



# National Indian Gaming Commission Newsletter

August 2006

Volume I, Number III

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### Chairman

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### Message from Chairman Hogen

Greetings from the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC). We have had a very busy summer and expect to continue working rapidly towards completion of several ongoing projects.

The NIGC recently announced the gross gaming revenues for 2005, which was \$22.63 billion. This is a steady increase in revenues over the previous year and we see continued growth for years to come. The number of facilities has also grown.

On May 25, 2006, the NIGC published proposed classification regulations in the Federal Register. We also invited Tribes to provide comments to the classification regulations and have engaged in a nationwide government-to-government consultation schedule to meet face to face with interested Tribes on these issues.

## Regional Data

Region I - AK, WA, OR,  
ID

## Total Gaming Revenues

1995 - \$388,378,000

2000 - \$860,866,000

2005 - \$1,829,195,000

## Number of Operations

1995 - 34

2000 - 46

2005 - 47

The NIGC has worked on these regulations for several years. In early 2003, we formed a Tribal Advisory Committee to provide guidance on the classification regulations and have published drafts of the proposals developed by the Committee. We have also been in discussion with the Department of Justice (DOJ) with respect to their prospective on the Johnson Act and how it interfaces with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. The DOJ has submitted their proposed changes to the Johnson Act to Capitol Hill with no further action to date. In the DOJ proposal, the NIGC would ultimately be responsible for determining what constitutes a Class II gaming machine.

To this point, many Tribes have provided helpful comments during consultations in Washington, DC; Bloomington, Minnesota; Tacoma, Washington; and Ontario California. The NIGC will be engaged in government-to-government consultations with interested Tribes in Oklahoma during the Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Oklahoma City on August 8-9, 2006. Additionally, the NIGC will conduct a public hearing in Washington DC, on September 19<sup>th</sup> to conclude this exercise and we hope to have a straight-forward set of regulations for the industry and Tribes to use as a guide when investing time and money into their Class II gaming operations.

Additionally, the NIGC will hold a plenary session at 10:00am on September 19, 2006, to listen to additional comments on the Class II issue. This plenary session will take place at the Department of the Interior Main Auditorium at 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC. During this session, several panels will appear before the Commission to provide additional comments.

We have extended the deadline for written comments on the proposed Class II regulations from August 23, 2006 to September 30, 2006.

The NIGC also recently published in the federal register proposed rules to develop technical standards for Class II games including bingo, lotto and other games similar to bingo, pull tabs or instant bingo that are played primarily through electronic means such as a computer or other technological aids. The comment period on these proposals ends September 30, 2006.

All related information is available on our website at [www.nigc.gov](http://www.nigc.gov)

## **National Indian Gaming Commission Announces Indian Gaming Revenue for 2005**

### **Region II - CA, S. NV**

The NIGC recently released 2005 gross gaming revenues for Indian gaming facilities. Nationwide revenues are \$22.63 billion, an increase of \$3.3 billion or 16 percent over 2004 gross gaming revenues.

### **Total Gaming Revenues**

**1995 - \$721,243,000**

**2000 - \$1,702,528,000**

**2005 - \$7,042,686,000**

"The public's confidence in well-regulated, attractive gaming opportunities offered by Tribal governments is reflected in the strong, steady growth which tribal gaming revenues continue to experience," Chairman Hogen stated. "Throughout Indian Country needs that would not otherwise be met by Tribal governments are now being funded by Tribal gaming revenues. Likewise, communities located near the over 400 Tribal gaming operations which generate this revenue share in this prosperity that was largely unknown prior to the enactment of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act," Hogen said.

### **Number of Operations**

**1995 - 26**

**2000 - 39**

**2005 - 57**

The \$22.63 billion figure is based on audited financial statements and fee worksheets received by the NIGC for the 2005 fiscal year. These numbers may be slightly adjusted as additional information is received.

To provide an example of how much this industry has grown, the NIGC has broken down the gaming revenues by the agency's six regions. Growth in Region II, which consists of California and northern Nevada, has been extremely rapid. Region II saw revenue numbers grow from \$721,243,000 in 1995, to \$1.2 billion in 2000 and \$7.2 billion in 2005. The number of gaming facilities located in Region II has also increased. In 1995 the region had 26 operations, in 2000 39, and in 2005, 57 operations.

