

## Manitoba Addictions Awareness Week

### JUST IMAGINE.....IF I HAD A MILLION DOLLARS

Gambling - Activity 3

#### **PART TWO:** What problems money can and cannot solve.

Ask your students to imagine that their parents have just won the lottery! The grand prize is \$1,000,000. What will your family do with all that money? Will your parents quit work? Buy a new house? Buy a new car? What changes might happen to you? New clothes? Vacations? Lots of people fantasize about winning the lottery; believing that if they won millions it would solve their problems, but is this really true?

**Method:** ✓ In small groups, ask your students to discuss the following statements. Provide each group with a piece of chart paper and a marker. Have them select a recorder who will record the discussion in point form. Have each small group display and report its findings.

- ♣1. Problems that would disappear if I won a million dollars.
- ♦2. Problems that wouldn't disappear, no matter how much money I had (e.g. individual, family, school, neighbourhood issues).
- ♥3. Problems that could get worse if I won a million dollars.
- ♠4. New problems that could develop if I won a million dollars.

#### BACKGROUND INFO

##### Check Out The Odds:

✓	Of being killed in a car crash this year	1 in 7,893
	Of being electrocuted this year	1 in 42,852
	Of being killed by someone's dog	1 in 700,000
	Of dying from flesh eating disease	1 in 1 million
	Of dying in a bathtub this year	1 in 1 million
	Of <u>winning a major lottery like Lotto 6-49</u>	<u>1 in 14 million</u>

Sources: Nova Scotia, 1992 Mortality Stats, and B. Evenson, Ottawa Citizen, 1995.

#### Some Comments on Problems:

- ✓ **Problems that might disappear if I won a million dollars:** ☺ May not have to go to school (home tutor), new house, car, vacations. ☺ May have more freedom and choice about present and future options. ☺ May have more time on your hands as you may not have to get a part-time job in the future or spend as much time studying.
- ✓ **Problems that wouldn't disappear, no matter how much money I had:** ☹ Personal issues like uncomfortable feelings, feeling anxious, not feeling like you fit in may not change. ☹ Family problems like conflict, abuse, addiction problems or lack of closeness may not change. ☹ Disagreements with friends. ☹ Your changed financial position may not make any difference to the social problems that affect you or bother you.
- ✓ **Problems that could get worse if I won a million dollars:** ☹ Relationships with family and friends, if they want to borrow money. ☹ Greed and jealousy sometimes surface in close relationships when money, and especially large sums, is involved. ☹ How would you know if people liked you or your money? ☹ If you wanted to keep going to your old school or living in your old neighbourhood, how would your friends or teachers or neighbours treat you or feel about you?
- ✓ **New problems that could develop if I won a million dollars:** ? How to make new friends [trust and suspicion about their motives might arise]. ? How to stay motivated to have a useful life if you're not working or going to school - most people need a sense of purpose in their lives. ? How to fill the time now available because you don't have to earn an allowance or help with jobs around the house, etc.

[Adapted with permission from "Drawing the Line: A Resource for the Prevention of Problem Gambling, Volume 1 Junior High", Province of Nova Scotia, Problem Gambling Services, Nova Scotia Department of Health, 1998]