

Alberta Baton Twirling Association – Central Region

Gaming Revenue/Funding/Volunteer Commitment

Did you know that approximately 90% of our yearly revenue comes from the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC) through Bingo events and/or Casino? Based on these funds Central Region sets a budget each year (with this year's budget being in excess of \$90,000). Thanks to this money we are able to fund many programs that you might not even know about.

Many families may not be aware of all the things that Central Region subsidizes and funds. As an example, by working as few as two bingo shifts last season, your athlete would have qualified for the following:

Funding for ABTA Fall Camp: \$75.00
Funding for attending Provincials: ~\$200.00
Funding for attending Nationals: ~\$300.00
Funding for attending I Cup: ~\$500.00 (athlete must qualify for the event)
That's as much as \$1075.00!

Furthermore, by working *more than two bingos*, you would qualify for even more funding. Did you know that you could have your competition entry fees paid for by working an extra one or two bingo shifts? These 'bingo credits' can offset the costs of things like competition entry fees, travel costs for competitions (gas, flight, ½ hotel), and even the athletes portion of food costs while at a competition.

In addition to these supports to help individual athletes, Central Region also provides funds to each club every year to offset the gym rental and even to grow grass roots programs within their club. Central Region also subsidizes the cost of coach training so we can have more, and better qualified, coaches within our region.

This is a 100% volunteer run, non-profit organization that needs your help to continue to provide the programs and funding that we have in the past. While I'm sure those of you that work the bingos appreciate the extra "bingo credit" money, we need to change our mindset when it comes to our gaming commitment. Each bingo event that we work brings in between \$1200-\$1400 to Central Region. Out of that money, we pay for the concession (around \$100) and then the "bingo credits" to the athletes of between \$320-\$560 (depending on the number of workers). The rest goes toward the various initiatives that Central Region supports each year (as presented in the yearly budget at the AGM). We need these bingos for so much more than the payouts passed down to the athletes. With increased support we can continue to offer the funding that we do, and we will also be able to increase funding in other areas.

Over the years, it seems that we see the same core group of people running competitions and working at bingos and casinos. As a group, we can reduce the burden on that core, while increasing the available funds to the athletes, and decreasing the costs to participate in the sport that our children have come to love. A win-win situation if you ask me.

March 11, 2018

Further fundraising activities are also available, such as our Central Region “Flames Concession” program and other fundraisers run by your individual clubs. The Flames Concession program offers the opportunity to work with other baton families in a concession booth at the Saddledome (and occasionally McMahon Stadium) during hockey games, lacrosse games, football games, and some concerts. A training session is provided after which you can sign up for shifts as they are available. The payout for these events is \$65 per person/shift. For more information on these programs, please reach out to your club chair and we can fill you in.

Thank you for taking the time to read this note and I look forward to your continued support in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Patton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Patton
Alberta Baton Twirling Association
Central Region Chairperson