

# General Synod Statement on Indirect Methods of Raising Money for Church Purposes

## **POLICY ON GAMBLING**

The Christian tradition of stewardship has always been the support of the Church's ministry by parishioners through sacrificial giving from their own resources. The ideal example would be the biblical tithe. Full Christian stewardship always involves the setting of priorities.

In the case of gambling, small "fun raffles or lotteries", where tickets are sold for small amounts to a member of one's own group, have never been regarded as evil. Even if they were so regarded it would be hard to stop them and, therefore, foolish to make rules about something which cannot be controlled. But, **LARGE RAFFLES AND LOTTERIES** where church members spend many hours selling tickets in malls and stores are unacceptable. People should not be required to do something which is peripheral to the Church's concern, and raises in people's hearts a hope which is contrary to the Christian idea of stewardship.

Sacrificial giving is what supports the Church. Although government has now legalized gambling, the Church cannot accept gambling as a major fund raising vehicle for the support of the Church. Therefore, the standard should be: small "in-house" raffles for "amusement" purposes are at the discretion of the local parish; and, raffles/lotteries that involve the wider community for support are discouraged.

Implementation of the above will be the responsibility of the rector and wardens in each parish. If difficulties arise, the Diocesan Bishop and Chancellor should be consulted for final decision.

The above statement was produced by the Primates Task Force on Gambling and approved by the Canadian House of Bishops. The matter was communicated to the 1991 General Synod via the Executive Council Report."

*Revised June 1996*