in downtown Barrie. Other than providing the city with an additional but undetermined source of revenue what other benefits would there be? Gamblers will not spend their money elsewhere than the Casino. Downtown Barrie is already an intimidating place for many local residents. Adding a Casino can't improve sadly what currently is a tawdry downtown.
Survey	Yes	It might bring a lot of new business / tourists to Barrie and encourage growth even more so.
Survey	No	It should stay where it is at Georgian Downs
Survey	No	It was around 15 or more years ago, we were faced with a similar decision to allow a gambling establishment to come to Barrie. I was against it then and I still am very opposed to the idea and concerned that Barrie would even consider hurting its residents in such a way. Hasn't casino Rama provided enough evidence of how harmful it can be to individuals and families? Why should we allow the government to continue preying on those with an addiction to gambling?
Survey	Yes	It works in Windsor, don't see why it wouldn't work here.
Survey	Yes	It would be an excellent idea creating much needed jobs in Barrie in the building phase as well as once it is open.
Survey	Yes	It would be great for jobs and tourism.
Survey	Yes	It would be great to have a casino in the downtown core of Barrie it would generate tons of businesses for all those down there and the city. The casino would also bringing more visitors to the beautiful downtown, as well people may not drive to Casino Rama when they can just go to Barrie its closer and not as far out of the way! I think it would be great for the residents of Barrie including myself would love to see this happen and bring some more excitement to Barrie.
Survey	Yes	It would need to be done correctly, and have resources for gambling addicts close by
Survey	Yes	It's about time we get another chance to right our wrongs.

Survey	No	Just because there are so-called huge amounts of casino profits going to hospitals, charities, schools, local communities, etc., the overall cost of addiction is FAR GREATER than the OLG would like the public to know. I believe the increase in food bank use has a lot to do with casinos. OLG constantly "low-balls" the number of addicted gamblers - I have a gambling addiction and was seriously addicted LONG BEFORE I became part of the statistics. I just did not realize I was addicted. I am certainly not unique, there are lots of other people out there that fall into the addiction category that are never included in the OLG statistics. Yes the downtown of Barrie needs to be upgraded and made to be a real destination instead of a place where you need to avoid the homeless and addicted that gather around the 5 Points area. Other casino cities have not improved their city centres!
Facebook	Yes	Just because there's a casino doesn't mean it needs to be open all night, it can close at a reasonable hour and be watched very closely by the staff ensuring people aren't wasted when they leave. They can also make the casino closed to the public on nights the event centre is being used so there isn't more people downtown; there is plenty to do think positively about the project, it's good for Barrie.
Survey	No	Just look at other places with Casinos
Survey	No	keep it out of downtown. If it's not downtown then it would be alright
Survey	No	Leave the Casino alone at the Georgian Downs, or similar site. Traffic access in Barrie will be taxed even more than now. Our infrastructure cannot handle the extra traffic, especially with the advent of a pending University.
Survey	No	Let's make the downtown a classy place to be - no one relates a classy downtown with slots/casinos. I want to be able to shop and dine downtown....a casino and some of the clientele it brings would not make that an enjoyable experience for me. Take advantage of the people who visit Georgian Downs and Wasaga (if they get one). Barrie can always generate tourism and shopping dollars from those visiting those other venues.
Survey	No	leave the casino in Innisfil why put the race track out of business
Survey	No	Lotteries and casinos are welfare for government. Lotteries were supposed to be temporary to pay for some centennial projects. It is really a tax on those who can least afford it. They are more detrimental to families than they are help. Please do not allow a casino in Barrie. We are not alone in our views.
Survey	No	Many will probably argue that the City would benefit economically from a significant influx of new visitors if a casino were to be located in Barrie. Others will argue that other/existing local businesses (restaurants, bars, gift shops, etc.) will be damaged because they will be unable to compete effectively with new businesses located within the gambling complex that will cater more successfully to the gambling patrons. These arguments both assume that the most important criteria for considering the advantages and disadvantages of a casino in Barrie are economic ones. I do not believe this is the case. While it is clearly critical for Barrie to have the revenue it needs to support the services necessary for a good quality of life for its residents, it is also important to consider the manner in which that revenue is generated. While gambling is legal, I do not believe that it is economically productive at all. One of the arguments I've heard in favour of casinos essentially goes, 1) a large number of people enjoy gambling, 2) if a casino opens somewhere else, the money that people spend on gambling will flow from our municipality to the one with the casino, 3) it would be better for the money spent by gamblers to flow from other municipalities to ours than the other way around, 4) therefore, open a casino. This argument can be made for any aspect of life in a municipality that attracts some segment of the population. If a municipality has a strong manufacturing base that provides high-paying jobs,

		it will attract people interested in working in the manufacturing sector. If a municipality has a respected educational institution of higher learning within its borders, it will attract people interested in pursuing a higher education. If a municipality has a vibrant arts community (museums, concerts, festivals, etc.) it will attract people interested in the arts. If a municipality becomes known for pursuing innovative initiatives that protect the environment, reduce energy use and encourage sustainable ways of life, it will attract people who are interested in protecting and living in harmony with their environment. The question is, what aspects of life in our community do we wish to accentuate? What kinds of people do we wish to attract? What do we want to be known for? There are many aspects, and many potential aspects, of life in Barrie that I would sooner see us associated with than the availability of gambling.
Survey	No	Mayor Janice Laking had the right idea many years ago. Barrie used to be a wonderful small community and now we have become a mini-Toronto. Barrie does not need a Casino. We pay more than enough taxes to support Barrie.
Survey	Yes	Mayor Lehman is doing a great job!
Survey	No	Might make the community money with tourism, retail, food, hospitality, etc, but at the cost of wrecked lives and dealing with addiction. To me it's like blood money. No thanks!
Survey	Yes	More tourism and money and jobs injected into the City's core!.
Survey	No	my big concern is the traffic this would create, and more importantly where would everybody park, busses cars limos, I have not heard anybody comment on this.
Survey	Yes	My concerns around a casino are not what type of people will be attracted nor concerns around gambling related issues but rather space. I picture the size of the parking lot at Georgian Downs and can't imagine where one of that size could be placed in downtown Barrie even stacked.
Survey	No	My feeling is that we should be concentrating on utilizing the downtown for the convention centre, but if you put a casino in it the participants of any convention will go there and not venture out to enjoy our downtown restaurants and shops.
Survey	No	my profession is in public health, and my sisters are employed locally within the social work fields, Gambling addiction specifically and mental health. This type of business in our downtown core would in my opinion damage the social fabric of our neighbourhoods. Born and raised in Barrie, I have seen this city deteriorate considerably, from a once family friendly downtown to a now dangerous and seedy bar zone. I vote no to a gaming establishment.
Survey	No	New rule: if you don't have a grocery store downtown, you don't get to build a casino.
Survey	No	No Casino
Survey	No	No casino. It would be a very negative influence in the downtown area.
Survey	No	no need with other so close in distance
Survey	No	No to a casino attached or not anywhere in city.
Facebook	No	No to casino for downtown. Council previously chased away Georgian Downs by not allowing the gaming facility to operate there. How did that work out for innisfil? Now Barrie wants the cash. Too bad. Another poor decision. Live by it.
Facebook	No	No, downtown has enough problems.
Survey	No	none
Survey	Yes	nope
Survey	No	Not enough parking for a casino. Gamblers do not shop or buy from restaurants outside the casino. Far better to promote a University Campus. Think about the monies a couple of hundred international students would spend living in Barrie. Promotions for tourism will never bring such returns

		and good will.
Survey	No	Not enough room downtown
Facebook	No	Not necessary. We had our chance to host Georgian Downs and reap the rewards and now it's too late. There is no need for another casino between innisfil and Orillia"
Survey	No	not needed....too many losing their shirts at Georgian.....
Survey	No	Not sure what the motive behind the consideration of bringing a casino to Barrie are, however if the intent is to lower residential taxes, I may reconsider.
Facebook	No	Not the kind of business I want in my community. For the most part, like lotteries, casinos are a tax on the poor
Survey	Yes	OLG and vendor/operator should be required to pay a "fee" directly to the City of Barrie, in addition to any tax revenue accruing, for the express purpose of providing gambling addiction prevention and counselling services within the City core
Survey	No	One of the comments for the casino is that there will be spin-off to the other businesses downtown. If that were the case then there would be development around the racetrack in Innisfil. That is not the case as the revenue stays in the building. The revenue Innisfil receives is by contract from original site proposal.
Survey	Yes	Only in favor of the Casino if the downtown is cleaned up, otherwise it will only add to the problem. As it stands now neither myself nor my wife feel safe walking in the downtown area at any time be it day or night. Too many undesirables loitering about on the street corners and also panhandling for money. Needs to be CLEANED UP to attract visitors to our city.
Survey	No	Opinion based primarily on logistical issues such as parking and traffic, buses etc as opposed to social concern. Despite what some may believe, the economic benefits for other businesses I believe are highly inflated. Therefore negatives may outweigh the positives for the community as a whole.
Survey	No	Parking would be a huge issue. We really, really need a 'downtown' that is safe, fun and a vital part of the lives of all residence and tourists ...not just those wishing to drink and gamble. Control and safety is still an issue downtown...this will not help to clean it up. Park Place might be a better place, or Essa Rd.
Survey	No	Parking, Location, Addiction to Gambling, are just some of my concerns. Definitely not for downtown Barrie!
Survey	Yes	People are going to gamble and if they are I'd rather see the revenue stay in this community.
Survey	No	People who gamble ... do they have money left over to spend in the downtown? Do they even care about the downtown vendors? Are they poor, hoping to get rich? Are we stealing from the poor to give back to the poor? What values are we promoting? Do you care about gambling addiction? What are the odds of winning at these casinos? What about parking? What about using the space for a theatre that holds more than 200 people, a potential generator of income? Downtown already has a bingo parlour. Are you thinking this will create "life" in the downtown core? It probably will, behind the closed doors of the casino, but maybe not on the streets where "life" is needed. We need venues that ALL are welcome that promote culture and healthy recreation that stimulate the economy, not suck it dry. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.
Facebook	Yes	People who go to the race trace will do so whether it is in Barrie or not, people will gamble if there is a casino here or not.....have you not bought lotto tickets.....it's gambling.....so we may as well make money to pay for

