



November 3, 2011

Ontario Racing Program

Facts ON Track

Program on track to distribute over 98% of purses in 2011

*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.*

As of the end of October, it is estimated 98.75% of the total provincial purse earned in 2011 will be paid out in 2011

- Annual purses paid in 2011 are projected to be approximately \$160 million.
- We expect that in 2011 more than **8,500 standardbred racehorses** will have competed for this purse in **more than 124,000 racing opportunities** in the province of Ontario.
- With \$160 million in purses likely to be paid, the percentage of purse underpayment incurred in 2011 compared to purses paid will be just over 1%.

This year's increase to accumulated purse underpayment is projected to be less than the increase incurred in 2010 – before the Ontario Racing Program.

- The estimated increase in the 2011 purse underpayment is \$2 million - of which approximately \$1.6 million is accounted for by Georgian/Flamboro
- With a couple of exceptions, the current purse underpayments across the province appear reasonable for the size of track, volume of race dates or time of year.
- All accumulated purse underpayments remain where they have always been, in the purse accounts, and "carry over" for future use.

The Board of the Ontario Racing Commission continues to assure the racing community that purse money will remain what it always has been – for the benefit of horsepeople.

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

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