



Thursday, June 2, 2011

#### Hotel Arts Response to Media Story on After-Grad Party Policy

The situation that has transpired is unfortunate and upsetting for all parties involved. What unfortunately wasn't relayed in the media story relating to our age restriction policy were facts that resulted in us needing to make the decision on mitigating potential situations in our hotel rooms.

Our tenant in the building Saint Germain informed us recently that they would be hosting after-grad parties in their space for high schools in Calgary, in fact almost every high school in Calgary for the duration of the month of June. They are leased as a Fine Dining and Lounge Restaurant in our building and we never anticipated having to deal with the ramifications of their decision. We had asked them upon revealing this information that they contact all the schools immediately to inform them of our decision to not allow them to book rooms in our hotel. These parties were in the neighbourhood of 200 students each.

Frankly it is not the students booking the rooms that concerned us as they had the support of their parents in making the decision to stay over in the hotel but rather the potential of the 200 students partying at Saint Germain; a restaurant we do not control, to "crash a suite" in the hotel on one of those evenings. As a parent of a 17 and 20 year old I know what can happen when a house party gets out of control. Look at the incident in the district of Queensland when that young man lost his life when he was hit with an object from a guest not invited to the party. I cannot bear the brunt of being responsible for such an incident to happen at Hotel Arts. We have open balconies and it would just take one student falling to their death by a senseless act to have an incident like that haunt us forever.

I am still disappointed we were required to make this decision because of the after grad parties at Saint Germain. There were too many variables for us to control to allow us to move forward with an individual booking a room because they were simply going to a grad party.

I hope that this background provides a better overview of our position and rationale for the decision made.

Respectfully,

Mark Wilson  
General Manager and Vice President  
Hotel Arts Group