		big ticket items.....
Survey	No	Personally I feel better jobs with the potential for less crime would suit Barrie better than a casino. There is Georgian Downs and Rama, they are both in non residential areas with no traffic concerns. The downtown core is a mess and needs time and resources to repair itself. Bringing undesirable gambling in is not the answer Barrie needs. Crime rates in the city would soar in my opinion.
Survey	No	Please do not bring gambling to Barrie. Barrie citizens voted against it in a referendum some years ago because we wanted to keep our city family friendly. Any kind of gambling encourages a "something for nothing" attitude, which we don't need. Gambling will not save downtown Barrie. I have worked downtown for over 20 years and have seen it deteriorate in many ways with so many addictions: drunkenness, drug abuse, prostitution, theft, etc. These are all ways of trying to achieve happiness without true love, sacrifice, and hard work. How much we could help one another if we all practiced these three things and used the money that we earn in truly helpful ways. We don't need any more addictions. Edmund Burke said "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'" Woe to those who call evil good and good evil... I urge all councillors and the mayor to vote against a casino. Thank you for taking time to read this.
Survey	No	Please do not go forward on the establishment of a Casino. I do not believe it will be a positive addition to our community.
Survey	No	Please please do your homework, a casino in Barrie or any city will be devastating to the community. OLG suggests tourists will be your main source of revenue, they are wrong and they know it. It will come from the residents of Barrie, your tax payers will suffer, all this money from their pockets not to mention the social issues it will bring. Think about it, walking distance for many residents, many cannot afford to gamble, Canadian Mental Health will be taxed as well. Mr Mayor, agreeing to this casino will be the biggest mistake of your political career and perhaps your life. Don't get sucked in by the "construction jobs" angle, it is temporary, the trouble a casino brings is permanent, the scares many would bare are also permanent. DO YOUR HOMEWORK.
Survey	No	Prefer a downtown university to a downtown casino: education over gambling.
Survey	No	Providing entertainment to draw people to downtown Barrie is a great idea. I'd like to suggest that something that better represents the demographic of Barrie, like a Children's Museum or Science Centre, would bring as many people and as much money.
Survey	No	Putting a Casino in Barrie is a very bad idea. We have gaming just south of us and a full Casino just north of Barrie and if Wasaga Beach gets the OK for one our area will be inundated with gambling facilities, each competing with the others for business. Our downtown definitely needs revitalization, but I don't believe a Casino is the answer.
Survey	No	Rama and Georgian Downs are close enough. Parking: Would underground parking be enough. Also, if and when the parking across from Heritage park is built on, what will happen for regular downtown parking? Don't be in too big a hurry to sell off the small lots as per discussions lately. Would more policing be required?
Survey	No	Rama is available for ppl who want to gamble. Maybe what we need is a world class recreational facility in downtown Barrie. Downtown needs to focus on lifestyle not just gambling and drinking. We're getting there with the Mady Centre, MacLaren, some shopping and restaurants.. Bliss is a good

		addition.
Survey	No	Several years ago Barrie had the opportunity to have a casino and turned it down. Now that there is a casino at Georgian Downs and another in Rama there is no need to have one in Barrie. Plus I do NOT want any more money spent on the downtown area. As long as we have to pay for what little parking is available no one wants to go downtown. Come up with an alternative revenue source and have free parking to attract people to the city core.
Survey	Yes	Should not have lost the race track in the first place
Survey	Yes	Should of been done years ago.
Survey	Undecided	Since there already is a casino in Innisfil and Orillia I don't believe there needs to be another one so close.
Survey	Undecided	So long as the casino features a concert venue that could attract more bands and comedians into Barrie I would be all for it!
Survey	No	Some people are addicted to alcohol and some to gambling. Obviously you don't remove all bars from the city to protect those addicted to alcohol, nor do you keep all forms of gambling out of the city to protect those addicted to gambling. The problem with a casino is that it is designed in such way that the more you gamble the more you lose and it is designed so that the vast majority of patrons lose with only enough winners to ensure that people continue to be sucked back in by the hope of a big win. In fact slot machines are designed to pay out in small amounts to keep the player's hope alive that they may be able to at least break even. The problem is that, as previously stated, the more you play, the more you lose. Yes slot machines to pay out big once in a while but only after taking in a whole bunch more than they give out. Casinos are lavishly decorated, Casino Rama being a prime local example which is indicative of the amount of money they bring in, which is probably why the city is interested in one. Money and greed should never be a motivation for either an individual or a community; it only leads to much worse problems down the road - don't do it! A casino serves no vital purpose any vital service.
Survey	Yes	Something has to pay for this Mayor and city council's reckless dream spending
Survey	No	Sorry, I think it's a bad idea. Ontario is already over saturated with Casinos. Not to mention I worry about my job of course. I work for casino Rama. How this would affects all the people working at Georgian and Rama.
Survey	Yes	Sounds like a great plan and would help bring tourism to the downtown core. Casinos are not the big bad neighbour they have many benefits that outweigh and perceived problems just like any project
Facebook	Undecided	Sounds like downtown has a policing problem that should be fixed before you add a casino but besides that it would create jobs for this town and revenue
Facebook	No	Sure. Put it downtown .. Curious though .. of those of you who have already posted .. do you ever come downtown? Ever after 5pm? Why or why not? Even amongst the people who live in this neighbourhood, many of us do not go out after dark. There's a reason why City of Barrie staff is out every morning hosing down the alley-ways .. Downtown is seedy enough. Especially after 5pm
Survey	No	The absolute LAST thing this city needs is a casino.
Survey	No	The casino question in Barrie has to be answered with a clear cut "No". Do we want money to be the new God to be worshipped? Think of the environment, traffic and the darkness which any casino brings into an area. Please have the courage to say no to this project in this area.

Survey	No	The casino should remain at Georgian Downs as it is within minutes of the city. However with the new zones set by OLG the city as well as other neighbouring communities within the zone should receive a share of the casino revenue. Innisfil should no longer be the only beneficiary. The downtown should be able to stand on its own as a business and entertainment centre. I may be wrong but I do not think casino users would patronize the downtown businesses very much. They tend to go to the casino then go home.
Survey	No	The City of Barrie does not need a casino. Georgian Downs and Casino Rama already provide gambling opportunities.
Survey	Yes	The city of Barrie has been missing out on the revenue lost to Georgian Downs since they left town. The social issues drawbacks will remain regardless. The development in the downtown will help increase economic activity and jobs.
Survey	Yes	The City of Barrie needs all the financial help it can get. Of course there is a downside to having a Casino but with meticulous and thoughtful planning, before it is built, why can't it be, not just a financial asset but a community asset to us all?
Survey	No	The City of Barrie should encourage businesses that create goods, services and positive experiences for the people of the city. Most people that go to a casino will lose money, which is money that could otherwise have been spent in the community. Therefore, casinos don't have that "multiplier" effect that most other businesses have; casinos are, in effect, a tax on the economy. While there would be some service jobs created, they would likely be low paid, and any tax revenue from the casino probably wouldn't counter the "black hole" effect of a casino on the local economy. And then there is the opportunity cost of using valuable downtown land for a large complex that doesn't produce anything tangible and would be dependent for its success on attracting visitors from out of town -- which might be a struggle considering the competing entertainment options in Toronto and at Casino Rama. There are also moral hazards that a large gambling complex creates (addiction, diversion of family money better spent on other priorities). It goes without saying that casinos are not child or family friendly places and Barrie is a city that many young families call home. Barrie's downtown is a beautiful place with an amazing amount of potential; we don't want it to become known mainly for a casino. If there is a solid business case for a hotel and conference centre in downtown Barrie, then build it stand-alone.
Survey	Yes	The City of Barrie will greatly benefit from a casino. It will boost tourism and revenue. It will keep money in Barrie, instead of sending it to the 3 gambling facilities in the area. If we have an opportunity to do something great for the future of Barrie, we need to act on it. We should have put the race track in Barrie before it was moved to Georgian Downs. If we don't do this, the casino will still be built, just not in Barrie.
Survey	No	The downtown area already has too many bars. A casino is a bad idea for the character of downtown Barrie.
Survey	No	The downtown area of Barrie is already an attraction for crime/drugs and many other shady activities, and adding a casino to that mix will just add to it ten-fold, making the downtown area even more unattractive than it already is.
Survey	No	The downtown area of Barrie will be hurt by the presence of a casino. There are already more than enough options for those seeking a party atmosphere, the casino will only add the needless complication of gambling to the mix. The soft costs to the city and surrounding areas will far outweigh any short term financial gain.