Chairman Hogen noted "With continued steady growth in the Indian Gaming industry, additional scrutiny is inevitable. Continuing the current oversight and regulatory makeup is vital for the continued success of Indian gaming."

In addition to regional information, the NIGC has provided a historical comparison between facilities based on gaming revenue. Prior year numbers have been adjusted to reflect audit reports received subsequent to June 30 of the reporting year. Attached are a set of comprehensive charts providing this data and a bar graph illustrating the growth in Indian gaming dating back to 1995.

Region III - S. NV, AZ,  
NM, CO

Total Gaming Revenues

1995 - \$649,895,000

2000 - \$1,508,210,000

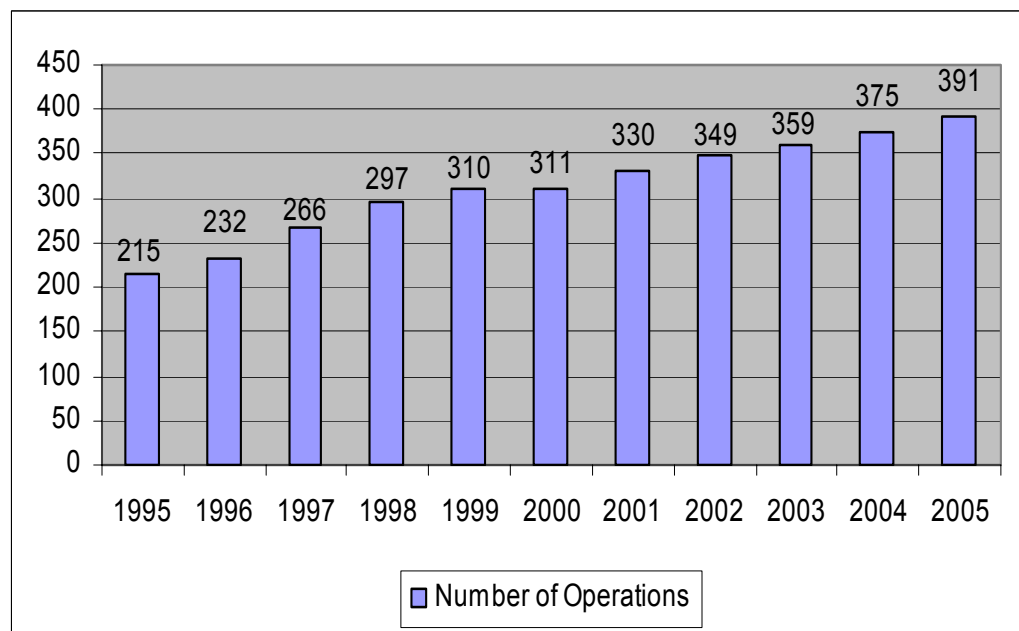
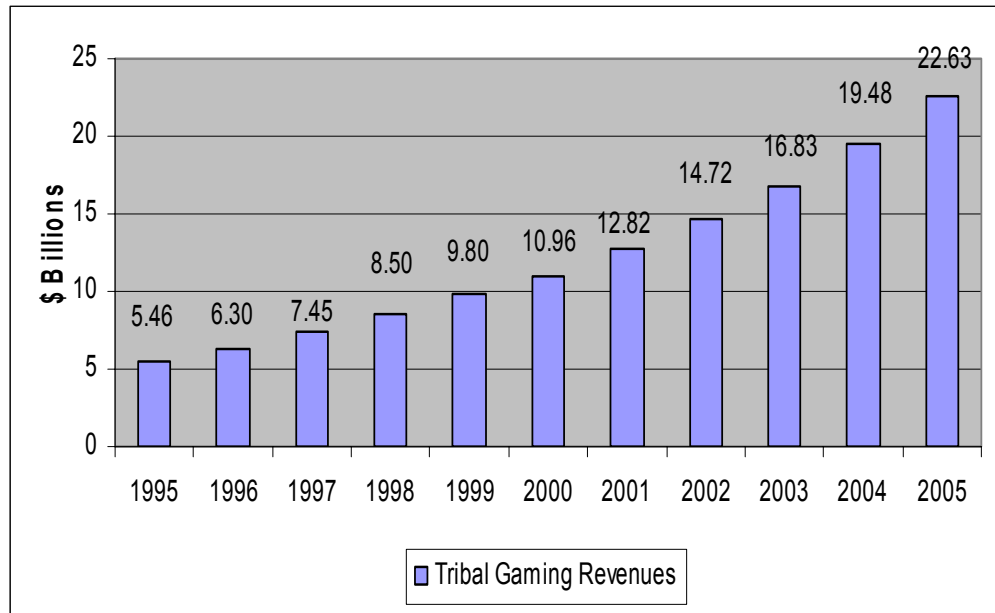
2005 - \$2,529,128,000

