

Subject:

FW: Vaughan Casino

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Communication
cw: Oct 15/13
Item: 20

From: Bella Yuan

Sent: Sunday, October 13, 2013 2:28 PM

To: Abrams, Jeffrey

Subject: FW: Vaughan Casino

Hi Jeffrey,

I'd like to submit the following as Communications under Item 20 for Tuesday's Committee of the Whole Meeting...kindly confirm.

Thank you,

Belle Yuan

52 Alysha Way

Vaughan

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Subject: Vaughan Casino

Date: Fri, 11 Oct 2013 22:18:51 -0400

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

I'd like to bring to your attention some highlights from Hamilton Spectator's in-depth look at OLG's financial records for the past six years...

CASINO REVENUE/LOSS:

Ontario's four premier resort-style casinos (Fallsview, Niagara, Windsor, Rama) have lost a combined \$360 million in the past six years while handing out \$1.6 billion in freebies and cash incentives to gamblers at those same facilities.

JOB SPINOFFS:

At Ontario's four resort casinos, the number of employees declined by nearly 16 per cent since the 2007 fiscal year, from 11,790 employees to 9,931 last year.

HOW THE MONEY IS SPENT:

In the past six years, OLG has spent \$3.2 billion on promotional allowances, marketing and promotions for all of its gambling sites.

At the four resort casinos, incentives, marketing and promotions chewed up 31 per cent of all gambling revenue in the 2011 fiscal year.

ATTENDANCE:

Between 2007 and 2012, the average daily attendance at the four casinos in Niagara Falls, Windsor and Rama has plunged by 25 per cent, from nearly 55,000 daily visits to just over 41,000. Combined gaming revenue declined by 28 per cent.

For details on the full article, visit: <http://www.thespec.com/news-story/2879688-olg-financial-records-raise-red-flag-for-hamilton-casino-plan/>

From the above, lots of questions fuelled my head...

Where is the economic benefit of having a casino if all Ontario based numbers clearly shows the opposite?

Why would Vaughan even contemplate investing in a money-losing venture that will become a drain on our local economy and cause a huge burden to the taxpayers down the road?

I am sure many of you also live in Vaughan, so this should be a real concern to you as well as taxpayers!

Does it not make you question OLG's job creation numbers of 8,000-10,000 tooted for the Vaughan casino when all 4 existing Ontario casino's only adds up to just under 10,000 combined?

By developing the VMC, isn't it true that thousands of jobs (ie. construction) would still be created regardless of a casino?

Do you know why Toronto, Markham, Waterloo all turned down the prospect of having a casino in their municipalities?

Because they did their research, conducted community impact assessments and listened to their people to come to the conclusion that casinos are a very bad idea.

Why hasn't Vaughan done it's own due diligence and conducted it's own health, economic and social impact studies like other municipalities have to make an informed decision?

Problem gambling rates in Niagara doubled after just 1 year of casino opening from 2.2% to 4.4%. This correlation was found in majority all of the Ontario communities where a casino is located. With increased accessibility and convenience based on Vaughan's proposed casino location near major Highway arteries and the subway line, I am afraid that the spike in problem gambling in our region would be even worse than expected, exceeding the doubling effect.

For those of you who support a casino despite knowing the social harms it contributes to in the long run, would it keep you up at night if you know your vote to bring a casino to our family-oriented and already prosperous city of Vaughan, ultimately led to the deterioration of our community and the devastation of thousands of families and lives?

I urge you to listen to the vast majority of Vaughan residents who clearly oppose a casino in this community we call home.

The residents of Vaughan are counting on each of you to do the right thing and finally put this issue to bed by collectively rejecting OLG's proposal to host a Vaughan casino on Tuesday Oct 15th.

Sincerely,
Belle Yuan
Vaughan Resident