Survey	No	The downtown core has enough challenges at night on weekends without adding a casino. The current location in Innisfil is adequate.
Survey	No	The downtown core of Barrie already needs work with the amount of people who are out of jobs/on assistance etc. I know this would bring revenue to our city, but what will it do to our people? It is hard to measure what the impact would be at this point, but the services we need downtown for addictions and counseling is already way past due. Add a Casino and then you have a entire new population of challenges.
Survey	No	The downtown is congested enough And so is the lake shore. Specially lakeshore and the lake would not be a peaceful place to go for berry residence Or to go for a walk. There is only 1 way in 1 way out and it would be too chaotic and crowded. I don't want to feel like I live in Toronto.
Survey	No	The downtown needs help but a casino is not the answer. People coming to a casino do not often leave the casino. It will just bring more congestion to the core without helping the struggling businesses that are currently there.
Survey	No	The hotel/conference centre should proceed in downtown Barrie. Once it is up and running, then a decision about a casino is appropriate. However, there are enough late night problems with drunkenness and rowdiness in downtown Barrie when all the bars close down. A casino may add to these problems, or give the partiers another place to go to after hours. Barrie does not need a casino.
Survey	No	The last time there was a possibility for a Casino Barrie citizens voted 'no'. Why would the City Council bring an organization into the City that preys on the weaknesses in people. Ask them in Orillia - the spin offs and social costs are staggering..... Don't you think we have adequate problems - given the number of bars downtown - for the Police to deal with.
Survey	Yes	The money generated by a casino would be beneficial in so many different areas. A hotel/conference center in the downtown core would be a huge asset and would be create an atmosphere downtown that would attract more businesses and quality retail. Let's get rid of drug paraphernalia shops and replace them with higher end retail.
Facebook	Yes	The more are better. :) it is great to here we are finally making progress in our dt, but we need to be sure the right rules and regulations are put in place so it's not just another place for people to get drunk. I'm all for a casino. Thumbs up
Survey	No	The negative net result of hosting a casino in the downtown core outweighs the potential cash infusion. A casino is benign taxation. Locals who will visit the casino will spend money they don't have and become burdens on the local social programs. The long term future of the downtown core has already been stated as high density residential, people living in the downtown core will not appreciate a neighbour like a casino. Property values will be affected.
Survey	No	The negatives of a casino in Barrie far outweigh the positives. Barrie has a college and is trying to get a university campus. It is not difficult to imagine the negative impact a casino will have on the students. If the casino is located in the downtown core, it will have a negative impact on downtown businesses because, although it will bring a lot of people to the downtown, these people will not be shopping or patronizing downtown restaurants and bars. They will instead be cooped up inside the casino, adding nothing to the commerce of local businesses. If there is a hotel associated with this casino, this will hurt the hotels / motels which are currently established in Barrie. A casino/convention centre will provide jobs but these jobs may or may not go to Barrie residents. We must consider the social negative impacts, which are many. With every casino that has opened its doors, there has been an increase of gambling addictions, crimes to support these addictions and an

		increased burden placed on social services. I sincerely hope Barrie does not go down this path and I definitely wouldn't want to see a casino in the downtown core or waterfront.
Survey	No	The revenue is tempting on the surface, but it will ultimately cost the city dearly through increased policing costs, more drugs and violence, more homelessness, mental health issues, domestic violence, to name a few. There would be increased infrastructure required for heavier automobile traffic. The Lakeshore Drive area is already jammed, and there are no roads in the downtown which could accommodate such a traffic flow. I realize we have had Bingo for year's downtown. While I don't play, Bingo is more of a social gathering. Slots are the opposite - they are isolating. To date, local casinos have been situated in the open countryside, with access roads developed as part of the development process. This makes more sense than putting such a facility downtown. Casinos do not provide tourism or retail dollars in the community, they actually flush spending money out of the community. I read that the BIA considers a casino favourably. Goodness knows why. Casinos drain spending from local bars, restaurants and shops, since players inside rarely leave the machines to browse or eat. The increase in sales of adult diapers has as much to do with that fact as the aging population. Barrie has worked very hard and spent many tax dollars on developing our lakefront as a community asset. A casino sends a terrible message. Once again, such a development would reserve prime real estate for a few, while ensuring our downtown will be abandoned by the many. Thank you
Survey	No	The social costs of a casino are never rightly considered. The net revenues from the gaming will not surpass the cost to families and to our city in social services needed to overcome the dark side of gambling. And this is to say nothing of the added policing costs and infrastructure necessary.
Survey	No	The social problems that easy access casino gambling, within our city, can bring to our community and especially to families is not worth the dollars that a casino would bring. A casino does not bring quality of life to a community. This is what we should be striving for and there are other ways to achieve it. For the sake of our city and its people please do not go down this road.
Survey	Yes	the tax dollars are needed
Survey	No	The things that frequently accompany casinos, like drugs, prostitution and crime, make a casino undesirable for Barrie
Survey	No	There are other parcels of land close to the highway which would be suitable, and which would not create traffic congestion on downtown streets. I do believe that a casino in Barrie would overall be financially beneficial to the city.
Survey	No	There are 2 casinos outside of Barrie: one in Orillia, one in Innisfil. We don't need one downtown.
Survey	No	There are already casinos in the area being Georgian Downs and Casino Rama so, why add another? I can't see a casino in our downtown, or other location within the city for that matter, would actually provide any net benefit to the city given increased costs for policing, social issues and general wear & tear on the city infrastructure.
Survey	No	There are already enough people in the downtown on the weekends. Too many residential housing close by. It would only be a couple of street from a family neighborhood. If we are trying to get a university, would this be a good mix? Would it hinder our request for a university if there was be a casino two street down?
Survey	No	There are enough casinos in our area as it stands, and they create so many problems for those who cannot afford to be attending them.

Survey	No	There are enough casinos in the area. We don't need to make it easier for problem gamblers to lose their money.
Survey	No	There are enough casinos now. This is not a positive step for this city in any way
Survey	No	There are enough gaming options at Georgian Downs and Casino Rama.
Survey	No	There are enough opportunities for people to lose their money with the many lotteries and casinos in the province. Don't forget...gambling isn't a virtue... Typically we're told that casino will generate monies for the City. How about cutting the wasteful spending and then follow that up with a cut in property taxes. Forget about ensnaring our citizens with an addiction that's difficult to break.
Survey	No	There are gambling opportunities within a short distance already. Gambling should not be made even more easily available. It is an addictive activity that the government should not be promoting beyond current levels. I don't want our waterfront to be defined by a casino as a main iconic feature.
Survey	No	There are many other options for downtown Barrie. A children's museum or science center or something that better represents the demographic of Barrie (and brings more FAMILIES to downtown) would make much more sense in creating a happy healthy environment!
Survey	No	There are too many around us already- Rama!Georgian Downs! Why do municipalities need to rely on this for income? Put in some nice parking, coffee shops, unique stores, restaurants, family fun areas to generate foot traffic. People love to be by the water.
Survey	No	There certainly doesn't have to be three casinos in such close proximity (Innisfil, Barrie, Orillia). Barrie had the chance and turned it down and I think we are better without a casino
Survey	No	There is a Casino in Rama which is close enough to Barrie. I think Barrie had its opportunity when it allowed the horse racing to relocate to Innisfil.
Survey	No	There is already a major gaming centre just 20 minutes away in Rama, so I don't believe we need another one here.
Survey	No	There is no need for a casino in Barrie. Barrie should support the slots in Innisfil as a good neighbour. And with a major casino already in Rama there is no need for one in Barrie.
Survey	Yes	Think of all the revenue the City of Barrie will receive. They should have done it before instead of Innisfil. I think it's a great idea.
Survey	Undecided	This could be a great thing for Barrie but I have reservations about an overall gain for the city. Hence my "Undecided".
Survey	Yes	This is a brilliant idea, exactly what our city needs to get us out of the hole.
Survey	Yes	This is a great idea not only will it put money into our economy but it will create jobs and hopefully help clean up downtown Barrie...
Survey	Yes	This is an excellent opportunity to increase tourism (aka full time jobs) to Barrie. This by far outweighs the negatives.
Survey	No	This is by far the most stupid idea City Council (or whoever) has had, next to the desire to bring in a University. (Has anyone in council taken a walk in the east end lately?) Council should throw up the white flag and just state that they have no idea how to attract regular business. Let's just bring in the hookers, the rundown student ghettos, absentee landlords, drug dealers and encourage gambling from those who can least afford it. The horse track and Rama are not good enough? A friend of mine was right, when he tried to open a business in Barrie he was appalled buy all the "red tape" and decided to go to Newmarket. Took his 35 good paying jobs with him.
Survey	Yes	This is needed to further expand Barrie's desirability as a destination area. Attracting visitors to the area will benefit Barrie area businesses.

