



SIGA

Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority

SIGA FAQs

Why is SIGA making plans to add casinos?

Saskatchewan's First Nations people represent a large percentage of the population and are poised to play a larger role in the economic growth of the economy. To achieve that objective, First Nations must become equity players. Becoming successful business owners and operators is critical to First Nations becoming full-fledged players in the economy. These expansion opportunities would not have been possible without the economic success to date.

Can First Nations achieve the level of economic growth SIGA is striving toward?

SIGA's experience in successfully establishing and operating four casinos in the province is a sign we're moving to the next level. If Saskatchewan's First Nations can become major economic players and contributors, it will result in growth for the entire economy. The spin-offs will benefit everyone.

Why are First Nations concentrating on the gaming industry?

Gaming has been in a part of First Nations culture for hundreds of years. In fact, long before the advance of settlers to what is now Canada, there was a tradition of our people participating in games of chance, otherwise known as 'Hand Games.' First Nations history and a tradition of hospitality that has led to the success of the four SIGA-operated casinos.

How is SIGA working for the future?

For First Nations people, labour force participation still lags well behind non-First Nations people. The median age for First Nations people is 18.4 years, more than 20 years younger than the non-Aboriginal population. It is those young people that we want to ensure will have job opportunities available to them in the future. SIGA's existing casinos employ roughly 1250 First Nations people - about three-quarters of the total staffing complement.

What was the approval process for the Casinos?

All casino proposals met the necessary criteria, as established in the 2002 Gaming Framework Agreement:

- Prepare and present to the government a specific, detailed proposal for the casino, including market research identifying itself as a viable area
- Participate in a reasonable community notification and consultation process with the city or community and any First Nation from which approval is required with respect to the proposed casino

- Obtain the approval of the respective city council, by means of a resolution of the council. In the case of a proposed casino site to be located on a First Nations reserve, the approval must be granted by means of a resolution passed by the Band Council
- Obtain the approval for a casino license from the government.

What research was conducted with regard to the market?

Two respected chartered accountants and business advisory companies were hired to do a market study for the viability of each of the casinos. Basically, both companies conducted research and provided a report that:

- Determined and quantified the potential casino market size (visitation and revenue) for gaming in that market area;
- Researched the potential impact of the proposed casino with existing SIGA-operated casinos (NLC, GEC, PHC, and BCC);
- Determined the appropriate mix of gaming devices (number of slot machines and table games) required for the new casino;
- Identified and estimated the potential economic impacts arising from the capital construction of the casino as well as ongoing operations; and
- Identified the economic impacts for the local community.

How are SIGA revenues divided?

All profits from SIGA casinos are split: 25% to the Provincial Government, 50% to the First Nations Trust Fund, and 25% to the local Community Development Corporation (CDC).