



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **ARKANSAS SCHOLARSHIP LOTTERY, NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PROBLEM GAMBLING AND MCGILL UNIVERSITY COMBINE EFFORTS, SPREAD WORD TO PARENTS: PLEASE DON'T BUY LOTTERY TICKETS AS GIFTS FOR MINORS.**

December 1, 2009 (Little Rock) – The holiday season is on the minds of many as it quickly approaches, and the hustle and bustle in stores and shopping centers is evident. Increasingly popular gifts are lottery tickets and scratch cards.

Results from a recent study showed that 19% of high school students received one or more lottery tickets or scratch cards as gifts, of which 86% came from a family member. This, coupled with the growing concern of adolescent problem gambling, prompted the National Council on Problem Gambling, the International Centre for Youth Gambling problems and High-Risk Behaviors at McGill University, and the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery (ASL) to collaborate this holiday season to increase public awareness about the effect of giving lottery products as gifts to minors.

“This year, give children the gift of responsibility,” said Ernie Passailaigue, ASL Executive Director. “It is important to reiterate two things; that no one under the age of 18 can buy our tickets and that parents shouldn’t give lottery tickets to kids as presents,” Passailaigue added.

This holiday season, if you choose to offer a lottery product as a present, make sure you keep the person’s age in mind.

For more information contact:

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2. Dr. Alissa Sklar, Senior Researcher and Communications Specialist, International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors, McGill University, [www.youthgambling.com](http://www.youthgambling.com). (514) 398-2470, [alissa.sklar@mcgill.ca](mailto:alissa.sklar@mcgill.ca).
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#### **About the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery:**

The purpose of the ASL is to provide scholarships and grants to Arkansas residents enrolled in public and private nonprofit two-year and four-year colleges and universities within the state. The ASL will be operated with integrity and dignity in a manner that provides entertainment to the public maximizes revenue and accounts to the public and General Assembly through regular reports and audits.