Survey	No	This is not appropriate for our city, if you want to gamble your pay cheque away you already need not drive far.
Survey	No	This is perhaps the dumbest idea I have ever heard. Downtown is already ridden with desperate people, drunks, drug users and instead of prioritizing a rejuvenation project downtown the OLG seeks to make it worse. Yes there are revenues involved but the cost to the general moral tone of the entire city is not worth it. Shame on you all for this.
Survey	Yes	This seems to my wife and myself as a great addition to the city in terms of job creation and exposure for Barrie just to name a couple of positives. Thx for the opportunity to comment.
Survey	Yes	This type of investment/development helped transform The City of Windsor, its Downtown and its Waterfront. It helped garner new interest in the city, on a development and re-development basis, as well as in a tourism basis. It has helped to enhance and clean up the city's image, and has added to the city's financial recovery and pocket book. So yes, I feel that adding a casino/hotel/convention centre development would be great idea/investment for our city.
Survey	Yes	This will bring more entertainment downtown, reduce having to drive anywhere else and generate money for the city, rather than losing that money at a site just outside the borders
Survey	No	This would be a shameful backwards step anywhere in Barrie, but particularly in the downtown. Casinos do not make anything better and are a blight on any community. But apparently Wasaga Beach wants a casino--let them have it but please please please not in downtown Barrie.
Facebook	No	Too close to casino rama. Unless there is something unique they can offer, why would people come to Barrie casino
Survey	No	Too much traffic downtown as it is, not family friendly,
Survey	No	Under no circumstances should a casino be situated within the city of Barrie. Countless studies have consistently found that there are numerous negative social costs that far outweigh any localized economic benefit to the city. Gambling can have a detrimental effects on crime and addiction rates that negate any revenue gain that is derived from this type of activity. There are many other options available to council to support economic vitality and encourage additional revenue streams, to the city of Barrie.
Survey	Yes	Until such time as we can attract more business to Barrie, the residential taxes remain exorbitant, trying to make up the shortfall. I know we can rely on the Barrie Police force to maintain order as necessary with this type of venue.
Survey	Yes	Way to go, it's about time.
Survey	No	We already have a casino in Innisfil so why have one in Barrie so close, there is not enough parking in downtown Barrie and we do not have enough police at the present to properly police the residential areas so are the tax payers going to pick up the tab to police the casino. I THINK NOT!!!!
Survey	No	We are adamantly against having a casino anywhere in Barrie due to the proven and documented social costs to the community and the negative impact on local businesses in the restaurant and entertainment fields. We know of no net positive benefits to the city or its residents and respectfully request that our City Council vote against having a casino.
Survey	Yes	We could use this for a lot of reasons but I'm hoping the casino could help pay for some of the operating costs if Barrie decides to take over the operation of Springwater Provincial Park. Thank You
Survey	No	We do need a high quality convention centre but no casino. Also, why not close off Dunlop to vehicle traffic and create an open space much like those seen in cities in Europe. And, get rid of parking meters. People avoid downtown because they have to feed the meter.

Survey	No	We don't need a casino in Barrie!
Survey	No	We don't need a casino in Barrie.
Survey	No	we don't need another casino, will have negative social impact: families that are torn apart by the addictive nature of gambling, resulting in more families becoming more dependent upon Social Agencies to provide daily food and essentials. It has also been proven that the localized crime rate increases. Other negative impacts include lost employment due to employee no-show and increased sick days.
Survey	No	We don't need the headaches or hassles that it brings. Yes, there is money, but that does not do everything. What happens to Rama? Is that not close enough that one could go if they had the urge to throw away money? Rama is a great distance away, and should probably be just fine for the residents of Toronto too.
Survey	No	We have Casino Rama, Georgian Downs all very close by. Removing the parking spots from Simcoe Street are going to be replaced how?
Survey	No	We have enough problems downtown. Too many bars already, too many highrises of all descriptions spoiling the atmosphere. A casino would only add to this, and people from out of town would not be shopping in downtown Barrie. The urgent need for this area is for really good and interesting businesses to open here. The experience of casinos of course provides incentives to gambling, which can lead to addiction. Wow! the government will spend lots of our money to help those who fall prey to this. How ridiculous is that? There is no room in Barrie for a casino.
Survey	No	We have enough problems in the downtown area for the POLICE with all the bars. Why compound these problems with a casino and more crowding down there. If you politicians need the money from a casino that bad then I suggest you build your casino on the outskirts and not downtown. Barrie had their opportunity to have their casino at the old race track and they refused it then but now you people seem to think it's something the people of Barrie need now but as usual you politicians are wrong again. Never mind pushing the people of Barrie around and do your job that you were elected to do .
Survey	No	We moved to Barrie from up North about 15 years ago. We liked it because it offered more but still had a small town community feel to it. If we wanted to live in a Casino Town we would have moved to one. The last thing Barrie needs is another drinking establishment especially with gambling. Downtown has some nice points but is more dumpy now than when we moved here.
Survey	No	we need many other things in this city more than a casino
Survey	No	we voted against a casino years ago and have not changed our opinion. We feel the disadvantages outweigh the advantages
Survey	No	When thinking about the income from a casino one also must consider the social cost. How does one put a value on wrecked lives and lost homes. The pusher for the Rama Casino became addicted to gambling and wish he had never pushed for Rama. Let's not tempt people. Who knows ahead whether they will become a gambling addict?
Facebook	Undecided	Where exactly will it go? Don't you mean to say .. in UPTOWN Barrie? I'm pretty sure it says Uptown on all those new fancy (probably pricey) signs. How can you try to rebrand 'uptown' if city staff still call it downtown? .. I'm so confused
Survey	No	While a casino will bring additional jobs to Barrie they are not the high paying jobs that will keep residents from commuting outside of Barrie for better work. Also, the location of a casino in downtown Barrie will not help promote a positive and family-friendly downtown atmosphere.
Survey	No	who most likely to benefit the city or the people of Barrie . will this do away with tax increases. hardly any it won't. just more money for the city to spend

stupidly.

Survey	Yes	Why downtown? We have a large lot where the race track was. It is close to Hwy 400 and very central.
Survey	Undecided	Will monies earned from the casino be used properly or be wasted like hydro sale? Will this increase the police and at what cost? Downtown Barrie is a very poor location to build a casino and hotel. Along the highway access would be better. Will we lose more waterfront because of this?
Survey	No	With Rama in Orillia and Georgian Downs, we have enough gambling in Simcoe County. No need to add to it
Survey	Yes	Without knowing details, I am generally in favour of a hotel/casino and other businesses opening in Barrie, to promote tax revenue and income opportunities for local retail businesses.
Survey	No	Would create major traffic issues and congestion. Not the sort of business I want to see growing in Barrie.
Survey	Yes	Would like to see it, but where would it go is my concern..
Survey	No	Would spoil Barrie as it has done other cities and bring big time crime to the area. Good citizens do not want that!! There are already too many casinos in Ontario!!!
Survey	No	would take away from business, create more police problems and related issues. Georgian Downs and Rama are close enough to attend.
Survey	No	Yes and I will send them in an email.
Survey	Yes	Yes there is a risk of gambling addiction. If someone already has it they already have access to it if they want to gamble for Rama and Georgian Downs. so it's just an excuse for people to boo the idea. We booted the slots at the race track once before but kept trying to get that part of Innisfil. It will bring in revenue to help with the city expenses. There are already resources in place for people with gambling addiction. All people have to do is ask for help. People also have been gambling downtown for years at the bingo hall so what's the issue with having more
Survey	No	Yes, My wife and I moved here 2 yrs. ago from Thunder Bay. We have a casino in Thunder Bay. In my opinion, the revenue return to the City of Thunder Bay from the casino was not worth the social costs. People on assistance or other fixed incomes frequently spent their meager earnings in the casino on the false hope of winning. Casinos also tend to increase criminal activity in their surrounding neighbourhoods. Barrie is perceived by many outsiders as already having a high level of criminal activity. Many will not go down town at night, incl. us.
Survey	No	Yes, there are enough pubs downtown now and the noise at night can be a problem to my friends who live downtown. Yes, we agree with the university setting up downtown. NO -- there should NOT be a casino downtown, espec. with the possibility of the university. The convention center is one thing. Geo Downs is very close and so is Rama. More jobs can be found in an area that is not a casino. Thank you.

