

# Background

- 2011 Expanded Gaming Act is unique in enshrining the role of research to enhance responsible gambling & minimize problem gambling in MA
- Section 71 of Gaming Act requires MGC to establish an “annual research agenda” to assist in understanding the social and economic effects of casino gambling in MA & in making annual scientifically-based recommendations to the Legislature
- 3 essential elements to the research agenda:
  - Understand the social & economic effects of expanded gambling
  - Baseline study of problem gambling and existing prevention & treatment programs
  - Facilitate independent studies to obtain scientific information relevant to enhancing responsible gambling and minimizing harmful effects



# Research Team Selection Process

May/Jun 2012	MGC meets w/research groups in MA
Summer 2012	MGC Public Education Forums
Oct 2012	MGC Request for Information (RFI) issued 6 responses received
Nov 2012	MGC Request for Research (RFR) issued 4 responses received
Jan 2013	MGC invites 2 groups to give oral presentations
Mar 2013	MGC announces UMass Amherst consortium will carry out comprehensive Research Agenda

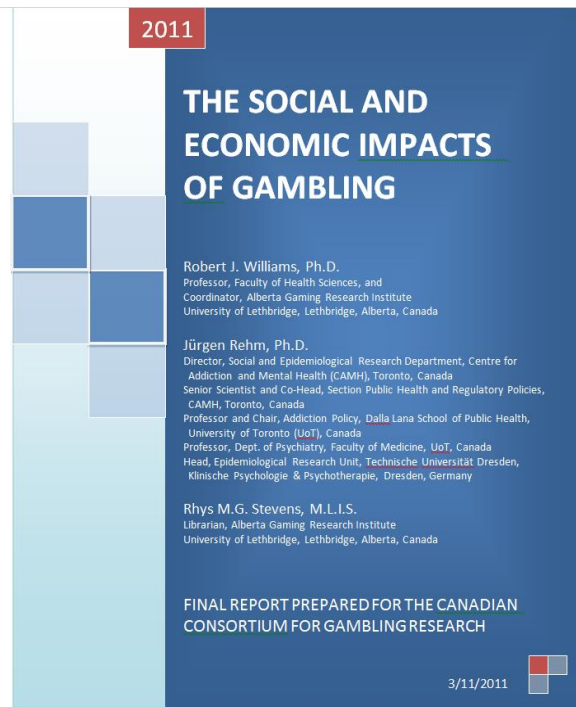


# Features of the SEIGMA Project

- First-of-its-kind **gambling monitoring system** that will
  - Provide stakeholders in MA with a neutral database for strategic analysis & decision-making
  - Generate early warning signs of changes in social & economic impacts of new & existing forms of gambling in MA
  - Promote responsible gambling & mitigate problem gambling through refinement of services
- A 'state of the art' **analytic framework** for socioeconomic impact studies and a **multiple methods research strategy**
  - Based on a newly available *Theoretical Framework*
  - Employs primary & secondary data collection/analysis
  - Quantitative & qualitative research methods
- A **comprehensive approach** that establishes the impacts of casino gambling:
  - At a Massachusetts-wide level
  - At a regional level
  - At a local level



# Theoretical Framework



1. Measure 'impacts' rather than 'costs and benefits'.
2. Comprehensively assess all potential economic and social impacts.
3. Avoid applying arbitrary monetary values to non-monetary impacts.
4. Apply basic economic principles to evaluate the positive or negative nature of economic impacts.
5. Recognize that assessing overall nature of the observed impacts is sometimes a qualitative assessment that often involves some subjectivity.
6. Identify how much money is involved, where it is coming from, and where it is going.
7. Establish both the micro and macro geographic impacts.
8. Compare changes to those observed in control communities/regions.
9. Speculate on what the situation would have been without the introduction of the new form of gambling.
10. Assess impacts for years before and for years after the introduction of new gambling venues/opportunities.
11. Report the limitations and parameters of these results.



# Team Organization

