

July 3, 2008

## Alberta sets new rules to improve bar safety

### Minimum drink prices, restricted happy hours among new policies to curb binge drinking

*Edmonton...* Beginning August 1, new province-wide rules will eliminate cheap drink specials, regulate the duration of ‘happy hours’ and limit last-call drink orders in licensed premises. The amendments to Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission policies are designed to make provincial drinking establishments safer for staff and patrons.

“These changes reflect this government’s intention to improve safety in and around licensed premises,” said Fred Lindsay, Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security. “They are not meant to interfere with responsible patrons – they are designed to limit the liquor consumption of those drinkers who don’t wish to set their own limits.”

#### Minimum drink prices

- Spirits and liqueurs ..... \$ **2.75** per drink
- Wine ..... \$ **0.35** per oz. (\$1.75 per 5 oz. glass)
- Draught beer..... \$ **0.16** per oz. (\$3.20 per 20 oz. pint)
- Beer, cider or coolers in cans or bottles ..... \$ **2.75** per 12 oz. bottle or can

#### Happy hours

Licensees may reduce the regular menu price of drinks, but drinks can not be sold for less than the regular menu price after 8 p.m. At no time, even during ‘happy hours’, can a drink be sold for less than the new minimum price.

#### Maximum drink order

The maximum number and size of drinks that may be sold or served to a patron after 1 a.m. is limited to two standard servings per order – one standard serving is one ounce per highball or one bottle or can of beer. Also, a patron can’t have more than two drinks in their possession after 1 a.m.

“These changes have great potential to reduce the public order problems associated with binge drinking,” says Mike Shymka, vice-president of the Alberta Hotel and Lodging Association. “Most of us would never guzzle a tray full of cheap highballs just before closing time, but many of us have shared a sidewalk with someone who has. These new changes should make closing times outside bars a lot more peaceful.”

Improving bar safety addresses Premier Ed Stelmach's plan to promote strong and vibrant communities and reduce crime. The Government of Alberta is committed to working together with other levels of government, community agencies, business, police, and all citizens to fight crime and to ensure Albertans feel safe in their communities.

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