Survey	No	<p>Yes. The City of Barrie has already advised of the strain the increase of population has created on the infrastructure and have talked of tax levies. It seems to me that you are in that particular predicament as a result of not ensuring that all aspects of infrastructure were in place before permitting Pratt and other builders to build beyond capacity. I may be wrong but the reasoning behind all the building was to allow the City to bring in more taxes. You are developing on protected land and it is slowly being destroyed as is the wildlife in it. I came here because it was not stupid expensive and not Toronto. You relinquished your history and tourism opportunities for housing and retail. Retail is not bringing in the paying jobs, it is only bringing jobs. There is a wonderful Casino at Georgian Downs and it is not far from here. You should be supporting that Casino. This city is moving in a direction that is so far from its reputation of being a nice, perfectly sized community. Georgian College can't handle their student's behaviour and refuse to put anything in place to do so and the police are strained as it is with them and now you want to throw a casino downtown into the mix. You will need to increase the manpower in the police force which will in turn increase taxes. So I do not believe a casino is what Barrie needs. What Barrie needs is to stop building until it can get its infrastructure in place to accommodate it.</p>
Survey	No	<p>You cannot provide the proper parking now. What make you think you can provide the proper parking with a casino?</p>
Survey	No	<p>You could have had a casino at the Barrie Fairgrounds, but council chased them away. It was a bad decision then and now it is too little too late, Innisfil gets all the money and Barrie now wants it. Our downtown is awful. It has not changed. A casino there will do nothing for other businesses. Look around Georgian Downs for proof. One funeral home for a neighbour.</p>
Survey	No	<p>you had the chance to put a casino in with plenty of parking, highway access, with no traffic disruption and great highway exposure at the old raceway !!. now the lot sits bare. Since you now see the financial gains that Innisfil reaps in ,you and the outdated council blew it again! Now you want to destroy more lakefront property by putting in a high-rise??. what about getting your heads out of the sand and start doing something progressive for years to come, maybe building a proper marina with docking facilities small shops along the boardwalks, a fishing pond ?? to generate some income so young children could learn to fish.. we desperately need to update and expand the marina and docking, boaters come to Barrie but no room to park your boat. parking could be made to the east of heritage park with boutiques along the walkway. No need for a casino downtown, no parking availability and if you think it will draw more people to downtown, good luck . I personally do not want to see any more high-rises downtown or around the waterfront thank you.</p>
Survey	No	<p>You have stated that there are too many bars in downtown Barrie!!! So why even address this??? Put it somewhere else!!</p>
Survey	Yes	<p>You will need lots of free parking</p>

Schedule D – Public Meeting Form Comments

Yes, No or Undecided*			Public Meeting Form Comments
Y	N	U	
	1		Gambling/Casino in Barrie will damage facilities and cause increased poverty from people "clutching at straws" to try and win to get out of debt. Inner City in Barrie is not appropriate - university??? NO! Why no questions from public allowed - what are the organization for casinos afraid of? Suicides accompany every casino. Men/women can lose homes in one night of gambling - and weeping as they dread telling wives and family - no home - lost it. Gambling degenerates people, areas, and eventually town or city. Addicted players cannot function in family life, therefore, breakdown of families as well as addict.
	1		A casino will not have a positive impact on downtown businesses. A casino will bring people to the downtown core by the bus load but these people will not be shopping or patronizing downtown restaurants, bars and other businesses. They will instead be inside the casino adding nothing to the local businesses. Promoting a casino is not in-line and consistent with Barrie's goal to promote and encourage a university locating in Barrie
1			If the City of Barrie says no, there will simply continue to be a casino in Innisfil. Given this undisputable fact, any arguments opposing a casino as a whole hold no weight. The question is simply, should the casino pad Innisfil's coffers, or Barrie's?
	1		Economic development in Barrie should be based on the City's existing strengths. Barrie has a beautiful natural location. How can this be developed to attract more visitors to the City? Barrie is a sports town. Could an NHL franchise ever be a possibility here? The costs associated with a casino would outweigh any benefits. Please do not allow one to be established in Barrie.
1			
	1		Bingo hall already here. Many OLG gaming outlets here. Myriad of stores already selling scratch tickets here. Enough misery already downtown here. Service club fundraising will disappear here.
	1		I think slot machines will cheapen our City. Do we really need a downtown that is full of bars and slot machines. I know a casino brings in money but our City and lakefront has a lot to offer. We can build a vibrant downtown without this blight on society. How does a downtown university fit with bars and slots?
	1		A slots casino of 2-300 machines is not a tourist draw. It will simply suck more money out of local residents by increasing the convenience. As a downtown resident, I think the City should focus on more family friendly attractions.
	1		Innisfil slots are close enough. Let's concentrate on a better way to attract tourism to downtown Barrie. We need a hotel or convention centre but I do not feel gamblers spend a lot in our community. I want tourists to eat in our downtown restaurants and attend our many events. As we grow and develop, I am sure we will attract a developer that would be more than happy to build by our waterfront.

1		I believe that the problems that would accompany a casino/conference centre are multiple, e.g. loss to downtown businesses, gambling problems, erosion of certain values such as working hard and honestly to maintain life's basic necessities. As a teacher, I am worried about how a casino/conference centre in Barrie might affect the youth - both college-aged and the younger vulnerable children who may be part of a family with parents who may spend monies at the casino (for entertainment) instead of ensuring that their children have all that they need to feel nurtured and cared for.
1		If is a hotel/convention/conference/or resort/entertainment centre, I agree for this! Never casino, no way. For families and society sake, in the long run it is not worth it. I do not want to have to wait in line at a store, when someone else and/or others buy lottery tickets and such. Please keep that as is. If they want to waste their money and time betting, I shouldn't have to wait for them to decide what to do and how to do it.
1		A casino will suck the life out of the immediate community. No dollars will be spent there. The hotel/convention centre is just bait. Its purpose is to keep gamblers there and tempt the City into supporting the project. *Lets build a five hotel near waterfront instead of in ugly and boring mall area. What will be going on in that hotel? Crime, prostitution and drug trafficking.
1		1st major concern: improper/lack of opportunity for a fair representation of the public, residents and businesses of Barrie to be properly informed of this application process. Little time has been provided for public to be consulted and the timing of this consultation has been poor. A casino question has been one sided by Council and it cannot be done so in good question when you start on the wrong beginning!
1		Need more police and cameras to control the streets (downtown) presently. Bringing a casino means more crime, more police and thus more money to pay for taxes to cover police salaries. After working 18 years in Orillia I am aware of men who gambled and their families lost their homes. Some could not face the consequences and committed suicide. The gamblers get so involved that they don't want to leave their machines and have to wear diapers so as to relieve themselves. Asking staff to identify red flag signs is not easy to do - confrontation is not easy face to face with an individual who is overspending, etc. Because I worked in Orillia as a supervisor for 18 years, I am aware of numerous suicides and people losing their homes or people spending their mortgages.
1		I don't feel downtown is an appropriate location for a casino. We have more than enough problems to deal with already in the downtown core. There are already a number of people with addictions downtown. A casino would not be a healthy addition. If a casino is necessary, why not locate it in an area with plenty of space and lots of parking close to the 400. There are better locations for a casino.
1		I do not believe that a casino in downtown Barrie would be beneficial to the reputation and future planning of the City. The downtown area at the present time has its own problems that need to be addressed first. Also if we are seriously getting the City university ready, a casino almost right next to the university campus would definitely not be a plus!

1		I believe we are dealing with two issues: a casino; a casino in downtown Barrie. While I am against the idea of a casino because of the numerous social fall-out issues associated with a complex of this nature, I am very much opposed to a casino in downtown Barrie. (Reasons: Prime waterfront/not family-friendly/current and future social issues and impact/potential site for college/too residential (condos).
1		I oppose the casino wholeheartedly and unreservedly. Social costs are enormous (addiction, suicide, lost houses, family). Too close to social services that serve disadvantaged such as Salvation Army, Busby Centre - will deepen misery of those least able to resist. Moves against the family friendly atmosphere of Barrie. Will not benefit downtown merchants as all money will flow to casino. Degrades moral fabric of community (something for nothing win/fall mentality). Lived in Barrie for 36 years. Ontario alone - 12 people in 2006, understated. 9x more likely to die by your own hand. Homicide rate 1.73 per 100,000. Suicide rate 15 per 100,000. City of Barrie 15-20 suicides a year. This can be? and prevented! If there is one suicide in Barrie as a result of this casino, I see it is too? Commendable to have a convention centre. Pay in \$ But \$ spent gambling is \$ not spent downtown. Downtown location (vulnerable location).
1		I do not support a casino in downtown Barrie. We actually have enough gambling outlets in this area. Gambling costs the social services in terms of children, wives affected by excessive gambling. We are saturated. I don't want Georgian Downs to be closed. The money is spent within the complex thus will not assist the downtown merchants
1		Increased traffic in downtown Barrie on weekends.
1		As far as a casino is concerned I have no opinion but I definitely do not want or feel that a casino belongs downtown. Anywhere but not in downtown Barrie.
1		Kingston has refused a downtown casino. Maybe the decision was based on the fact that they have a very large university population at Queen's downtown.
1		I agree with all who spoke at the mike. I also am concerned that we will have even more problems with parking downtown. This would increase crime and other problems. This would be a terrible idea. Not in downtown Barrie.
1		Council faces a downtown choice - a casino or a university. I support the university choice. Thank you.
1		As consideration is given I encourage Council to reach out to the communities where the OLG has closed establishments to gauge the fall-out in those communities. They present a nice picture of what the partnership will be like as long as the expected revenues are generated. It is a different story if expectations aren't met. Ask the Mayor and Council in Ft. Erie, ON.
1		Do not approve, no other ones, puts people in money problems. Than government has problems welfare, people loosen homes, nothing to retire with. "Bad Idea"
1		It would be a problem in so many ways, and the people's lives and direction of the City would move towards a less healthy one. I would consider moving should a casino be built.
1		We do not need a casino in Barrie. We have enough crime all ready! We have a lot of poor people here living in this City. The casino in Innisfil is all we need.

