

Lunch with a 5 billion dollar man

Ten days ago my assistant and I had the absolute pleasure (and Santa Claus does exits) of attending the Montreal Chapter of The Chamber of Commerce Luncheon with Guest Speaker, Alain Cousineau, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Loto-Québec.

After an approximate 35 minute speech, I wasn't exactly sure which was more mixed; the salad or his words.

Lunch was great; the ballroom was spectacular; and the food was like a top-notch wedding. The room was filled with Loto-Québec cheerleaders, i.e. employees of Loto Québec, private contractors and the like.

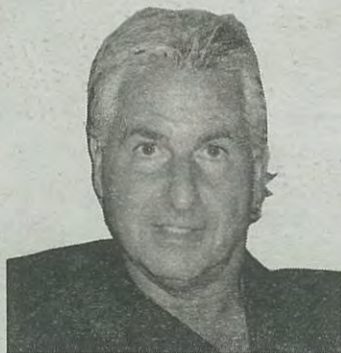
Ninety tables, at 9 people per; that's a lot of cheerleaders. I'm guessing too, that the vast majority of those that attended did not pay the hundred bucks from their pocket, or if they did, it was done because they had to be there for business.

We heard about Loto Québec's new involvement regarding online poker and their new gaming websites. We heard how profitable this new legal/illegal market is and how the government wanted to quickly jump on board (at the compulsive gamblers' expense). We heard about 5 other provinces and their instant success with online gaming (I don't care, I live in Montreal, and what happens in Colona doesn't affect me). We heard, too, about thousands of illegal online poker websites accessible within Québec...which obviously

means that Loto-Québec wants to be the two-thousand and first...*nudge nudge wink wink*.

We heard the Chairman of the Board issue kudos to himself and his team on what a wonderful money-making machine Loto-Québec has become and how their profits have increased substantially over the years. Stop me folks, but doesn't that mean that if Loto-Québec is making money hand over fist, Quebecers are losing their money over the same hands and fists?

It's not like they are buying apples or cars that are now Quebec-based made, and we are taking the business away from somebody in Tennessee. What Loto-Québec is merely doing is creating more compulsive gamblers daily creating more family strife daily; ruining the local economy daily; and fooling everybody by the minute.



Howard P. Riback
The Winning Hand
Times

The lecture, (French only)

seemed to come off as a 35 minute infomercial brought to you by Loto-Québec. While the room may have been filled with hundreds of suppliers making a nice living off Loto-Québec, the room did not include the millions of people of the same province, whose lives are being ruined.

P.S. Dessert wasn't so great.

For more information Howard P. Riback the Gaming/Gambling Specialist and Inspirational Speaker a.k.a. "The Cleaner" can be reached at: 514 659 5621 or howard@theribackgroup.com or view his website at www.theribackgroup.com .

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