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SERIOUS & UNREPORTED CRIME AT THE CASINOS

(Adapted from a report by Cst. David AU of Richmond CIS)

Prior to the establishment of the RIVER ROCK CASINO, a handful of "loan sharks" operated at the GREAT CANADIAN CASINO. Over the years Richmond RCMP conducted several criminal investigations originating from these individuals surrounding allegations of threats, extortion, and assaults. Crime statistics for the casino were inaccurate due to the lack of "reports" being filed at the Richmond RCMP. "Loan sharking" was usually a victim-initiated event that if resulted in criminal activity, would more than likely NOT be reported to the police.

With the advent of the RIVER ROCK CASINO, the casino-related criminal activity grew considerably. The dynamics of the RIVER ROCK CASINO allowed for money laundering schemes not only for local crime groups, but also for groups operating in Washington State. With an increase in venue size, there was an increase of patrons, which resulted in a bigger pool for loan sharks to target. Due to its size and popularity, the RIVER ROCK has attracted members of different crime groups that are not established in Richmond.

The criminal activities that existed at the old GREAT CANADIAN CASINO still exist at RIVER ROCK. And, like the old GREAT CANADIAN CASINO, many criminal activities that result in victimization go unreported. The RIVER ROCK has inadvertently created an environment that allows the criminal activity of loan sharking and its related criminal acts to now flourish behind the curtain of a "family oriented entertainment experience". In other words, as long as these activities remain low key and not in the public's eyes - and the flow of money remains unhindered - it is not considered a problem and, therefore, a remedy is not actively sought.