

Get The FACTS

Electronic Gaming Devices

Make Your CHOICE



Get the facts on Electronic Gaming Devices

Some people call them slots. Others call them VLTs. In Australia, they're called pokies. Here, we call them Electronic Gaming Devices (EGDs). But by any name, people enjoy their lights and sounds and the thrill of an occasional win.

And like all games of chance, EGDs are designed for entertainment, and to generate revenue for the house – in this case, the Charlottetown Driving Park Entertainment Centre (CDPEC). All profit from the CDPEC goes back to the province of PEI and is used to fund essential programs and services.

All in fun

Playing EGDs can be a fun way to spend a little time, especially during an outing with friends. The machines are designed for entertainment with the possibility of winning some money. Even if you're lucky enough to win a little bit, in the long term, it's virtually impossible to make money or "come out ahead" while playing these machines. Like all games of chance for money, the odds are always in the house's favour.

Understanding the payout

By regulation in Prince Edward Island, EGDs are required to payout a minimum of 80 percent. EGD games offered at the CDPEC pay out between 90-96 percent. The payout rates for each game are always the same.

If you play a game with a 92 percent payout rate on Monday, the payout rate will be the same on Saturday and on all spins for that game in between. The amount of money that is paid out to players is called the "player return". This does not mean that the EGDs will pay back 92 cents on every dollar played. Rather, it means that the EGD will return 92 percent of all money inserted over the course of time through various levels of prizes. The remaining

8 percent is kept by the CDPEC, again as an average over time. All profits are returned to PEI to support important programs and services.

Just as is the case with any lottery game, there are a few big prizes, many smaller prizes and even more non-winning plays.

Here's how they work

The machines are games of chance, set to hit winning combinations entirely at random. That means you could have three wins in a row or one hundred losses in a row, or anything in between on any given play session.

Machines don't get "hot" or "cold". Your chances of winning on an EGD that hasn't paid out for a while are exactly the same as winning on a machine that just had a big win.

There are no playing methods or patterns that can have any effect on the outcome of a play. Sometimes, players will perform a series of actions they believe will result in a win. If they do win, they become convinced that it was the series of actions that produced the win. In reality it was simply coincidence.

Each machine is programmed to generate numbers entirely at random.

Know your chances

The odds of winning the top prize are different for each game. Obviously, your chances of winning a small prize are much better than winning a large prize. It's important to keep in mind that there's nothing you can do to improve your odds. Outside factors do not have any bearing on the outcome of any play, game or payout.

*Here are a few examples of things that will have **no effect** on your ability to win:*

- If you play a machine right after someone else had a big payout from it
- If you play a machine that hasn't had a big payout for a long time
- If you play at certain times of the day or night
- If you play on certain days of the week
- If you press a button in a certain way

Like the "return to player" or payout rate, the odds of winning cannot be changed or manipulated, no matter how you play.

So many options

Part of the fun is getting to choose from 225 EGDs that offer up to 60 different games with a number of betting options. You can choose to play games that pay up to \$100,000.

We want you to play for fun and enjoy your time at the CDPEC. Research shows that players who know how to keep it fun often set and stick to a budget while playing EGDs. Decide how much you want to spend before you start to play and wrap things up when you've reached your limit. Choose a game with the right bet level for you. By selecting lower bet levels, you can spend more time having fun and enjoy as much value for your dollar as spending larger amounts or taking bigger risks.

Make Your CHOICE

If you choose to play EGDs, we hope they provide you with the entertainment experience you were expecting. But we'd like to remind you that for some people, it is easy to lose track of time and money spent while playing the games. Remember, the games are for fun, not a way to make money. Get the facts, make your choice and use these tips to help you play responsibly.

- Set a budget and stick to it
- Take frequent breaks – take a walk, have a bite to eat
- Don't chase losses
- When you've spent your budget, wrap it up
- Know when it's time to walk away

For more interesting gaming facts, pick up one of the other brochures in this series or visit our Gaming Information Centre, located adjacent to the gaming floor.