Family Gambling and its Connection to Intergenerational Family Relationship Building  
Melissa M. Sleightholm¹, Joan E. Norris¹, & Joseph Tindale²  
¹Wilfrid Laurier University  ²University of Guelph

INTRODUCTION
Most research has viewed gambling as an individual activity and very little research has been devoted to the impacts of family gambling.
Bengtson and Roberts (1991) viewed intergenerational family solidarity as a comprehensive construct consisting of six components of solidarity. Affectual, Associational, and Functional solidarities, can be adapted to a gambling context.
The three family solidarity dimensions of affection, association, and function are the core components to family solidarity (Hogerbrugge & Komter, 2012).

RESEARCH QUESTION
Do family gambling activities facilitate opportunities for family relationship building?

METHOD
The sample is the second year data collection of a three year research project (Tindale & Norris, 2012)
50 parent/adult child dyads; 69 females, 31 males
Parents were aged 40 to 75 years; adult children were aged 20 to 54 years
In-person interviews were conducted using open-ended questions relating to family gambling experiences. Thematic analysis was performed.

RESULTS
Positive Theme
Trust
Affectual
The expression of positive emotions and feelings towards family members and the measure of reciprocity between family members.

Negative Theme
Conflict
Lack of trust

Associational
The frequency which family members interact and the various activities that family members engage in together.

Functional
The amount of support or assistance that is given through exchanges of resources.

Separated Interaction

Teaching
Learning
Giving
Sharing

Solid lines indicate parallels to the dimensions whereas dotted lines indicate contrasting effects.

DISCUSSION
As family gambling interactions may assist in the building and/or hindering of parent-adult child relationships, family gambling interactions may have implications for the quality of parent-adult child relationships.
Older adults are often targeted in society as problem gamblers spending all their time and (family’s) money in a game of chance. It is hoped that this research and future research will help to dispel these negative generalizations of older adults and portray them generally as the fun, entertaining seeking, players that they are.