	1	Would the casino/centre produce more job? We already have free transportation to Georgian Downs. Has the casino closings been as a result of no profit being made.
1		You made the call. So we are here to express our opinions on the topic of installing some form of casino in downtown Barrie. Off the top (like a straight deal) let me say I'm ante the idea. I believe the best place for a new gambling establishment is Wasaga Beach. There's already a casino at Rama. Barrie should not bet on a full house here. We don't need to compete with Rama. So let's pass, no dice to a casino here. Send gaming down the river, down the Nottawasaga. There will be no profit to us in a casino, no payback, but loads of flops. Let's not be blind to the downside to slots and tables. Let's not stake our city on chance. Flush this idea where it belongs. We'll pass. We don't want a full house of problems associated with these addictive pastimes. Let's not go into this blind. When the chips are down, let's not look for the easy way. Take the idea off the table and let the city be flush with pride. Proponents of gambling are full of craps. If I have my way I'd pass on gambling and put my money into a Barrie-based university. Let's become known for a great college, a thriving hospital, and a university. Sounds like a skills and knowledge-based community, not a gambling den. A casino is not in the cards. Let's bet on a sure thing.
1		I believe that people need the opportunity to gamble and spend their hard earned money on slot machines and such. Let's boost our economy here. This will lead to more drunks downtown and more of our economies. \$ given to OLG. Not to mention 3 or 4 new jobs. Let's do it.
	1	I'm surprised this issue has reached this far in debate. The City already has enough projects and plans underway that adding casino into the mix is laughable. In terms of providing a place to gamble downtown, I feel it is a bad idea. As a revenue generator, also a bad idea. City needs to get a handle on their finances in a long-term strategy. As for the casino hotel as an amenity for downtown, I think this serves as an insult. Businesses have had no support and this does not reflect a "historic neighbourhood" like the Mayor pretended he wanted it to be. This along with recent projects make the City look amateur.
	1	Because Casino Rama hasn't brought any benefits to downtown businesses in Orillia!!!!
	1	Bad public policy.
	1	I am strongly opposed because it will bring with it a much greater cost than the benefits it can bring.
	1	Statistics show that the closer the gambling venue is, the more apt people are to become addicted. The social costs far outweigh any financial benefits the casino might bring to the City. People, who come to gamble, do not spend their money in restaurants, bars and stores. Many addicted people resort to stealing, etc. and even to suicide.
	1	I do not think that a casino can help Barrie. May bring some money but it create more problems with crime. I strongly oppose it. I am considering leaving Barrie if a casino is approved.
	1	No casino! They are a tax on the poor, everyone looking for something for their buck. The addiction rate is already deplorable. When they add up the cost of treatment (which most cannot even get) it's astronomical. Barrie already has enough crime, prostitution and bars without creating the need for more. No casino!

1		I am opposed to having a casino in any shape or form in our wonderful City of Barrie. I feel it will be a downfall to our City as it will cause heartache and despair as people who are trying to make fast money, more than likely will lose it. I have a person friend who lives with her sister and the sister has become an addiction to gambling at Georgian Downs and bingos. This has caused great loss, strife and even stealing from her sister to go back and try to regain her losses. A casino will only cause people heartache. Please don't bring it to Barrie.
1		Barrie has 2 casinos within a 1/2 hour drive. We don't need to lower the standards and status that Barrie has by putting in a casino in Barrie. Some may think it will generate revenue for Barrie but most of the \$ will not go to local business but to the casino. It will cost the City morally and in expenses to fix problems that the casino and gambling will cause. In the end the city and its citizens will lose!!
1		Downtown is only one part of this City. Our elected representative would do well to remember downtown is only one part of this City.
1		Please take your casino somewhere else.
1		A casino would suck the local economy dry, attract the vulnerable and youth, those with the least money to spend. People are having a hard time with paying rents now; many things to say.
1		The poverished will lose. We have enough addiction centres for serious problems. The funds will grow Barrie, but push out homeless. Welfare recipients will be in worse situations.
1		Casino is not a requirement of the City. We need other things first.
1		I don't think our young people need to be exposed to gambling.
1		Do not need one because there's one in Innisfil and one at Rama. We need growth in other ways. Not a healthy climate from a casino.
1		It is totally immoral to try to make money on the backs of those who are addicted to bad habits. It makes the poor poorer and the rich richer. If you would really want to find out how many people support the idea, put it into a referendum with the next election.
1		There is a lot of low income people who live in walking distance. Too many will spend what little they have. Casino take out more than they put in Barrie.
1		Way too many negative social impacts.
1		I do not believe that a casino is good idea in Barrie. There are a lot of people who can't be trusted around a casino. People lose their homes and lives because they gambled their livelihoods away.
1		Casino in downtown not a good use of commercial space.
1		Casino will affect the lives of many citizens in the region in a negative way. Along with the racing industry and its economic impact to the region and provincially.
	1	Not sure why question is relates only to a hotel/convention/conference centre. What is unclear about OLG presentations to-date is why existing gambling infrastructure and market is being challenged with the expansion into existing markets.
1		In my view, Barrie should remain true to its roots and not invite the many problems that a casino would bring to the City. Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion on this question.

	1		Gaming does not add value as does buying an article from a store. Gaming is an end. People who gamble, only gamble, they don't spend anywhere else but the casino.
	1		We don't need to provide a place like a casino for people to gamble their hard earned money away. Do you want more people lining up at the food bank? What about the cost of more police to cover the extra trouble?
		1	You're destroying jobs, costing tax payers money, making ON more broke than what they already are. Leave thing alone.
	1		Absolutely not!! Wasaga Beach is close enough. Downtown can't handle the traffic, more drunks, or on the expense of policing.
	1		How can you promote a lifestyle of gambling (casino) that has such devastating effects on a person - on a family. Please act as responsible councillors promoting a high moral lifestyle for the community of a devastated one as a result of casino influence.
	1		Do not want a hotel or casino on the lakeshore. There is enough traffic and congestion all ready and too many high rises block our view especially Memorial Sq. Excuse my spelling.
	1		You had your chance.
	1		Not interested in the least. Too many demands on community services and no revenues to stimulate local economy from gambling.
	1		We need high paying jobs in Barrie/not low paying mim wage jobs. There are already enough casinos in the area! Rama, Innisfil, Niagara. We do not need this, it will not bring investment or tourism!
1			Should have been done at original opportunity. A dozen years ago!
	1		We do not need any more problems for downtown Barrie. A convention centre but definitely not a casino. People can visit Rama or Toronto if they get one.
	1		A terrible answer to a potential revenue stream.
	1		The provincial government does not have to be in the gambling business - they need to start concentrating on the teachers and the doctors. Barrie is also wanting to attract a university to our City. Should this become a reality, do we really want our university students spending their OSAP loan money on casino entertainment? Please, give this whole issue a break! Barrie need new plumbing, new infrastructure, new road repairs and needs to deal with matters at hand. We have hobbled along thus far without a casino. No thanks!
	1		I feel it would be too addicted
	1		Casino - a very destructive addition to our beautiful waterfront, especially hazardous for the young and most vulnerable. No No No
	1		The damage increased gambling is so much greater than the money can pay for
	1		It breaks too many hearts
	1		
	1		Please do not turn our great City into Pottersville - with all the social and economic fallout that would imply.
	1		Just what this town needs - I think not!
	1		
	1		No way! Absolutely not!
	1		A casino is not an asset to the community!
	1		We don't want one
	1		We don't want one

	1		We don't need it
	1		A casino in the City of Barrie is out of the question!
	1		A casino would be a blight on our model city
	1		Definitely no to a casino in downtown Barrie
	1		We don't want one

Schedule E – Stakeholder Letters



November 14, 2012

To the Mayor and Council Members of
The City of Barrie
70 Collier Street
P.O. Box 400
Barrie, ON L4M 4T5

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

At their October meeting the Board of Health for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit directed me as the Medical Officer of Health to provide the municipal councils that are considering applying to host a casino with a letter reviewing the potential public health impacts. Public health units across the province are presently responding to their respective local municipal councils with regard to casinos and public health, given the provincial direction to increase casino locations.

A body of research, review papers and position documents on the topics of gambling and health has developed over time. In my consideration of the literature on gambling and health I have found the following to be an excellent resource, and have drawn from it as my primary source of information in this letter: Williams R, et al. *"PREVENTION OF PROBLEM GAMBLING: A Comprehensive Review of the Evidence and Identified Best Practices. REPORT PREPARED FOR THE ONTARIO PROBLEM GAMBLING RESEARCH CENTRE AND THE ONTARIO MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND LONG TERM CARE, October 1, 2012."* <https://www.uleth.ca/dspace/bitstream/handle/10133/3121/2012-PREVENTION-OPGRC.pdf?sequence=3>. A copy of this document is attached.

The concerns that have been raised include negative health and social wellbeing impacts resulting from what has variously been called gambling addiction, compulsive gambling, pathological gambling or problem gambling. The following definition by Neal, Delfabbro, & O'Neil (2005) is commonly used: *"Problem Gambling is characterized by difficulties in limiting money and/or time spent on gambling which leads to adverse consequences for the gambler, others, or for the community."*

Problem gambling is associated with concurrent substance misuse (alcohol and other drugs), mental illness (anxiety disorders and depression), health conditions (hypertension, gastric disorders), and suicide (with Las Vegas having the highest suicide rate in the USA for many years). The associated social harms (which also have negative health effects) include bankruptcy, family disruption, and possible involvement in crime.

