



**Ministry of Public Safety and the Solicitor General  
Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch  
Enforcement Division**

RE: Illegal Lottery Scheme, GPEB file #138859

Flying L Ranch/Michael Lares

The Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch (GPEB) has received complaints about raffle/ticket draws that you are running through your social media page. In each of these instances, you have been identified as the administrator of the group and/or the organizer of the game. These games and distinct types of draws are illegal in the Province of British Columbia and gambling in Canada is a regulated activity that must be licensed by the province in which it is conducted. It is important that you immediately stop any online gambling activities including bingo games, 50/50 draws, raffle/ticket prize draws, fundraisers with a draw or chance element, or any other gambling scheme and obtain the proper license(s) for any lottery scheme, bingo, or other game that you operate. The social media pages that you are operating these schemes from are being monitored and will be used in future prosecution should you not cease these activities immediately.

Within the Province of British Columbia, the Enforcement Division of GPEB has a mandate to investigate complaints or allegations of criminal or regulatory wrongdoing relating to casinos, gambling, lotteries, and horseracing. The definition of an illegal lottery scheme is being provided here to assist in your understanding of the laws that govern and regulate gaming here in Canada and British Columbia, namely the Criminal Code of Canada and the Gaming Control Act:

Any contest, raffle, scheme, game or other event in which the three elements of gaming: chance (i.e. where the selection of a winner is random and has no-skill based element), consideration – monetary or non-monetary (i.e. the transfer of something valuable, including money whether as a donation or not), and prize (i.e. the giving of a some form of goods or service) are all included in the definition of gambling, as defined by the Criminal Code. Outside of the gaming service providers and the British Columbia Lottery Corporation, gambling for money – including bingos and raffles – is permitted only through obtaining a license for community charitable gaming from the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch, which must then be organized and operated by a registered charitable organization with all profits going to that organization.

The operation of an unlicensed lottery scheme, such as an online bingo or raffle draw, in British Columbia is a **violation of sections 88(a) & (b) of the Gaming Control Act, each of which carry a fine of up to \$5000. These offences can also be prosecuted under the Criminal Code of Canada as the**



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**operation of a lottery scheme, which is a contravention of section 206(1)(a) and 206(1)(c) of the Criminal Code of Canada.** Each of these are indictable offences that can have a punishment of imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years. As a computer was used to facilitate this operation, section 207(4)(c) of the Criminal Code of Canada also applies, a hybrid offence, which means that it can be prosecuted as either an indictable or summary offence. Punishment for the indictable offence remains at a term of imprisonment not exceeding two years, while the summary offence can see a term of imprisonment for 2 years less a day and/or a \$5,000 fine.

This letter is being sent to confirm the findings of our investigation. It also serves as a warning that should you choose to administer, organize, or otherwise operate any online bingos, 50/50, raffle, or ticket draw, or other gambling operation that contravenes the *Gaming Control Act*, these activities will be investigated with the view toward prosecution. The operation of any gambling event requires you to apply for and hold a license from the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch, which must be operated by and for the benefit of a registered charitable organization. For your reference, the link below explains this, and other information related to gambling in the Province British Columbia:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/gambling-fundraising/gambling-in-bc>

Should you have any questions regarding the licensing of gaming please refer to the GPEB website or contact GPEB Licensing at (250) 387-5311. Your co-operation in this matter is appreciated and should you have remaining questions or concerns, please contact me through any of the below means.

Respectfully,

*Investigator, Northern Region*

Special Provincial Constable

Enforcement Division-

Gaming Policy & Enforcement Branch

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