

Gambling Addiction in Canadian - Vietnamese Community

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Abstract : The Vietnamese community in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, is a minority group with an estimated less than 1% of the population. They have been in Canada since the 1970s, therefore, many funding sources are considering them as a long-time residential group. However, their limitation of resources cannot give them equal opportunities to successfully gain support from many levels of government in Canada, compared to other long-time settled and large groups. In 2020 and 2021, they have zero financial support for addressing problem gambling in the Vietnamese community. In contrast, casinos never forget this community. The gambling industry has been targeting the Vietnamese community as one of their major clientele groups. There are always in-equal battles between low-budget educational workshops by this underserved community group and expensive variety music shows by casinos. In the very same target group, five single lines of free ads by a community project cannot get more attention than a full-page colorful poster by casinos. An outreach worker is running back and forth to talk to a group of 10 or 15 persons in an ESL or Tai Chi class held in a basement of an old community center while fifty thousand dollars variety music shows can attract five thousand audience in their luxury facilities. Five-dollar vouchers for those who attend the problem gambling awareness session are incomparable to two hundred dollar free tickets for people to attend the show in casinos and then exit the gambling area after the show ends. There is only one problem gambling counselor who speaks the Vietnamese language in the Ontario province and in Canada at large. However, there are 70 casinos in Ontario and more than 200 licensed gambling facilities in Canada. He has been lonely in all in-equal "battles" for the last almost 25 years. He exists, fighting over there with or without funding support for the program, he fights still.

Keywords : Canadian Vietnamese, gambling addiction, gambling treatment, community awareness

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