Problem gambling has been found to range over time and between regions from 0.5% to 7.6% of the adult population. The profile of individuals more predisposed to problem gambling include a family history (with genetic predisposition playing a role), having a lower level of education, low income, high personal stress, having a reduced understanding of the

<input type="checkbox"/> Barrie: 15 Sperling Drive Barrie, ON L4M 6K9 705-721-7520 FAX: 705-721-1495	<input type="checkbox"/> Collingwood: 280 Pretty River Pkwy. Collingwood, ON L9Y 4J5 705-445-0804 FAX: 705-445-6498	<input type="checkbox"/> Cookstown: 2-25 King Street S Cookstown, ON L0L 1L0 705-458-1103 FAX: 705-458-0105	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravenhurst: 2-5 Pineridge Gate Gravenhurst, ON P1P 1Z3 705-684-9090 FAX: 705-684-9887	<input type="checkbox"/> Huntsville: 34 Chaffey St. Huntsville, ON P1H 1K1 705-786-9813 FAX: 705-786-7245	<input type="checkbox"/> Midland: B-885 Hugel Ave. Midland, ON L4R 1X8 705-526-9324 FAX: 705-526-1513	<input type="checkbox"/> Orillia: 120-169 Front St. S. Orillia, ON L3V 4S8 705-325-9565 FAX: 705-325-2091
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probabilities inherent to gambling (falling prey to "the gambling fallacy"), and experiencing a significant win as an early gambling experience.

The proportion of the population with problem gambling has been found by research to increase with the availability of gambling facilities. For example, in the U.S., the National Gambling Impact Study Commission (1999) found that living within 50 miles of a casino is associated with a 50% higher rate of pathological gambling. Likewise in New Zealand, living in a neighbourhood closer to a gambling venue significantly increases the likelihood that that person has gambled and that that person is a problem gambler (New Zealand Ministry of Health, 2008; Pearce et al., 2008). Research in Canada in 2002 demonstrated a correlation between provincial casino density and rate of problem gambling.

I strongly recommend that the municipal councils considering applying for a casino be fully aware of the demonstrated increase in problem gambling that occurs locally with the placement of a casino in a community, and the negative health and social impacts that occur to vulnerable individuals and their families. It is important to take into consideration the large number of people of low income in Barrie – some 2,300 families in total. Such people may be placed at a particularly elevated risk of problem gambling with a new casino in their community.

Councils should also be aware of the following findings and recommendations from the Williams et al. report:

- Public education programs (such as "gamble responsibly") are of limited effectiveness.
- Education programs and methods to correct erroneous beliefs for gamblers (addressing the gambling fallacy) can help reduce problem gambling.
- Restricting the number of gambling venues is effective, and thus recommended. This would be consistent with the decision of municipal council not to proceed with an application to host a local casino.
- Restricting / reducing the density of more addictive forms of gambling or technically modifying their operations is recommended. These include rapid action games such as Electronic Gambling Machines (EGM), or casino table games.
- Limiting the hours of operation of gambling venues has been found to reduce problem gambling.
- Enforcement of the prohibition of youth entry at gambling venues is recommended.
- Restricting entrance to higher-income patrons (such as with a dress code or an expensive admission fee) has been used in some jurisdictions as a means of reducing problem gambling among lower-income individuals.
- Implementing a "self-exclusion program", allowing problem gamblers to sign such an agreement with casinos is recommended.
- Reducing the prize and the bet sizes has been implemented in some areas.
- Implementing duration of play and total expenditure display reminders has been demonstrated to be effective in reducing problem gambling.
- Eliminating loyalty reward cards is recommended.
- Implementing screening and monitoring programs for problem gamblers by casinos may be effective.
- Provision of credit at casinos is prohibited. On site access to ATMs should be prohibited.

- Alcohol should not be served at gambling venues.
- Advertising for casinos should be restricted.
- Gambling venues (such as casinos) should be located away from vulnerable populations.

In making their decision, municipal councils need to carefully consider the significant potential public health impacts demonstrated by research to be associated with establishing a local casino. Furthermore, councils that choose to proceed with an application for a local casino need to be committed to implementing the recommended strategies to mitigate these impacts. The degree to which municipalities can ensure the implementation of these strategies needs to be among the considerations by councils. Councils also need to be prepared to ensure that resources are in place for those who experience negative impacts from a new casino in their community.

If I become aware of additional new information on the public health impacts of casinos I will make it available for the consideration of the municipal councils in Simcoe Muskoka that are considering applying for a local casino. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any question or if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Charles Gardner, MD, CCFP, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health

CG:mk

Att. (1)

cc. The Board of Health for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit



**CASINO – HOTEL/CONVENTION CENTRE
BOARD OF MANAGEMENT POSITION**

Downtown Barrie Business Association (BIA)
50 Dunlop Street East, Suite 204, Box # 8 Barrie, ON L4M 6J9
(located in the 'Uptown Shoppes' building at Street Level—behind Rowlickous)

December 11th 2012

Re: Proposed Casino Location in Downtown Barrie

The Downtown Barrie Business Association (BIA) Board of Management supports in principle the location of a casino – as part of a Hotel/Convention Centre – in Downtown Barrie. However, continued support is dependent on further details being provided as well as considerations made as outlined below:

- The casino must be part of a Hotel/Convention Centre in Downtown Barrie.
- The square footage of the casino must complement the Hotel/Convention Centre and not 'overtake' the Hotel/Convention Centre in either physical size or with façade signage or advertising
 - We want a Hotel/Convention with a Casino; not a Casino with Hotel/Convention Centre
- That the casino brand (can include name, logo, advertising, messaging, communications, other, etc) and physical layout complements, supports and works to enhance the current Downtown brand – this includes the types of gaming product offerings (i.e. slots, tables or other).
- The amount of 'gaming product offerings' (i.e. slots, tables or other) is proportionate to the size of the facility and takes into consideration the local (downtown) population base, visitor base and other regional OLG locations.
- Any supporting retail that may be part of the casino take into consideration the 'brand' of Downtown Barrie and support and complement the local business market.
- The casino community investment fund takes into consideration specific Downtown aspects and elements. For example and not limited to:
 - Beautification and public space enhancements (parks, gathering spaces, sidewalks, lighting, other, etc)
 - Local social service support
 - Downtown infrastructure support (parking, pedestrian travel, other, etc.)
 - Local business support through joint partnership events, projects or other

On the premise that the above items can be positively met, the Downtown Barrie Business Association (BIA) supports a Downtown casino.

On behalf of the Downtown Barrie Business Association (BIA),

Craig Stevens
Managing Director

Wayne Hay
Chair

December 12, 2012
The Honourable Jeff Lehman
Mayor of Barrie and City Council
70 Collier Street, Box 400
Barrie, ON L4M 4T5

Dear Mayor Lehman and Councillors:

We are an organization whose members are made up of Pastors and Christian Leaders in the City of Barrie. We wish to express our opposition to the proposal to bring a casino to downtown Barrie. Our concerns are numerous and are listed:

1. The social costs that will accrue to the community are enormous and will include increased addiction to gambling, adverse effects on families of gamblers from family's resources diverted into Casino coffers, increased suicide rates (at least 12 in Ontario 2006, up from 7 in 2004)¹, children abandoned in vehicles while parents gamble² and the increased levels of depression and anxiety that will result. While the gaming industry claims that only three percent of gamblers become "problem gamblers", statistics offered by other sources suggest that it is closer to 5-6%. Suicide attempts among these may range between 17-24 %.³ Assuming that only 10 percent of the population of Barrie become patrons of the proposed Casino, then we can anticipate 720 new problem gamblers and possibly 144 suicide attempts in Barrie in one year alone.
2. Casinos promote the windfall mentality marketed by Lottery Corporations and governments and mitigate against the disciplines of scholarship, hard work, diligence and perseverance, the very values upon which our nation was built. This mentality is destructive to our young people and we should not be encouraging it by putting a casino where high school and college students can easily access gambling.
3. Casinos attract other elements of society that cater to addictive behaviour such as sex trade workers, alcohol and drug abuse. The City of Niagara Falls now has 2600 "adult entertainment" workers⁴ as a result of the Fallsview Casino. This goes against the family friendly atmosphere that the City is attempting to develop for Barrie. We believe that the Casino will devalue the downtown area and create additional problems for social agencies such as the Salvation Army, Busby Center, Canadian Mental Health Service and churches. As pastors, we see firsthand the devastation due to addictive behaviour as families of victims often come to us for help.
4. City Council has a responsibility to advance the common good of the citizens of Barrie. Ignoring the enormous social consequences of a downtown Casino to generate revenue is irresponsible and a failure to love and serve the citizens of Barrie.

For these reasons, we the Barrie Christian Council, encourage the City Council to vote against this proposal.

Yours Respectfully,
On behalf of the Barrie Christian Council,
Les Galicinski, B.Sc., M. Div. D. Min.
President

1 <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/story/2009/03/22/gambling-suicide.html> accessed Dec. 14, 2012

2 <http://stoppredatorygambling.org/wp-content/uploads/Examples-of-Children-Left-in-Cars-at-Casinos.pdf> accessed Dec. 14, 2012.

