

**WITNESS STATEMENT OF  
NEBOJSA KALAJDZIC**

My name is Nebojsa Kalajdzic. I moved to Canada five years ago from Yugoslavia where I was born.

I am making this statement voluntarily. I realize that I may lose my job as a consequence of making this statement.

I currently work as a security guard for Great Canadian Casinos at the Coquitlam location. I have also worked at the Vancouver and Richmond locations of Great Canadian. I have been employed as a security guard by Great Canadian for the past three years.

My duties as a security and surveillance guard include watching customers, dealers and tables on the floor of the casino for any cheating or illegal activity and watching customers, dealers and tables on surveillance cameras in the surveillance booth for any cheating or illegal activity.

When I refer to loan sharking I mean situations where a person loans another person cash or casino chips in or around the casino and charges the person who borrowed the cash or casino chips high interest. It is well known among the employees of Great Canadian who work at the casinos that loan sharking in and around the casinos is widespread and that it is tolerated by management. Many loan sharks who come to the casinos are personally known to employees and casino management of Great Canadian. Typically loan sharks work around the black jack and baccarat tables. It is common to see many known loan sharks congregate around these

tables. There have been occasions when I have observed as many loan sharks as players at tables.

Great Canadian Casinos has policies with respect to loan sharking and other suspicious activity that is detected in the casinos. If I witness loan sharking activity while working on the casino floor I am to inform the surveillance booth so the incident can be video recorded. After informing the surveillance booth it is up to the gaming manager to determine how to proceed. Each of the casinos keep a book of suspicious activities and events with photographs of the people involved in these activities, including loan sharking. This information is shared between casinos and sometimes results in certain individuals being denied entrance.

However, in practice, these policies are not routinely followed with respect to loan sharking and the activity is well known and widely tolerated by Great Canadian staff and management.

For example around August 2004, at the Richmond casino, I witnessed an incident that occurred in the VIP Room. I was in the surveillance booth and the Surveillance Manager, Chris Brailey came into the surveillance booth and asked that the camera record what was happening in the VIP room. I saw a known loan shark and a customer engaged in an argument. I was told that the loan shark had grabbed the customer's purse containing her identification and was refusing to give it back unless she paid him \$9,000.00 to cover a loan made to her. The loan shark left the casino with the purse. I was told by the Shift Manager, Christopher Strongman, that I was not to get involved and that the issue should be resolved between the parties.



In another incident that occurred in March 2002, I was a member of a group of five to seven other security employees of Great Canadian Casinos who are assigned to evict loan sharks from the casinos in Vancouver and Richmond. We were told that loan sharking in the casinos had grown to the extent that it was interfering with customers and that steps had to be taken to bring it under control. Our group first went to the casino in Vancouver where a senior security employee, Milan Bajic approached the loan sharks individually and asked them to leave. For the most part they did. However, within a matter of days, the same loan sharks were back in the Vancouver casino. When we arrived at the Richmond casino and informed the casino manager Nora Thomas what we were intending to do we were told to ignore certain known loan sharks who were in the casino and only to evict others, who were less active. Again, I am aware that some of the loan sharks who were asked to leave returned to the Richmond casino within a matter of days.

I have been told by my supervisor, Milan Bajic, and others at Great Canadian to "look the other way" when I see loan sharking activity take place. I also know that some staff members and supervisors at Great Canadian Casinos assist loan sharks by telling them which customers have been losing and how much they lost. Loan sharking increases the revenues generated at the tables because it encourages and facilitates customers to keep gambling when they have been losing. In my experience, loan sharking at the Great Canadian Casinos where I have worked at is prevalent, known to management and widely tolerated. When steps have been taken to control loan sharking activity, such as evicting known loan sharks from the casinos, they

have only been taken when the level of activity has gotten out of hand and then only to the extent needed to bring a level of activity back to that which is tolerated.

DATED:

Sept 24/04

Kalajdzic Nebojsa  
Nebojsa Kalajdzic

Witness

Don Casey