



INDEPENDENT
GAMBLING CONTROL
OFFICE

News Release

Launch of the Independent Gambling Control Office

April 13, 2026

Victoria

The Independent Gambling Control Office (IGCO) has officially launched, replacing the former Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch (GPEB) as British Columbia's new independent gambling regulator.

"The launch of the Independent Gambling Control Office is a significant milestone for gambling regulation in B.C." said Sam MacLeod, General Manager of the IGCO. "The German Report and Cullen Commission made it clear that our province needs a gambling regulator with greater independence, clearer authority, and more effective tools to address risks such as money laundering and fraud. The IGCO is in response to these recommendations, providing independent, modern oversight of gambling in the province, including the ability for the General Manager to set and enforce regulations in the public interest."

The IGCO is dedicated to monitoring and safeguarding gambling in B.C. Its mandate includes regulatory oversight of commercial gambling conducted and managed by the British Columbia Lottery Corporation (BCLC), charitable gambling, and B.C.'s horse-racing industry. The IGCO also administers Gambling Support BC, a provincial government program that provides responsible gambling education, prevention resources, and direct support services to anyone struggling with gambling related harm.

The new Gaming Control Act and updated regulatory framework strengthens the ability of the regulator to prevent illegal activity, including money laundering and fraud, and to ensure that gambling in B.C. is delivered safely, responsibly, and in the public interest.

As the global gambling landscape continues to evolve, the establishment of the IGCO addresses the need for a regulator that is independent, credible and equipped to respond to the complexities of modern gambling.



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IGCO General Manager

Through the Lieutenant Governor in Council, Sam MacLeod has been appointed as the IGCO's first General Manager. Sam was previously the Assistant Deputy Minister and General Manager of the former Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch and brings extensive knowledge, experience, and tested leadership to this new role. The IGCO General Manager holds the independent authority to make regulations, take enforcement actions, and oversee licensing, registration, investigations, and compliance for all legal gambling in the province.

Independent oversight to enhance public trust and safety

The establishment of the IGCO fulfills a government commitment to separate the regulatory and revenue generation functions of gambling. This ensures greater regulatory independence and clearer authority to address risks such as money laundering and problem gambling.

To support transparency and public accountability, the IGCO also has a new, independent communications function that includes:

- A stand-alone website and IGCO branding
- The ability to publish research, reports, regulatory decisions and enforcement actions
- The ability to speak publicly about issues and activities within its statutory authority

As an independent entity, the IGCO is positioned to make faster, more transparent, and more effective regulatory decisions.

For more information about the IGCO's mandate and areas of responsibility, please visit www.igcobc.ca.

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