3 <http://www.gamblingwatch.ca/gambling-addiction-statistics.html> accessed Dec. 14, 2012

4 http://www.closefallsviewcasino.org/concerns_canada.php accessed Dec. 15, 2012

December 14, 2012

The Barrie Downtown Neighbourhood Association would like to go on record as opposing the creation of a casino located in the downtown area for the following reasons:

- our investigations lead us to believe that a casino would result in an increased incidence of crime requiring a greater police presence, and increased cost for policing.
- the social impact would be negative with problem gambling becoming more prevalent thus increasing the need for, and the costs of, social services in Barrie. Bankruptcies and broken families, suicides tend to be associated with gambling facilities.
- The casino would be available to the residents of Barrie. Dollars spent by Barrie residents would go to the OLG instead of being spent in local businesses.
- Barrie is attempting to attract a university. To locate a university and a casino in close proximity seems, in our minds, to be folly.
- a casino would also be a licenced facility. Do we need another large licenced facility in downtown Barrie
- there is insufficient parking for a facility such as that being suggested in downtown Barrie. In fact the suggested site would further remove existing parking.
- we also feel that a casino would be competition for dollars currently being spent in existing bars, hotels and restaurants, and would cause the failure of some of the existing businesses.

In summary, The members of the BDNA do not believe a casino in downtown Barrie would be of value to the community. It would be detrimental, and should not receive further consideration.

Regards,

Ben Strudwick, Co-chair
The Barrie Downtown Neighbourhood Association

December 17, 2012

Al Narvanen / Public Affairs / Barrie Stake, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Gambling

"There can be no question about the moral ramifications of gambling. As it has in the past, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints stands opposed to gambling, including government-sponsored lotteries.

"Public lotteries are advocated as a means of relieving the burden of taxation. It has been clearly demonstrated, however, that all too often lotteries only add to the problems of the financially disadvantaged by taking money from them and giving nothing of value in return. The poor and the elderly become victims of the inducements that are held out to purchase lottery tickets on the remote chance of winning a substantial prize."

This statement condemns gambling from two points of view. In religious terms, it is morally wrong. In public policy terms, it is politically unwise

Gambling—Morally Wrong

Jesus taught us to give. He will even test our willingness to sacrifice all that we have in service to Him and to our fellowmen. The adversary, teaches men to take. Whatever encourages men to take from one another without giving value in return serves the cause of his cause.

Gambling is a game of chance that takes without giving value in return. Gambling puts money or other things of value into a pool and then redistributes it on the basis of a roll of the dice, a spin of the wheel, or a drawing of a number. Nothing of value is produced in the process.

What does gambling do to its participants? The attitude of taking something from someone else in order to enhance our own position—the essence of gambling—leads us away from the giving path of Christ and toward the taking path of the adversary. The act of taking or trying to take something from someone else without giving value in return is destructive of spiritual sensitivities.

Many other Christian leaders have branded gambling as a moral evil because it leads its participants away from the behavior and attitudes taught by Jesus Christ. A Methodist minister, the Reverend Lycurgas M. Starkey, Jr., asked this question: "Can [a Christian] honestly use his gifts in gambling when his winnings are gained at the expense of another's losing?" He answered his question as follows:

"The good Christian's love of neighbor will stand against every practice which hinders the growth of the human spirit toward the likeness of Christ or which breaks down the structures of justice in society. The Christian will himself refrain from gambling and from publicly endorsing it in any form, realizing that gambling is detrimental to the purpose of life as revealed in Jesus Christ."

We hear proposals to use state-sponsored gambling as a solution to financial crises in government. These proposals invite us to focus on the desirability of additional funding and of needed relief for hard-pressed taxpayers and to ignore the costs of gambling. There are moral costs to the participants, and there are also financial costs in this means of raising money. Gambling tends to corrupt its participants. Its philosophy of something for nothing undermines

the virtues of work, industry, thrift, and service to others. The seductive lure of a huge possible windfall for a small "investment" encourages participants to gamble with funds needed for other purposes, even the basics of food and housing. Gamblers commonly deprive themselves, they often impoverish their families, and they sometimes steal from others to finance their indulgence. We are all familiar with cases in which trusted employees have stolen from their employers, bringing tragedy upon themselves and their families. All too often this ruinous sequence is traceable to a desperate attempt to pay gambling debts or to finance further indulgence.

Highly visible public gambling enhances the impression of recreation and assists in recruiting new participants. Participation in this kind of gambling also increases the likelihood that the tempters will be able to expose their "patients" to other degrading influences like alcohol and prostitution, which they always seem to have in close proximity to places of public gambling.

"The spirit of gambling is a progressive thing. Usually it begins modestly; and then, like many other hazardous habits, it often grows beyond control. At best it wastes time and produces nothing. At worst it becomes a ruinous obsession and fosters false living by encouraging the futile belief that we can continually get something for nothing."

Gambling—Politically Unwise

Gambling is also bad political policy. Solely in terms of its effects on society and government, a law that permits gambling is hard to justify, and a law that sponsors or promotes gambling is a sure loser.

A religious and moral person is generally a good neighbor and a good citizen. The encouragement of moral behavior by citizens is generally good public policy.

Gambling Undercuts Productivity and Encourages Crime. The first public policy argument against gambling concerns productivity. Columnist George F. Will explained it this way: "Gambling is debased speculation, a lust for sudden wealth that is not connected with the process of making society more productive of goods and services. Government support of gambling gives a legitimizing imprimatur to the pursuit of wealth without work." In the words of Governor Bob Graham of Florida, "What the lottery says about success is the wrong message. What it says is that you don't have to work hard, you don't have to try to improve yourself. All you have to do is just take your roll of the dice."

A Catholic priest, Monsignor Joseph Dunne, deplors what the lottery teaches children: "Why should they get an education when with a little bit of luck they can win a bundle of money for life? That's what lotteries are doing to our youth."

The philosophy of something for nothing or something for far less than it is worth is at the root of a multitude of crimes: theft, robbery, looting, embezzlement, fraud, and many other kinds of plunder. By nourishing and legitimating that philosophy, gambling is a threat to the prosperity and peace of any nation.

Florida Governor Reuben Askew, the lottery is "the worst form of taxation ever invented." This is because the poor pay a much higher proportion of their income than the rich. Economists describe this kind of tax as highly regressive. Writing in the National Tax Journal, one economist stated that most forms of gambling, including state lotteries and numbers games, turn out to be "two to three times more regressive than sales taxes." The Salt Lake Tribune editorialized this point as follows:

"Because of their get-rich-quick appeal, lotteries are apt to attract those bettors least able to afford such wagering. State and local governments ought not be the proprietor of any practice which encourages the poor to become poorer."

Gambling Increases Government Expenditures. The effects of gambling impose increased government expenditures for social welfare and law enforcement. Some of these expenditures concern compulsive gambling, a disease as serious for its victims and their families as alcohol or drug addiction. The New York Times states that New York, Maryland, Connecticut, and other Eastern states are now finding it necessary to fund expensive governmental programs to rehabilitate compulsive gamblers. Dr. Robert L. Custer, one of the United States' leading authorities on gambling problems, estimates that there are at least two million compulsive gamblers in the nation today. Other estimates go as high as eight million.

Compulsive gambling also imposes a heavy cost in law enforcement. According to one expert, more than 80 percent of the compulsive gamblers who eventually sought help admitted that in pursuing their addiction they had committed felony crimes, usually against banks or other businesses. The American Insurance Institute has estimated that "as many as 40 percent of all 'white-collar crimes' have compulsive gambling as their cause."

"It is a moral issue when the government decides to derive income from an activity which is a highly regressive form of taxation that affects poor people more extensively than affluent people.

"It is a moral issue when government decides not only to tolerate gambling but to get in the business of planning games, engaging in promotional activities ... and targeting its citizens through extensive marketing analyses in the hopes of creating new gamblers. ...

"It is a moral issue when government adopts a form of gambling which in all probability will increase the extent and the amount of illegal gambling.

"It is a moral issue when government adopts a form of gambling that will draw off large amounts of money, especially from the poor people for whom the state supposedly has a responsibility to provide assistance.

SUMMARY

- Gambling adds to problems of financially disadvantaged families
- Gambling takes money from individuals and families, and returns nothing of value
- Gambling teaches people to look to get something for nothing, focus on taking rather than giving. Jesus taught us to give, doing so helps us to become more like Him
- Gambling undermines the virtues of work, industry, thrift and service to others
- Money used for gambling is often money that is required for rent/mortgage or food
- Other social and moral degrading influences are attracted by Gambling
- Decline in morality and good behavior by citizens in the community, impact 2x for pathological or problem gamblers up to 50 miles around
- Gambling questions: why should our children go to school, why learn and work when you can Gamble and win
- The idea of something for nothing is at the root of a multitude of crimes: theft, looting, embezzlement, fraud..
- Gambling is the worst form of taxation. For the poor, it takes a high proportion of their funds, it induces those who are desperate to take what little they have (or worse what they don't have) and gamble on the chance of making a big win
- Gambling results in increased expenditures for social welfare/services and policing