

Richmond RCMP Detachment has become involved in a working group with Great Canadian Casino (River Rock), RCMP Integrated Illegal Gaming Enforcement Team and British Columbia Lottery Corporation to target loan sharks and other organized criminal activity related to gambling (fraud, extortion, kidnapping, homicide).

This group will liaise and evaluate information and intelligence on persons frequenting the River Rock Casino for the purpose of conducting their criminal enterprises. This will allow all Partners to become increasingly proactive. At the same time, the RCMP will continue to target illegal gaming occurring within the City of Richmond.(illegal gaming houses – booze cans)

Recently, three high profile investigations, involving kidnapping, extortion, and missing persons have come to the RCMP's attention with direct or indirect links to gambling or loan sharking. These investigations have heavily taxed RCMP Lower Mainland and Richmond Detachment resources.

It is important to understand that it is a small group of persons involved in loan sharking and their activities often involve “willing” victims. Very few victims report these crimes to Police. The vast majority of the thousands of customers attending legitimate casinos are in no way likely to become victimized by these criminal groups – they are not in danger.

It is believed that our close working relationship with River Rock Casino, Integrated Illegal Gaming Enforcement Team and the BC Lottery Corporation will have a preventative effect on these crimes by sending the message that such criminal activity will not be tolerated in Richmond.

Additional Information

2006 to date there have been five kidnappings in Richmond. Three of which involved possible extortions involving gaming.

We have a current investigation regarding missing Vancouver woman Rong Lilly Li that also includes direct links to loan sharking.

In 2005 there were eleven kidnappings, two cases of which were involved extortions involving gaming.

Since 2005, there have been two suicides related to gambling debts and/or money owed to loan sharks.