

What is Charitable Gaming?

The Alcohol and Gaming Commission (AGCO) is responsible for administering the lottery licensing program in the province. Municipalities and the AGCO are responsible for issuing lottery licences to eligible charitable and religious organizations. Eligible charitable and religious organizations may raise funds through provincially or municipally licensed lottery events.

Lottery licensing refers to lottery schemes permitted by a licence under the *Criminal Code of Canada*. Typically, these may include bingos, raffles, break open tickets and social gaming events held by charitable or religious organizations. In Ontario, Order in Council 1413/08 authorizes the licensing framework for eligible charitable or religious organizations to hold lottery events and sets out the limits of municipal and provincial licensing.

Licensed charitable or religious organizations must conduct and manage their events in accordance with licensing policies and the terms and conditions of the licences and fulfill all prescribed reporting requirements. Information on conducting and managing lottery events can be found in Lottery Licensing Policy Manual, which provides an outline of the legal and policy framework and administrative procedures for lottery licensing purposes.

The commercial sector of the charitable gaming industry is regulated by the *Gaming Control Act, 1992* (the "Act") and Regulations.

The AGCO Lottery Licensing Policy Manual, Order in Council 1413/08, and AGCO Terms and Conditions to licences are part of the charity gaming regulatory framework which flows from the Criminal Code.

DEFINITION OF A LOTTERY SCHEME

In simple terms, a lottery scheme may be defined as any scheme which has the following three components:

- a prize;
- a chance (to win the prize); and
- consideration or a fee.

Therefore, a lottery scheme exists if money is paid or some other consideration is given for a chance to win a prize.

There are many types of lottery schemes for which licences are not available. The licensing authority will confirm whether or not a licence is available for a proposed lottery scheme. If the proposed event is one for which a lottery licence is available, the organization must apply for a lottery licence. The organization is responsible for ensuring that all its schemes are operated legally.

RESTRICTION AS PARTICIPANT AND/OR PLAYER IN LOTTERY EVENT/GAME OF CHANCE

- No person directly involved in or responsible for the conduct of the lottery event shall participate as a player in any lottery during the event.
- A licensee must not allow any person apparently under the age of 18 to participate as a player in any game of chance.

**Refer to the AGCO Lottery Licensing Policy Manual
for more detailed information.**

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