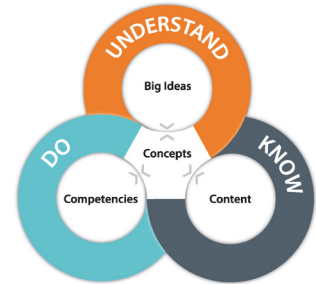


### I want to be rich

*"If I am what I have and if I lose what I have who then am I?"*

~ Erich Fromm



When people think about gambling, they often think about casinos. However, the most popular gambling activity in Canada is playing the lottery. People play lotteries for many different reasons: to strike it rich, for fun, for the thrill or simply out of habit.

A 2019 poll in the US even found that one-in-four millennial retirement plans are based on winning the lottery!

This lesson plan uses two activities to engage students in different topics related to gambling. The goal is to get students to think about the reasons why people choose to gamble as well as to examine the concepts of chance, wealth, greed and how our pursuit of money and wealth can impact us and others. The lesson also encourages students to think about the potential risks and benefits of gambling.

### Instructional strategies

1. Invite the students to watch this [video](#) where people talk about what they would do if they won the \$600 million dollar jackpot from that week's lottery. Then facilitate a class discussion using the questions below:
  - a. The folks in the video talk about what they would do with lottery winnings. Were you surprised by any of their answers? Were you expecting other responses? Explain.
  - b. Why do you think people participate in lotteries or any other kind of gambling? What might be some of their motivations? (Hint: Think of different reasons why people might choose to gamble.)
  - c. Some people spend time dreaming about winning the lottery. What do think about that? How might it be helpful? How might it be harmful?
2. Invite students to read the [I Want to Be Rich handout](#) at the end of this document. Then facilitate a class discussion using the questions below.
  - a. Should wealth be our goal? Why or why not?
  - b. What does wealth mean to you?
  - c. What is the difference, if any, between an early cave dweller and a modern CEO?
  - d. Most people realize that being wealthy can have a positive impact on their life. Can the pursuit of affluence/wealth ever have negative impacts or lead to conflict? If so, how? Explain.



- e. According to a Yiddish proverb, “The truly rich are those who enjoy what they have.” What are your thoughts on this quote? Do you think you are rich in this sense?

## Gambling literacy

### Big ideas

- ✓ Gambling can be a fun recreational activity but can also lead to significant harm
- ✓ As humans, both individually and as communities, we need to learn how to manage gambling in our midst
- ✓ We can learn how to control gambling by examining the different ways people have thought about it, engaging in critical self-reflection and listening to each other

### Competencies

- ✓ Assess the complex ways in which gambling is linked to human culture and impacts the health and wellbeing of individuals, families, communities and societies
- ✓ Assess the ways in which material goods are distributed in society, how those goods are valued and how this is related to gambling policies and behaviours

For a complete look at the gambling literacy competencies, as defined by the Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research, see: <https://www.uvic.ca/research/centres/cisur/assets/docs/iminds/hs-gambling-curriculum.pdf>

## Links to curriculum

### First Peoples’ principles of learning

#### Big ideas

- ✓ Learning ultimately supports the well-being of the self, the family, the community, the land, the spirits, and the ancestors
- ✓ Learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential, and relational (focused on connectedness, on reciprocal relationships, and a sense of place)

### Social Studies 6

#### Big ideas

- ✓ Economic self-interest can be a significant cause of conflict among peoples and governments

#### Competencies

- ✓ Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to — ask questions; gather, interpret, and analyze ideas; and communicate findings and decisions
- ✓ Differentiate between short- and long-term causes, and intended and unintended consequences, of events, decisions, or developments

This resource was developed by the **Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research** with funding provided by the **BC Responsible & Problem Gambling Program**. Any views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the BC Responsible & Problem Gambling Program or the Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research.



A few people win the jackpot and become rich. Maybe we all fantasize about finding a trick to get rich. They say that you only have to hit the big one once and you get the chance of living your dream. But the odds of winning big are so far-fetched that you have a much higher chance of losing everything.

So can you get rich quick from gambling? Yes, it is possible. But should you try?

As human beings, we have the desire to have more. Our biological urge to survive leads us to want to accumulate things. Collecting, storing food and sometimes refusing to share it was common for early cave dwellers – as this made it more likely that they would survive until Spring.

Then, we invented economic and social systems that actually promote the desire for possessions and encourage greedy behaviour. Our modern, capitalist society somehow pushes people towards having more, buying more, and consuming more at both individual and societal levels. The more people have— whether it's money, work, beauty, grades, degrees, and so on—the more they feel alive. *I am because I have!*

But there is more to being human than wealth and consumption. Human beings are also social in nature. They have the deep desire to be active, to be connected to others, to escape the prison of selfishness, and to be more. We can experience the being mode by giving up on our havings. Fromm says, "The only truly affluent are those who *do not want more than they have.*" It is true that in order to live we must have things, and it is important to keep money in perspective. But it is also important to question the value of money and the meaning of wealth in our life, to think about the value of other things in life, to see if we can define wealth or being rich in a form different than money, and ask ourselves, "what sense does it make to have more than we can actually use?"