Background
Gambling is highly accessible for Canadian First Nations and Aboriginal populations due to the introduction of reservation gambling. Designed to benefit the community by increasing revenue, employment and autonomy, the harms associated with gambling have a significant impact on many individuals, families and communities. Aboriginals are at higher risk of developing gambling-related problems than the general population, yet there are few culturally appropriate and effective treatment services for Aboriginal groups. First Nations and Aboriginal groups are well-placed to address these issues in their communities, but require a comprehensive understanding of the nature of and factors associated with gambling and problem gambling to drive strategic policies.

Aims
To 1) critically evaluate the evidence regarding gambling and problem gambling in Aboriginal groups; 2) identify the limitations of the existing research; and 3) recommend key areas for future research studies.

Methods
Comprehensive international literature review and critical analysis.

Outcomes
This review will provide a comprehensive summary of the state of Aboriginal gambling and problem gambling in Canada and subsequently highlight the high prevalence rate, impacts of problem gambling, barriers to treatment and inadequate or inappropriate methodologies used in current research. This review will contribute to the gambling field by enabling future research to address some of these issues. Importantly, this critical review will inform First Nations and Aboriginal groups and enable key community members to be directly involved in the planning, approval, implementation and data collection stages of research as well as the analysis, interpretation and conclusions drawn from studies.