

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 15, 2007

**Six-Person Complaint to Competition Bureau  
Calls for Investigation of Canadian Gambling Industry and  
Misleading And Deceptive Technologies Employed By  
Electronic Gaming Machines (EGMs), including Slots & VLTs**

**FROM: Canada's Gambling Watch Network**

For years the provinces have been conducting and managing gambling activities in total disregard for various fair trade practices, the Criminal Code of Canada and consumer protection laws, including the Canadian Competition Act. Now, a broad, diverse, cross-section of ordinary Canadians from across our country have filed a "six-person complaint" that will compel the Competition Bureau and the Department of Justice to investigate allegations that Electronic Gaming Machines have for years employed misleading and deceptive technologies that entice excessive play by using fraudulent inducements through concealment and misrepresentation.

The complaint alleges that EGMs in Canada are not properly regulated and scrutinized for game fairness and honesty and, in fact, most gaming regulators and operators in Canada defer to determinations of game fairness and honesty according to Nevada gaming machine regulations and standards and not to Canadian fair trade and consumer protection laws. This has allowed, since the first slot machine and VLT were introduced in Canada, for the approval of machines with potentially misleading representations and deceptive features and processes that contravene many Canadian laws, including fair trade practices, the Criminal Code and Competition Act, the protections of which supersede provincial gaming laws and regulations.

A recent paper written by Tim Falkiner, Barrister-at-Law and former Legal Officer of the Victorian Casino Control Authority in Australia, and Roger Horbay, President of Game Planit Interactive Corp., in Elora, Ontario, backs the complaint. The paper reveals how slots and VLTs in Canada are very similar to cheating carnival games and how present gaming machine regulations and standards are insufficient to protect consumers. They recommend that present EGMs be modified to be fair and honest and that EGM standards and regulations be brought in line with the high standards for game fairness and honesty that is applied to casino table games.

**We fully endorse this complaint and demand that the Competition Bureau and the Department of Justice investigate all concealed features and processes of EGMs in Canada and also investigate the gaming industry and their regulatory oversight to determine how and why misleading and deceptive EGMs, that are no better than cheating carnival games, could possibly have been approved in Canada. The Criminal Code and consumer protection laws must be applied to all gambling activities by the province and to EGMs. Those who are breaking the law must be prosecuted.**

**Only, in this way, can the Federal Government of Canada and the Minister of Justice, Robert Douglas Nicholson, ensure us that Federal fraud and consumer protection laws are being enforced to protect citizens against dangerous and exploitive gambling products and activities.**

Full copies of the complaint and accompanying documents are available upon request.

### **Press Contacts**

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