

Canadian casino giant says plans to build casino facilities in North Bay.

The former Nordfibre site and nearby site across from the North Bay Regional Health Center on Highway 17 Westcare are listed as the priority sites for the new casino. The new gaming facility was originally planned to be built on the old Moee-On-Innon Pinewood Park Drive because it could be recalled, but Gateway decided to abandon the idea and switch to another site.

Gateway Casino & Entertainment spokesman Rob Mitchell said the casino operator was clear about plans to expand the company's presence in Canada, or more precisely in North Bay, but has not taken any action at this time to purchase properties for casino construction. Gateway added that it is still exploring various opportunities before planning the site.

Mr Mitchell explained the priorities when the gateway chooses a place of interest. He explained that accessibility and the size of the site are very important because casino operators aim to provide sufficient parking for future customers. A spokesman for Gateway pointed out that the casino operator could not announce exactly when to start construction, given the fact that the gateway must first obtain zoning approval.

If the zoning change is finally approved, Gateway's North Bay casino expansion proposal will be added to the Ontario Lottery and Game Company (OLG)'s list of casino establishment requests in the state's Northern Gaming Bundle. The caveat here is that being on the list does not necessarily mean that the offer is ignored.

Once a casino operator sets up a casino at a specific location, the company should change the city's official plan by submitting a draft plan and an application to the city council, and according to economists, leaving the door open for a new casino is a good idea because it brings widespread economic benefits and boosts the local business sector.