

## It's just a game...but what does it really cost play?

By Diana Degan

Whether you spend money on slots or casino table games like blackjack, roulette, or poker, it is important to remember that all of these games, even those involving skill, include a large element of chance -- and they always favour 'the house'.

It can be difficult to know just how much it costs to play, say, a five-cent slot machine, when having to consider the house edge, credits per line and number of lines bet. Small, individual losses can add up and when bonus credits are factored in, it can be hard to keep track of your spending. Looking at your cost of play over time will help you understand the long term costs involved in the game that you play.

This year, RGC has launched a free Cost2Play Calculator on their website, [www.noregrets.ca](http://www.noregrets.ca). This online tool (also useable on smartphones) helps people understand the long term costs involved for three popular games: slots, blackjack and roulette.

"The new Cost2Play Calculator will help the gambler understand just how much that 'game' is costing over time," said Paula Antoniazzi, Program Director for the Responsible Gaming Council.

For more money management strategies, safer gambling tips, tips on recognizing signs of potential problem gambling and the new, free Cost2Play Calculator, go to [www.noregrets.ca](http://www.noregrets.ca).