Number of Operations

1995 - 28

2000 - 35

2005 - 48



Region IV - MT, WY,  
ND, SD, NE, MN, IA, WI,  
MI

Total Gaming Revenues

1995 - \$1,931,568,000

2000 - \$3,137,489,000

2005 - \$3,984,449,000

Number of Operations

1995 - 74

2000 - 111

2005 - 118



### **NIGC Employee Profile**

**Rayanne Morris:** Senior Field Investigator

**Duties:** I am assigned to the Enforcement Division. Some of my duties include monitoring Indian gaming operations to ensure compliance with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, NIGC regulations and the provisions of Tribal gaming ordinances. Also, I am the NIGC's representative with tribal governments regarding gaming matters. As such, I provide training and assistance to tribal governments, Tribal gaming agencies, and gaming operation personnel.

**Background:** I am a Lummi Tribal member and the youngest of six children. I was born and raised in Bellingham, Washington. I lived in Bellingham my entire life until I was hired by the NIGC in June 1999 and moved to Portland, Oregon. I moved back home to the Bellingham area in July 2004.

**Employment History:** I obtained my first gaming experience in 1990 when I was the first employee hired at the Lummi Casino, as the Executive Secretary. Later, I held various positions such as Customer Service Manager, Purchasing Agent, and Auditor. I then left the gaming operation to work as Administrator for the Lummi Indian Gaming Commission in which I was responsible for oversight of the Surveillance Department and performed various other management functions. In 1996, I left the Lummi Indian Gaming Commission to pursue a career in Law Enforcement with the Lummi Police. I was a Police Officer until I began my employment with the NIGC in June 1999.

Region V - KS, OK, TX

Total Gaming Revenues

1995 - \$96,764,000

2000 - \$398,764,000

2005 - \$1,729,981,000

Number of Operations

1995 - 34

2000 - 60

2005 - 93

**Education:** Bellingham High School.

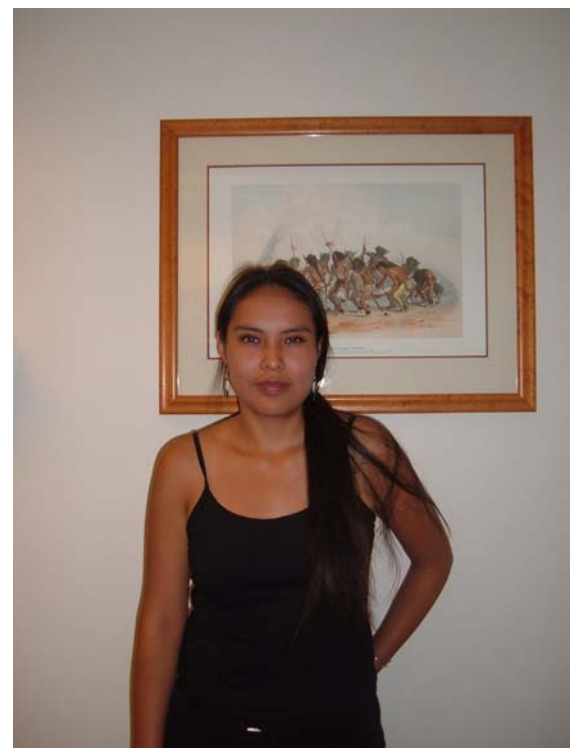
**Interests:** Spending time with my family and having summer barbeques. Since moving back home, I have become fascinated with watching and taking pictures of the local bald eagles that sit in the tree next to my house.

