



## Ontario Horse Racing in 2011

### We are working towards:

- Greater accountability and a commitment to live racing
- Racing under more fair and competitive race conditions
- Improving racing opportunities

### Questions & Answers

*Here are answers to some questions posed by horse people.*

#### 1. Why were these changes made at all?

Changes were needed in Ontario horse racing. The status quo / 'the usual way of doing things' was not working. That's why over a year ago, the ORC asked the racing community for new ideas, concepts and feedback. These changes represent a true commitment to live horse racing. It gets racing back on track, being customer-focused, and aligning horse supply with that customer demand.

#### 2. Why was there only 7 days to comment on these materials?

In fact, what you see in these decisions started over one year ago. Representatives of all four standardbred horse people's associations plus four racetrack operators were part of a Working Group and took part in discussions. Over the course of that year, the consultation and feedback was heard in approximately twenty five (25) different working sessions. A "framework for live racing" was created from these discussions, and in October of this year, ORC issued a comprehensive newsletter devoted entirely to the new race dates framework. As well, throughout the year-long consultation, the ORC issued regular updates of the ideas and concepts and invited comments from the public.

Do YOU  
have a question?

Please send to

[inquiry@ontarioracingcommission.ca](mailto:inquiry@ontarioracingcommission.ca)

with the subject line of the email as  
"Ontario Racing Question"

Or fax to: 416 213- 7827

#### 3. Why does there need to be a drop in race days? How will I be able to make a living?

Overall, there will be no less purse money distributed within the program than is the case today. These changes mean there will be improved 'racing opportunities' as the program evolves. You will be able to race your horses under more fair and competitive race conditions. As well, we are considering giving preference to Canadian-based horses. Do you have ideas?

#### 4. Who is going to be held accountable for the success of racing?

Horse racing in Ontario receives the benefit of public money. With that comes a responsibility for achieving standards of accountability for all in racing -- racetracks, horsepeople and breeders. For example, there will be standards and measures established for such things as re-investment in track property.

#### 5. Why does this need to happen so fast?

There was a clear message received from the racing community at the start of the process: changes were needed. Within this framework, some will happen immediately, other changes and enhancements to racing will be introduced on a phased-in basis. That will give people in racing ample time to adjust and take advantage of these improvements. Remember this is just the first step in the continuing process of consultation and collaboration with the racing industry. The open communication will also continue.

#### 6. Will we lose our purse money? Will it move to other tracks? How will it be re-distributed?

Overall, there will be no less purse money distributed within the program than is the case today. The purpose is to create a purse management system which serves the best interests of racing, and allows for more balanced, competitive racing conditions. Under consideration for 2011 is a possible redistribution of purse money only within existing corporate entities. For example: Great Canadian (Georgian Downs, Flamboro) and Winrac /Windsor Raceway Inc. (Windsor Raceway, Dresden, Woodstock).