

**ONTARIO AND RAMA FIRST NATION SIGN NEW AGREEMENT***McGuinty Government Promotes Economic Development and Job Creation***NEWS**

January 26, 2010

The Ontario government has approved a new agreement between the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) and Chippewas of Mnjikaning First Nation (Rama) to ensure the continued operation of Casino Rama in Rama First Nation.

Casino Rama has been a significant source of revenue for the province and First Nations. With more than 500 Aboriginal employees, Casino Rama is also the largest single-site employer of Aboriginal peoples in Canada.

The 20-year agreement, with additional 10 and 5 year options, which takes effect August 1, 2011, provides additional financial benefits for Rama First Nation, including one-time funding of \$2.3 million for a new training and development centre.

By approving the deal, the McGuinty government is protecting more than 3,000 jobs and promoting economic growth for the Township of Ramara and City of Orillia, as well as surrounding areas.

**QUOTES**

"The agreement between OLG and Rama First Nation will have a significant economic impact on the local economy and the province of Ontario. This partnership has already resulted in positive outcomes for the Rama First Nation. The new agreement will provide jobs, a new training and development centre and future economic opportunities."

-Chris Bentley, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

"We are very pleased that this exciting new agreement represents a renewal of Rama First Nation's relationship with Ontario. The community members of Rama First Nation had an exceptional vision for the community's future. Chief and Council and Ontario have worked hard to further the community's vision with this Agreement. Together we will continue to build a strong, healthy future."

- Chief Sharon Stinson Henry

**QUICK FACTS**

- The agreement complements the historic \$3 billion Gaming Revenue Sharing and Financial Agreement signed by the McGuinty government and the Chiefs of Ontario in February 2008, which provides a stable revenue source to First Nations to invest in education, health, economic, community and cultural development.
- Provincial revenue from resort casinos, estimated to be \$162 million in 2009-2010, is used to support key government priorities, including health care, education and infrastructure development.

- OLG will continue to be responsible for overseeing the management and operations at Casino Rama. The Rama First Nation assumes the role of commercial landlord for the Casino Rama site, and continues to receive lease payments and a share of casino revenue.

#### **LEARN MORE**

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