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Take Action to Help Save the Horse Racing Industry

From: **Lisa MacLeod** (lisa@lisamacleod.com)
Sent: October-01-12 1:09:05 PM
To:

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Dear Robert,

As you know, the McGuinty Liberals and the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation want to end horseracing in our province. The Liberals and the OLG want to cancel the successful partnership of the Slots at Racetracks (SAR) program that contributes over a \$1 Billion in revenue for Ontario, so it can bring US Style casinos into our communities. This will come at a tremendous cost to Ontarians.

We know for example, cancelling the SAR will take \$1.2 Billion from wagering out of the economy, 60,000 jobs will be lost and [13,000 horses](#) will be killed. According to the [Windsor Star](#), the OLG lost \$46 Million at casinos in Windsor and Niagara in 2010 and on top of that, in recent years the Auditor General has admonished the OLG for employee spending scandals and mismanagement. If the Liberals and the OLG get their way we taxpayers could be on the hook for this failed experiment- not to mention the likely human costs expanded and accessible gaming will have on [mental health and addictions](#) in our communities.

This hits close to home. The Rideau Carleton Raceway is in Nepean-Carleton. It employs over 1,000 Ottawa residents both directly and indirectly through breeding, racing, veterinary services, boarding, farming, hospitality, security and the slots itself. The RCR is important to our rural economy and to our local agriculture sector. Now the City of Ottawa is paving the way for a downtown casino. Not only will the cancellation of the SAR cripple the RCR, but a downtown casino will seal its fate.

Many in the legislature share my concerns. That is why both MPP Monte McNaughton's [bill](#) to hold referendums before new casinos are built and why my [motion](#) calling for the Auditor General to review OLG's radical shift in gaming both passed with members from all parties supporting them! But more needs to be done, and this is where your help comes in. You can email:

Jim McCarter: comments@auditor.on.ca Ontario's Auditor asking for him to begin the casino review the Legislature asked for.

John Milloy: jmilloy.mpp@liberal.ola.org Liberal Government House Leader asking him to call Monte McNaughton's bill on casino referendums for 3rd reading so it can finally become law.

Jim Watson: jim.watson@ottawa.ca Mayor of Ottawa asking him to have an open and transparent process that includes citizens and an independent review before making a decision on a new casino.

60,000 jobs, a viable and profitable system of gaming and the lives of 13,000 horses are at stake. I hope I can count on your support and that you will answer this call to action.

Thank you.



Lisa MacLeod, MPP
Nepean-Carleton



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