

VANCOUVER WELCOMES THE LOTTERY WORLD TO CANADA



AFTER FOUR-YEAR ABSENCE, WORLD LOTTERY SUMMIT RETURNS TO RAVE REVIEWS

As World Lottery Association President Rebecca Paul closed the festivities at October's World Lottery Seminar in Vancouver, you could almost hear a collective exhale from the hundreds of attendees gathered at the final dinner. It had been an exhilarating four days of meetings, educational sessions, trade show, and a bit of fun in the city. And by all accounts, the event was a rousing success.

Attendees converged on Vancouver from all over the world for the first World Lottery Authority (WLA) meeting since before the COVID-19 pandemic. This was a joint meeting of WLS and NASPL, which resulted in a fabulous attendance and exchange of ideas and lottery content plans.

The conference was held at the Convention Center on the Vancouver waterfront, providing a beautiful vista for the week's gathering. The program included a series of memorable keynote speeches and breakout sessions which focused on important lottery issues. (Executive Summaries to be in the January/February issue of this magazine). One of the highlights of the event was the trade show which featured more than two dozen companies displaying their products and services to attendees. Hospitality events and lunch buffets took place each day as well.

Leading the business agenda was determining the leadership of the World Lottery Association for the next two years. Rebecca Paul has ably steered the group since 2018 and helped the WLA navigate the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic. Acknowledging the importance of Rebecca's leadership, the membership of the WLA voted to re-elect Rebecca as WLA President for another 2-year term.

Other officers elected were:

Senior Vice President: Andreas Kötter, Westdeutsche Lotterie GmbH & Co. OHG, Germany

Vice President: Younes El Mechrafi, La Marocaine des Jeux et des Sports, Morocco

Committee members:

Jannie Haek, Loterie Nationale, Belgium

Francesco Parola, IGT, Italy

Nigel Railton, Camelot Group PLC, United Kingdom

Stéphane Pallez, Française des Jeux, France

Dato' Lawrence Lim Swee Lin, Magnum Corporation, Malaysia

Silvio Vivas, Instituto Ayuda Financiera Accion Social, Argentina

Stéphane Pallez took the stage to welcome us to Paris for the next World Lottery Summit in 2024. Other Lottery industry association annual trade-show cum conference events to be held in 2023 include:

June 4 to 7: EL Congress 2023 in Šibenik (Croatia)

Oct. 30 to Nov. 2:

NASPL's Annual Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Lynne Roiter honored with the Guy Simonis Lifetime Achievement Award

The WLA introduced the Guy Simonis Lifetime Achievement Award in 2000 to recognize outstanding service and commitment to the lottery industry by an individual. The first recipient of the award was Guy Simonis himself. Guy was a



major force in the industry and its spokesman as president of AILE, then Intertoto, and finally of the WLA.

As a 36-year industry veteran, **Lynne Roiter** helped shape the lottery sector as we know it today. Her career, her achievements, and her dedication to the world lottery community have set a high standard for lottery professionals across the globe.

Lynne Roiter joined Loto-Québec in 1985 as Director of Legal Affairs. With each step in Loto-Québec's evolution, the legal needs of the company increased accordingly. In November 1996, Lynne was named Corporate Secretary and Vice President of Legal Affairs, heading a staff of 13 lawyers. By this time Loto-Québec had grown from a company of 400 people to over 5,000.

Lynne Roiter was appointed President and CEO of Loto-Québec and member of the board in May 2017. With that, Lynne became the first woman to head one of Québec's three main provincial crown corporations. In fact, diversity has played an important role in the



growth of Loto-Québec. When Lynne started with Loto-Québec in 1985, there were only around ten professional women out of the then-400 employees. When she joined the senior management team in 1996 she was the only woman. Today women play an important role in the leadership of the company, with nine out of twelve members of the Board of Directors being women. More importantly, a significant percentage of Loto-Québec's managerial and professional positions are today held by women. The conscious effort to diversify Loto-Québec will be among Lynne Roiter's lasting legacies.

On May 31, 2021, **Lynne Roiter** stepped down from her position as President and CEO of Loto-Québec. Lynne continues to serve as the Secretary General of the World Lottery Association. ■



PGRI Introduction: Michelle Carinci has served as the CEO of Lottotech, the operator of the National Lottery of Mauritius, since 2011; and CEO of the Atlantic Lottery in Canada between 2001 and 2011. Michelle started her career almost fifty years ago as one of Guy Simonis' first hires. Guy and Michelle worked together for 25 years and remained close until his passing. I asked Michelle to share with us her memories of Guy as friend, mentor, and industry icon.

Michelle Carinci: Remembering Guy Simonis ...

Guy and Michelle

My story with this Guy, evolved over 47 years as an employee, student, mentee, collaborator, colleague and friend.

Guy's achievements and contributions are documented and recognized by the Lottery Industry to which he dedicated his life. When Guy passed, I began to look beyond what he had accomplished and focused on what motivated him. I believe Guy became passionate at a very early stage in his lottery career to create an international lottery community, a global network that connected us all.

An incredibly intelligent man, Guy was the consummate innovator, facilitator, entertainer, teacher and team builder.



He stood on the shoulders of the European lottery experts when he began to develop the lottery business in Manitoba leading to the first multi-jurisdictional lottery in North America, the Western Canada Lottery Foundation. I was one among many who was fortunate to be able to stand on his shoulders throughout my lottery and gaming journey.

The Team Builder...

In 1975, crammed into a small studio apartment that we called our office in downtown Winnipeg, Guy's four young students, including yours truly, began our journey learning about

games of chance, skill and perceived skill. During this period I was exposed to Guy's natural ability and desire to build and bond high performance teams. He created regular weekend

social events – car rallies in the middle of summer, foot rallies in the middle of winter, annual Jeu de Boules (Bocci) tournaments hosted by the Simonis family at their summer cottage and competitive interdepartmental sporting competitions. These fun filled social and competitive events included our key service providers and respective families. Over the years the lottery team grew as Guy extended invitations to our Interprovincial Lottery Corporation (ILC) colleagues and our NASPL neighbors to the south. Bringing the lottery community together regularly on a social level provided us with the opportunity to become as passionate about playing together as we were working together, ultimately creating a deeper connection and understanding of each other.

Guy expanded his team building and inclusion efforts onto the world stage in 1987 as the first North American lottery to host the international Intertoto conference which was held in Vancouver. He knew Canada facilitated easier