



October 5, 2011

## Ontario Racing Program

### ***Facts ON Track***

#### **Ontario handling horse supply issues well**

*The Ontario Racing Program is a direct outcome of the racing community's demand that changes were needed in Ontario horse racing: the number of race days were in drastic decline, wagering on Standardbreds was faltering at the Premier level and the future of the industry and the people who work in horse racing were at risk. This **provincial** approach to horse racing evolved from extensive collaboration and consultation with the racing community over 18 months. Considered a transition year, 2011 is the first year of the Program.*

#### **Following a 6 year trend line, the Ontario horse population has been down 10% in 2011.**

Premier cards are experiencing a 6% decline in unique starters, while both the Signature and Grassroots cards have seen an 8% decline.

#### **Ontario did respond to the reduction in supply and will continue to respond to ensure a vital and competitive racing product.**

#### **Ontario racehorses are earning virtually the same per start across all categories.**

- With more than \$160 million to be distributed in purses in 2011, there has been a positive effect on the earnings potential for each horse.
- Currently the average number of starts per horse is up 2%

#### **Ontario racing continues to be a great betting product.**

- 92% of the time, Ontario races have full fields
- Race finishes or beaten lengths analysis remain consistent with 2010 numbers.

In 2011 more than **8,500 standardbred racehorses** will have competed in **more than 124,000 racing opportunities** in the province of Ontario for an estimated **purse of \$160 million.**

Watch for more *Facts ON Track* in the coming weeks. For more information, please contact:

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