

# YES! TO HAMILTON AND FLAMBOROUGH MEANS NO! DOWNTOWN CASINO!

“Experience around the world shows that casinos are the kiss of death for the neighbourhoods and cities where they are located”

-Christopher Hume, Toronto Star

“... a casino is engineered as a self-contained experience that shuts down congress with the community outside its doors and draws a disproportionate share of its revenues from the most vulnerable among us, placing the residents of our Code Red neighbourhoods at heightened risk.”

-Hamilton Arts Council's letter in opposition to a downtown Hamilton Casino

“There's a very clear relationship between how convenient it is to gamble and the proportion of the population who are problem gamblers”

-Dr. David McKeown, Medical Officer of Health, City of Toronto

“The more that locals gamble, the less they're going to local restaurants, to local stores, supporting local retailers.”

-Dr. Hannah Holmes, Department of Economics, McMaster University

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Website: [www.NoDowntownCasino.ca](http://www.NoDowntownCasino.ca)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/NoDowntownHamiltonCasino](http://www.facebook.com/NoDowntownHamiltonCasino)  
Twitter: @CasiNOhamont

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SEE REVERSE FOR MORE INFO



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# The Research is Clear and It's No Secret:

## 1. A Downtown Casino Will Increase The Social Costs Of Gambling

- Problem gamblers account for 36% of OLG revenues and 60% of slot machine revenue in Ontario;
- The easier casinos are to get to, the greater the instances of gambling addiction, family breakups, crime, depression, and personal bankruptcies, and the higher the corresponding cost to tax payers;
- Every year, of the 5000 problem gamblers in Hamilton, 1000 of them attempt suicide;
- The bathrooms and parking lots at the Niagara Casino are the #1 spot for suicides in Ontario

## 2. A Downtown Casino Will Cause Financial Strain To Those Who Can Least Afford It

- Low-income gamblers spend proportionally the most on gambling;
- The casino is being planned for Hamilton's poorest economic zone;
- Indebtedness due to gambling is one of the top reasons Canadians file for bankruptcy;

## 3. A Downtown Casino Will Channel Money Away From Local Businesses

- Casinos are specifically designed to be self-contained, to keep gamblers in, and to shut out the street;
- 60% of existing small businesses near a new casino go out of business within 2 years;
- Downtown business owners, particularly those spearheading current cultural revitalization in the core, are strongly against a downtown casino;

## 4. A Downtown Casino Will De-Rail Revitalization In The Core

- The growth of our arts sector has led to revitalization which our downtown has not seen for decades. According to the Hamilton Arts Council: *"A casino is incompatible with the culture of free enterprise, creative engagement and hope that has allowed the arts to thrive and breathe new life into downtown... This creative transformation of Hamilton's national image cannot be preserved in a casino's physical proximity and social shadow;"*
- The idea that a casino can be a "quick fix" to urban decay has been authoritatively discredited by countless case studies;

## 5. A Downtown Casino Will Contribute Minimally To The City Coffers

- Casino revenues contribute less than one third of 1% to Hamilton's annual operating budget;

## 6. A Downtown Casino Means Flamboro Downs Will Close And Jobs Will Be Lost

- Whether we like it or not, Hamilton already has a casino deeply entrenched in the Flamborough economy. A casino downtown means over 3,000 horse-racing related jobs will be lost and rural Flamborough will suffer;
- Fewer jobs will be created than those lost, and gambling is known to support a lower ratio of jobs per \$1 million revenue than any other economic sector. The majority of new jobs will be low-paying and insecure;

## 7. Hamiltonians Have Said No!

- In all major recent polls as well as the official 1997 referendum, a majority of Hamiltonians voted against a downtown Casino.

**Will our leaders listen to the vast majority of residents and Neighbourhood Associations or to the casino lobbyists?**

Contact your councillor to voice your opposition to a downtown casino.

Share the truth about a downtown casino with your friends, family and neighbours.

Learn more about the research at: [www.nodowntowncasino.ca](http://www.nodowntowncasino.ca)

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