



January 19, 2012

Province, city partners team up to increase nightlife safety in Calgary

New program helps licensed premises raise operating standards

Calgary... A new program aimed at improving public safety and promoting higher customer service in the city's nightlife industry is being launched in Calgary.

More than 300 pubs, clubs, bars and lounges are invited to take part in the Best Bar None program, making the city's nightlife safer and more enjoyable.

"Safety is always top of mind for Albertans," said Ron Liepert, Minister of Finance, also responsible for the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission. "I'm pleased so many partners are working together in innovative ways to keep our communities safe and vibrant."

Best Bar None is a voluntary program, aiming to reduce alcohol-related problems by raising the operating standards of licensed premises as well as building positive relationships among the licensees, law enforcement, industry partners and community groups. The program uses a system of accreditation, assessment and awards to engage nightspots in responsible management and safe operations. All Class A Minors-Prohibited establishments operating in the city of Calgary are eligible to participate.

"We all like to have fun on a night out, and being safe and responsible helps ensure everyone can enjoy themselves," said Druh Farrell, Deputy Mayor with The City of Calgary. "We are hoping for a strong level of participation in this program to show we can work together to reduce alcohol-related issues."

Best Bar None was introduced in Edmonton in 2010. The licensees and patrons indicated Best Bar None could play an important role in improving nightlife safety in the city. In addition, both showed strong support for the program's continuation. The program is currently in its second year in Edmonton.

"Public safety in entertainment venues is a priority for the Calgary Police Service," said Deputy Chief Trevor Daroux. "Best Bar None will support the work currently being done by bars and restaurants, government, police and community partners to help ensure safety in Calgary's licensed premises."

Best Bar None partners include the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission, The City of Calgary and the Calgary Police Service. The program is also supported by community agencies such as the Public Safety Taskforce and the Alberta Safer Bars Council.

For more information about the program, visit bestbarnone.ab.ca.

Backgrounder: Best Bar None in Calgary

Media inquiries may be directed to:

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The City of Calgary
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To call toll-free within Alberta dial 310-0000.



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Best Bar None in Calgary

What is Best Bar None?

Best Bar None is an accreditation and awards program that promotes the responsible management and operation of licensed premises. It was developed in the United Kingdom. The purpose of this voluntary program is to reduce alcohol-related crime by setting high standards for public safety and customer service in pubs, clubs, bars and lounges. Through Best Bar None, the operators of licensed premises work with industry partners, law enforcement, business and community associations and patrons to create a safe and enjoyable environment both inside and outside their establishments.

In 2010, Best Bar None was piloted in Edmonton, with 38 licensed establishments becoming successfully accredited. The program is currently in its second year, with 42 accredited establishments.

How do the industry, enforcement agencies, business and community associations and groups work together on Best Bar None?

The industry and agencies involved in Best Bar None understand the correlation between well-managed establishments and safety. The more licensed premises that raise their standards of operation and customer service to the level required to be accredited the better, for the industry, the patrons and the area residents and businesses.

As they come in contact with licensees, members of the Best Bar None Project Team will be encouraging licensees to develop their establishments to the high standards of the Best Bar None program. Project Team members from The City of Calgary will be promoting Best Bar None to a variety of community stakeholders. In the course of their meetings with licensees, the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission and The City of Calgary inspection and licensing officials will promote the program and its benefits to licensees.

Who can participate in Best Bar None?

All Class A Minors-Prohibited licensed establishments in Calgary are encouraged to apply for Best Bar None accreditation.

How do licensed establishments earn Best Bar None accreditation or awards?

Licensees can access the program application and information online at bestbarnone.ab.ca. The criteria checklist and companion explanation booklet identify a wide range of operational, service and customer safety criteria that well-managed premises should be aware of and address.

To be accredited by Best Bar None, licensees must meet all of the essential program criteria. Meeting additional criteria will show a commitment to the program and will raise licensees' chances of being recognized with an award. Awards are given out in five categories: Pub, Large Pub, Bar/Lounge, Hotel/Restaurant Lounge, and Club.

How do businesses benefit from accreditation?

Accredited premises will receive a plaque and door signage for display. This will inform patrons and area residents and businesses of their participation in the program and their commitment to public safety and customer service. Accredited establishments may also use the Best Bar None logo and the fact of their accreditation and/or award in their advertising.

By earning the Best Bar None accreditation and displaying related signage, licensed establishments will be identified and recognized by patrons as responsible and courteous establishments.

Is there a cost for licensees to accredit with Best Bar None?

There is no charge for licensees to apply for accreditation.

For more information on Best Bar None, visit bestbarnone.ab.ca.

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