

DATE: October 14, 2017
COMMITTEE: Diocesan Council

Diocesan Policy on Raffles

Pursuant to Diocesan Synod 2017 (Session #147) every parish considering using games of chance as a way of fundraising must comply with the following principles:

Foundational to the above is the underlying motive for raffles and games of chance. A parish's motives in hosting raffles and games of chance must always be above suspicion – at the personal, institutional and community levels. Parishes must guard against dependency upon these types of events as a means of sustaining the ministry and mission of the church; they must diligently uphold and promote Christian teaching on stewardship (tithing, giving, etc.).

Raffles and games of chance (without cash prizes) conducted, hosted or operated by parishes should be organized to both exhibit and promote Christian fellowship.

With respect to promoting Christian community, parishes should have respectful discussion and discernment to ensure that raffles and/or games of chance are not, or do not become, a source of division and conflict in the parishes, between churches or parishioners. Respectful disagreement is not the same as division, so parishes should engage in this discussion prayerfully and carefully.

Parishes conducting raffles and/or games of chance, **MUST**, in the midst of conducting these events, make it clear, both by intention and in public perception, that this activity is related to the aim of making disciples for Jesus Christ.

The tenor of discussion from the floor of Synod was to make provision for donated, hand-made artisanal items (quilts, paintings, etc.) to be raffled so as to respect the gift and the giver. Without being restrictive, other types of donated tangible items, valued to a maximum of \$1000, may be raffled.

Temptation can happen both for persons and the organization. Raffles and games of chance must not pose a temptation to any with a gambling weakness. Parishes must absolutely resist the temptation to offer cash prizes, coupons or gift cards (to increase appeal, etc.) – the use of such items as prizes is prohibited! Also prohibited are 'alcohol only' prizes or prizes consisting primarily of alcohol.

Items valued in excess of \$1000 are excluded from being raffled. Gifts of items (like automobiles, houses, etc.) are beyond the bounds of this policy and may not to be raffled off. Gifts of property and other significant assets given to the parish or church will not be used as raffle prizes and must be dealt with in legally appropriate ways.

When tax receipts for raffle prizes are requested, they **MUST** be issued in compliance with Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) rules and regulations.

Keeping in mind that our goal is Christian unity and fellowship, raffles and games of chance must allow participation by everyone - that is, they should not be an occasion to disenfranchise a member of a congregation on the basis of his/her financial means.

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Parishes/congregations shall not conduct or host raffles (lotteries) or games of chance that do not comply with provincial regulations (including regulations with regard to cost of tickets) – applications **MUST** be completed and permission granted before any ticket sales occur.

www.novascotia.ca/sns/access/

Lotteries with prizes over \$500 (license required)

Lotteries with prizes under \$500 (permit required)

Games of Chance – Charitable (license required)

(merchandise prizes only)

Selling of raffle tickets outside of the church community (e.g., in shopping malls) will only honour these principles if adequate care and attention is given to displaying and promoting the mission and ministry of the church, supporting the growth and formation of faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.