

What is a “lottery scheme”?

A “lottery scheme” may be defined as any scheme that has the following three components:

- a prize;
- a chance to win the prize; and
- a consideration or fee.

Therefore, if money is paid or other consideration is given for a chance to win the prize then it is considered to be a lottery scheme.

However, there are many types of lottery schemes for which licences are not available. Promotional contests that are carried out by companies to promote products and increase sales cannot be licenced to operate a lottery because they are not charitable. For that reason, a company must ensure that the contest does not fall within the definition of a lottery scheme.

Below you will find answers to frequently asked questions including the types of organizations eligible for a lottery licence, what events are provincially licenced, what events are municipally licenced, and how the licencing process works.