

February 1, 2008

## **Province launches new training program to make Alberta bars safer**

### ***Bar security staff encouraged to sign up for a free ProTect seminar***

Edmonton... Reducing violence and increasing safety are the goals of a new training program for security staff working at Alberta's bars, nightclubs and other licensed establishments.

*ProTect Security Staff Training* is specifically designed for workers responsible for monitoring and controlling the entrance and lineups outside licensed premises, requesting proper identification from patrons before allowing entry into an establishment, monitoring activities of patrons while in the establishment, controlling crowds and intervening to prevent aggressive actions.

"Security staff are responsible for maintaining a safe environment in licensed premises for the benefit of staff, patrons and the facility," said Fred Lindsay, Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security. "The ProTect training program will teach observation and communication skills to better prevent, defuse and manage customer disturbances before violence escalates."

Individuals who work in a security position or manage/supervise security staff in bars and nightclubs (Class A Minors Prohibited licensed premises) must successfully complete the training program. This also applies to people who own, manage or work for a security company contracted to provide security in the same type of licensed premise. By January 1, 2009, all workers in these positions must have successfully completed *ProTect Security Staff Training*.

Individuals who work or volunteer in a security position in any other licensed premises or for a special event function are welcome to take *ProTect Security Staff Training*, but it will not be mandatory.

The training will be available at no charge and offered through facilitated seminars at locations around the province. Seminars will begin in February 2008 and individuals wishing to register for training can find upcoming seminar dates, times and locations at [www.protect.aglc.ca](http://www.protect.aglc.ca). During the initial seminars in early 2008, participants will be asked to provide feedback on the course and the proposed policy. Feedback will be considered before the course and policy are finalized.

Reducing violence is part of Premier Ed Stelmach's plan to secure Alberta's future by building communities, greening our growth and creating opportunity.

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