

You bet there is a problem!

Gambling: An ugly word that conjures up images of smokey underground poker rooms, guys that haven't changed their clothes in days, warm beer and loan sharks abundant.

Gaming: A new, and glamorous word that conjures up images of fine dining, beautifully appointed casinos and a new and acceptable lifestyle of the millennium.

The truth: We as a society continue to chase the elusive dream to make money, and to live a life of fantasy, which, may, in fact, find us in trouble. We are, in fact, too smart to subscribe to those theories. Gambling is, and should be, a harmless pastime strictly for enjoyment.

Gaming/Gambling is a heinous, horrifying and addictive pastime that has ruined peoples' lives, killed the family unit, helped the rate of suicides climb drastically and has put people's dreams and hopes on hold, possibly forever.

You CANNOT win at gambling.

When this statement resonates with one's mind and is clearly understood, we as a society will be in much better shape mentally, physically, morally and certainly, financially.

Sure, playing poker with the guys (and women) and buying the odd 2 dollar 6/49 Loto ticket is fine. It's like buying and snacking on the odd chocolate bar. But it's not OK 5 at a time!

Moderation is the answer. Everything in life is about moderation.

Your greatest strength is you. Use it. Don't abuse it! Know what you are doing and the end result of what may happen.

Gambling is as old a pastime as playing cards themselves. When fun turns into destruction, lying, cheating and night-time sweats, there is a problem.

Anxiety and all that comes with it, isn't worth the temporary high that is associated with gambling. It just isn't.

There are no windows in casinos so you don't know what's doing outside. There is a cooler than average temperature inside the casino to keep players more awake and

eager to play. There are garish and plain, old, ugly, and busy carpeting to ensure people don't look down but see the tables and machines continually and make you want to play. There are slot machines (VLTs) that

make a sound in the musical key of "C" which is scientifically known as the most pleasing sound to the human ear. There are coupons for dining that cost players 50 bucks to play and lose so they are entitled to a 4 dollar free hamburger. The "high-roller" (definition: those who risk far more than the average and who inevitably lose far more than the average) who is given a "free" weekend valued at anywhere from \$1000 to \$2000 providing he/she plays a couple of hours a day, and drops \$3000 to \$5000 or more. Great!

Six hundred dollars for a diet coke. Does this make sense?

Truth is, I am jealous. The marketing and sales team for worldwide casinos do a fantastic job of getting bodies into their buildings. The only problem is, among many, is that families end up losing their homes, children go unfed, marriages break up and college funds go depleted. But hey, isn't gambling fun?

Gambling isn't going anywhere. It's an approximate 30 billion dollar industry in Canada alone. Stop pointing fingers. Stop

blaming. Stop the bleeding hearts. Start educating the gambling uneducated population. What we have learned about cigarette smoking the last 25 years, we must learn about the pros and cons of gambling.

Do Canadians like to gamble? You bet.

Twice a month you can read about what The Riback Group is up to. We have articles about the world of Gaming, dozens upon dozens of topics, ready to talk about everything from gambling in moderation to family breakups because of gambling.

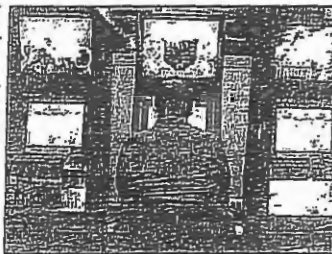
Each Thursday at midnight, a new webcast at www.theribackgroup.com site can be watched. These web shows are available on YouTube as well.

Howard Riback can be reached at 514-659-5621 for any kind of help, pertaining to Gaming problems. www.theribackgroup.com is something to see as well.

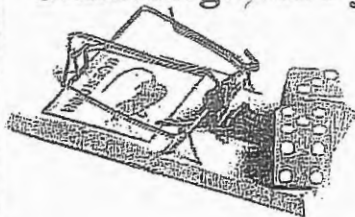
Riback also speaks at schools, private functions, and to anyone that will listen.



Howard Riback
The winning hand
The Times



Gambling... Are you trapped?



When you gamble, you are not only gambling with your money, but with your friends, family, job and home.

Are you prepared to lose it all?

For HELP call

Howard P. Riback 514-659-5621

He has been there and has come out on the winning side

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