At work for the economy

NEW APP SYSTEM EASES THE PRESSURE

New tool will alert wheelchair users of developing pressure zones

In Canada, pressure sores are the leading cause of infection, hospitalization and mortality for wheelchair users, costing the healthcare system more than $14 billion a year. A new system developed at the University of Toronto that limits pressure-transmitting cushion to a smartphone application can help.

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BOOSTING DIAMOND MINING IN CANADA'S NORTH

Refining the science behind prospecting for this precious resource

Canada is the world's third largest producer of diamonds by value, producing more than 4 million carats each year. A world-class laboratory at the University of Alberta makes it easier for mining companies to find new diamond deposits, saving them millions on exploration.

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CUTTING-EDGE CLOTHING

Wedding cake company improves textiles for uniform and special garments

Logistik Uniform Inc., which employs 100 people in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Que., manages uniform programs for large corporations and government crown in Canada and around the world. The company credits part of its success to an ongoing collaboration with CIT Group, a CFI-funded technology transfer centre specializing in textiles at L'École de technologie supérieur.

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Spotlight on research

AGAINST THE ODDS!

Explaining the simple statistics behind the chances of winning at a slot machine can help curb gambling addiction

The Home Run Casino looks like a typical gaming establishment with hundreds of slot machines and video poker machines, blackjack and roulette tables and lights and sounds that bombard patrons as they move around the floor. But to do that, the patrons have to wear goggles and turn their heads. Because this is a virtual reality (VR) casino.

"It's very much like what people experience these days when they gamble online," says Michael Wall, associate professor of psychology at Carleton University, in Ottawa. For Wall, however, the VR casino is a laboratory where he researches tools to encourage responsible gambling. It's an important endeavor, given that an estimated 1.2 to 3.4 percent of the population in Ontario suffers from "problem gambling," defined as the loss of more money than a player can afford. This is the same range as the proportion of Canadians who abuse prescription drugs.

Even though casinos are in the business of making money from gamblers, the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) has a statutory, regulatory and policy mandate to promote responsible gambling. According to Paul Pedofoli, OLG's executive director of policy and social responsibility, "To help reduce that mandate, OLG has partnered with Wall to try to curb gambling addiction.

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CIFI-funded research in the news

OPINION — Research and innovation will play a key role in upgrading our urban infrastructure (4 Apr by CIFI CEO, Dr. Gilles Faty, the Toronto Star, May 27, 2016)

Link to story.

RESEARCH — Des chercheurs de l’École de psychologie identifient le facteur le plus dans les jeux vidéo (Université Laval, le 10 mai 2014)

Lien vers l’article.

HEALTH — Doctor puts focus on people with ASD

Down syndrome (The Canadian Jewish News, June 2, 2016)

Link to story.

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