

## NIAGARA CASINOS

---



March 11, 2021

Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

Attention: Ms. Iqra Khalid, M.P., Committee Chair

Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of the employees of Mohegan Gaming and Entertainment (MGE) at Fallsview Casino and Casino Niagara, I am pleased to write to you today to offer our company's full support for the passage of Bill C-218, An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Sports Betting).

Amending the criminal code to legalize single-event sports wagering will provide operators like ourselves with the necessary, and long overdue, ability to deliver sports wagering experiences safely and legally. This Act will also serve as a critical first step in ensuring a strong economic recovery for the Niagara Falls region following the COVID-19 pandemic.

As with many cities and towns across Canada, COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on Niagara Falls. While it is essential that we limit the spread of COVID-19, we must acknowledge that approximately 40,000 local jobs rely on the tourism sector and due to ongoing public health restrictions, thousands of families across the Niagara region are unemployed. While we do not yet know what the lasting impacts of COVID-19 will be on our community, we do know that our facilities help draw tourism to the region that in-turn supports hundreds of other businesses. Simply put, our re-opening will kick-start Niagara's economic recovery and the passage of Bill C-218 will provide us with the tools we need to be successful.

While it is estimated that legalized sports betting will bring in tens of millions of dollars and add hundreds of new jobs to the local Niagara economy, the consequences of inaction are much higher. The explosion of legalized sports betting along the Canadian – United States (U.S.) border has changed everything, and now constitutes an existential threat to Niagara's ability to compete. Prior to New York and Michigan legalizing sports betting, Canadians would either travel to Las Vegas or bet in an unregulated grey market. However, now individuals can easily walk from Casino Niagara to Seneca Casino in Niagara Falls, New York, which offers their customers a full sports betting experience – and as the U.S. economy begins to reopen, we know we will lose Canadian customers if we cannot offer the same experience on this side of the border.

---

### Fallsview Casino Resort

6380 Fallsview Blvd. • PO BOX 300 • Niagara Falls, Ontario • CANADA • L2G 7X5 • 1.888.325.5788 •  
[www.fallsviewcasinoresort.com](http://www.fallsviewcasinoresort.com)

Additionally, and as the committee is aware, millions of Canadians wager illegal bets everyday on offshore sites. These sites offer Canadians no consumer safeguards or responsible gambling supports, and without the passage of C-218, there is little we can do to stop Canadian's from placing their single-event sports wagering elsewhere. By passing C-218 provincial regulators will be able to develop effective standards for all operators to comply with, helping create a level playing-field for Canadian operators and ensuring Canadian consumers are protected.

MGE is encouraged that support for C-218 amongst critical stakeholders stands in stark contrast to support for previous legislation attempts on this very issue. C-218 has the support of every provincial government in Canada, as well as the support of the commissioners of the five professional sports leagues operating in Canada all of whom have sent a joint statement to the federal government urging them to allow single-event sports betting. Those include: the NBA, NHL, MLB, MLS and the CFL all of whom support C-218. This strong support from a diverse group of stakeholders, in addition to the economic and consumer benefits of C-218 that we have outlined, clearly demonstrate that the time to legalize single event sports wagering in Canada is now.

We strongly support the passage of C-218, and we thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Taylor', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard Taylor  
President, Niagara Casinos

---

**Fallsview Casino Resort**

6380 Fallsview Blvd. • PO BOX 300 • Niagara Falls, Ontario • CANADA • L2G 7X5 • 1.888.325.5788 •  
[www.fallsviewcasinoresort.com](http://www.fallsviewcasinoresort.com)