"It's very gratifying to work with so many different tribal governments, tribal gaming agencies, and gaming operations. I am grateful for the opportunity to have met and worked with a lot of great people and I look forward to continuing to do so in Bellingham. It's even better now that I am back home"

### **Washington Internship for Native Students (WINS)**

During the summer of 2006 the NIGC hosted three interns from the WINS program, which has provides important opportunities for students in the Nations Capitol. Founded in 1994, WINS allows college students who are members of sovereign American Indian and Alaska Native nations to build leadership and professional skills and advance their academic careers while living, studying, and interning in Washington, DC.

Elerina Yazzie interned with the NIGC Office of General Counsel. She is a 22 year old Navajo from Thoreau, New Mexico. Her clans are Kinyaa'nii which means the Towering House Clan born for the Tódich'iinii which means Bitter Water Clan. Her grandparents are the Lók'aa Dine'e which means the Reed People and the Tó'aheedliinii which means the Water Flows People. Elerina is a recent graduate of Haskell Nations University of Kansas and plans to begin graduate school at the University of Kansas in the fall 2006 to pursue an advanced degree in Indigenous Studies. Elerina enjoys attending tribal ceremonies, powwows and listening to tribal elders.





Region VI - NY, CT, NC,  
FL, AL, MS, LA

Total Gaming Revenues

1995 - \$1,667,179,000

2000 - \$3,350,833,000

2005 - \$5,514,136,000

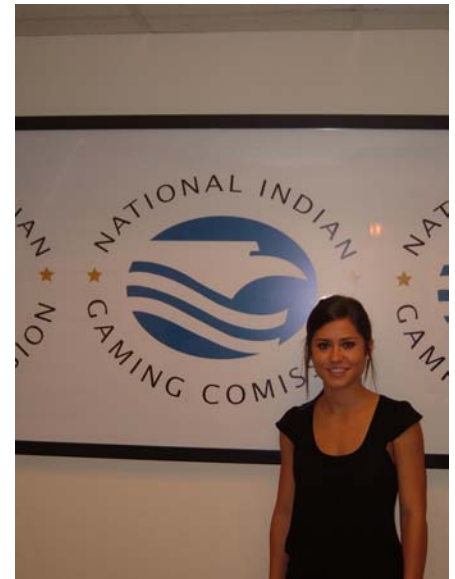
Number of Operations

1995 - 19

2000 - 20

2005 - 28

Aubrey Henry interned with the NIGC Chief of Staff. She is a 20 year old member of the Cherokee Tribe of Oklahoma from Gore, Oklahoma. Aubrey is currently studying elementary education at Oklahoma State University and will receive her diploma in 2008. Aubrey enjoys playing golf, basketball, softball and mountain climbing when she is not in class or at the library.



Kevin Kincheloe interned with the NIGC Chief of Staff. He is a 22 year old member of the Chickasaw Tribe of Oklahoma from Durant, Oklahoma. Kevin will receive his bachelor's degree in General Business with a minor in Political Science from Southeastern State University in Durant, Oklahoma this fall. Kevin plans on returning to Washington, DC in early 2007 to begin working on Capitol Hill. Kevin enjoys fishing in nearby lakes, traveling and rooting for the University of Oklahoma and the San Francisco 49ers football teams.



#### NIGC GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS

Since 2006, the NIGC has consulted with well over 300 Tribes on a broad range of issues including proposed Class II regulations. Below are photos from recent government to government consultations on proposed Class II regulations.

# NIGC Tribal Consultations



Ontario, CA, July 2006



Ontario, CA, July 2006



Ontario, CA, July 2006



Washington, DC, July 2006



Washington, DC, July 2006



Bloomington, MN, July 2006



Bloomington, MN, July 2006



Bloomington, MN, July 2006



Tacoma, WA, July 2006



Tacoma, WA, July 2006



Tacoma, WA, July 2006





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