

To whom it my concern and the Maples bingo patrons;

It is with a somber heart that we must inform you that Maples will be suspending the Bingo program for the next three weeks Feb 20<sup>th</sup> , Feb 27<sup>th</sup> and Mar 6<sup>th</sup> , 2011. Bingo will reopen on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

After an audit from the lotteries commission an order was made that we restructure the program to fit our prizes in line with the number of participants. The commission has advised the Maples that due to the lack of participants the prizes have caused a major shortage in the programs finances and the M.R.A.I. will need to take immediate action.

Here is the problem:

- Our prizes are based on 120 to 125 participants to break even; we are only averaging 90 to 100. We need more participants!

The M.R.A.I. does not want to close the Bingo program and is looking for solutions to keeping this running, not because it's a money maker. As you can see it isn't. But we have a core group of regular players who enjoy coming together on Sundays and yelling BINGO. Lotteries have suggested that we change the size of the pots from \$75 to \$50 and go from 18 games to 15 games. This will allow Maples to breakeven based on the current attendance. We are open to any suggestions so that we can reopen the program again on March 13<sup>th</sup> with a new format. If you are interested in helping, know of anyone who can help find the right solution or if you have any helpful suggestions please contact us **ASAP**.

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We would also like to take this time and thank all the Volunteers and the program Leader Eileen Gauthier for being such an asset to this program. The MRAI believes that this is just a hiccup in the program and we all will be back asking what the number that was just called----- BINGO was.

Yours truly  
M.R.A.I.  
VP Programming  
Adam Tocci