

**Speaking Notes  
Minister Gordon Graydon**

**Second Alberta Roundtable on Violence  
In and Around Licensed Premises**

**1:00 pm - Friday, March 31, 2006  
Greenwood Inn  
The Juniper Room  
3515- 26 Street, NE  
Calgary, AB**

(check against delivery)

## **Introduction**

- Thank you, Mark.
- Welcome to all of you, many of you are returning participants from the first roundtable session in November, but I see there are some new faces as well.
- The first roundtable was a great success on several fronts.
- Discussions were productive with the sharing of insights, ideas and expertise.
- And above all, meeting face to face with this varied group of stakeholders was really key to this success.
- I am very pleased that we have this opportunity to come together again to discuss the issue of violence in and around licensed premises.
- As the Solicitor General said, we all want to ensure that Albertans are safe in their communities.
- Violence should not be an expectation when going out to a bar or lounge.

- The issue of violence certainly has captured plenty of attention with the media and the public.
- But what is good about this attention is that through the media interest, I can see that these issues are important, timely and of priority to many.
- Priorities are exactly what is the focus of this afternoon.
- I know that you have gone through a review of the ideas from the last meeting and then talked more about three key areas: research and policy; community mobilization and best practices; and finding resources.
- With so many ideas identified at the last roundtable – the real challenge is to prioritize what to tackle first.
- In government, as in business, there is a process to follow and many variables to consider.
- Not everything is the right thing to do and not everything can be done now.
- Change has to be carefully considered, planned and managed.
- The good news is, we all understand that to truly address violence, we need to work together.
- Each organization represented here today, whether it is the provincial or municipal government, local police agencies, industry associations, or licensees – has a role to play.
- Of utmost priority to this government is ensuring the liquor industry continues to operate in a socially responsible manner.
- The Ministry of Gaming is committed to being socially responsible in everything we do.

- By ensuring responsibility in the sale and service of alcohol we support the health and safety of Albertans.
- As shown in the draft report you have been given, there are many ideas to address the issue.
- You are here today to sort through, evaluate and prioritize those ideas.
- I am looking forward to hearing your suggestions.
- The results of today's meeting will be added into this draft report and then it will be printed and released publicly.
- Each of you will receive a final copy.
- This information is not just for the government, this information is for everyone involved with the liquor industry.
- The public dialogue on the issue is also very important.
- I truly thank all of you for taking time out of your busy schedules to take part in this roundtable.
- Your input will provide a valuable resource for the future.
- Thank you.

**-END-**