

# The Ontario Horse Racing Industry

With 80% of the industry's expenditures occurring in rural communities, it is imperative that the industry's 20% share of the slot revenues be maintained. This will ensure the industry's viability and economic spin-offs in both the rural & municipal economies.

## Horse Racing and Government Working Together



- Over the last decade, horse racing and breeding continued to be a significant agricultural industry operating at a high level of efficiency in the creation of jobs per dollar of expenditure while providing very large returns to all levels of government.

- All three levels of government realize substantial revenues from horse racing and breeding industry expenditures. This revenue has increased by 27% in the last decade.

Federal Revenue:	\$382.7 million
Provincial Revenue:	\$261 million (exclusive of slot machine profits)
Local governments:	\$138 million (paid to host municipalities where slots are located)

## Horse Racing Creates Jobs in Ontario and Preserves Farmland



- The Slots at Racetracks Program has proven to be a winning venture for both the Ontario government and the horse racing industry by allowing the industry to maintain jobs while providing a solid base in the rural agricultural economy.

- Horse racing is a labour intensive industry. Horses require thousands of acres of land and many workers to care for, train and groom the animals in addition to maintaining the farm. Each horse arriving at the track has already required an approximate investment of 3 to 4 years of time and resources.

- An estimated 60,000 jobs per year are attributed to the horse racing and breeding industry.

- A total \$1.5 billion in wages and salaries in Ontario are sustained annually by total expenditures of the Ontario horse racing and breeding industry. This total is 50% larger than the \$1 billion in 2000.

- The effective average direct wage is \$47,145 (racetrack operations) and \$55,035 at the racing phase (backstretches and farms). These wages are not much different from some of the highest industrial wages in Ontario and compares closely to the Tourism industry at \$55,000.

## Horse Racing is an Economic Driver for Rural Ontario



- The horse racing and breeding industry has a solid base in the rural agricultural economy, but also augments and diversifies the tourism entertainment and export economic base in Ontario.

- The horse racing and breeding industry is the second largest sub-sector of the agricultural economy, exceeding the contributions of wheat, eggs, poultry and hogs in 2010.

- Direct and indirect investment stimulates local economies with demand for products and services in rural Ontario provided by veterinarians, blacksmiths, hay and grain supplies, transportation workers and harness and saddle makers.

- Recurring annual expenditure increased by 67% to \$2 billion in 2010 from \$1.2 billion in 2000.

- The annual expenses for an active thoroughbred race horse is more than \$63,000 and for a standardbred is more than \$59,000. For every single horse at the track, there are 3 on a farm.

*Information from The Economic Impacts of Horse Racing and Breeding in Ontario, 2010 by Econometric Research Limited, completed in November 2011*



**OHRIA**

The Ontario Horse Racing Industry Association P.O. Box 456, Stn. B, Toronto, Ontario M9W 5L4  
416-679-0741 • ohria@ohria.com • www.ohria.com