

April 26, 2013

**BUDGET 2013: MERGED LIQUOR AND LOTTERIES CORPORATION
EXPANDS COMMITMENT TO RESPONSIBLE GAMING, CONSUMPTION INITIATIVES**

- - -

**New Funding Would Include More Support
For Families Coping With Addictions: Rondeau**

The Manitoba government will introduce legislation that would direct two per cent of the new Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries Corporation's net income each year to responsible gaming and consumption initiatives, which would include dedicated funding to help Manitoba families coping with addictions, Healthy Living, Seniors and Consumer Affairs Minister Jim Rondeau announced today.

"Addictions can have a devastating impact on families," said Rondeau. "That's why we are increasing support for families to understand, prevent and deal with gaming and alcohol abuse. By enshrining this in law, we are securing long-term, stable funding for this important work."

The commitment would increase existing funding for social responsibility initiatives by approximately \$20 million over the next four years, bringing the Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries Corporation's total commitment to \$51 million, the minister said.

"As separate entities, Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries both have a proud history of leadership in social responsibility," said Winston Hodgins, president and CEO of the Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries Corporation. "With the merger, we are proud to enhance the level of social responsibility funding on a permanent basis. This is a very positive action that makes a strong statement about our commitment to this area."

"We are delighted to see this investment in addictions services in Manitoba," said Yvonne Block, CEO of Addictions Foundation of Manitoba. "This investment will go a long way toward addressing the needs of Manitobans living with addictions."

New funding of almost \$1 million would be directed to the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba (AFM) for operating costs at the River Point Centre, which is expected to open in winter 2014.

The centre would enhance addictions programming in Manitoba by expanding services and housing a new addictions intake office where Manitobans can access all government-funded addictions services through one central entry point rather than trying to search out individual services on their own, Rondeau said.

Through River Point Centre, AFM, in partnership with other addictions organizations, would also provide:

- 20 new beds for adult detoxification, serving an additional 720 clients annually;
- 38 beds for the relocation and expansion of the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba's men's residential treatment beds, serving more than 450 clients annually;
- 10 new beds for treatment readiness programming; and
- community-based pre- and post-treatment support.