



**EMBARGOED UNTIL 2 p.m.**

**2018 Best Bar None Awards honour ByWard Market establishments for commitment to responsible alcohol sales and service**

**May 29, 2018**

Ottawa, ON – The Green Room/Liquor Store Party Bar, Fatboys Southern Smokehouse and Sens Hous have been recognized as the best among bars, restaurants and clubs when it comes to implementing the highest standards for the responsible sales and service of alcohol in the ByWard Market in Ottawa.

The establishments were selected by a judging panel comprising Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD Canada), the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO), and Best Bar None (BBN) Ontario, an industry-led international accreditation and awards program that rewards excellence amongst responsible liquor sales licensees.

There are five winners for this year’s Best Bar None Awards in ByWard Market:

<b>Best Pub:</b> Lowertown Brewery	<b>Best Club:</b> The Green Room/ The Liquor Store Party Bar
<b>Best Restaurant:</b> Sens House	<b>Best Hotel:</b> The Bistro at the Courtyard Marriott
<b>People’s Choice:</b> Fatboys Southern Smokehouse	

A key component of the accreditation and awards process is an independent third party investigation to verify that an establishment is in compliance with its own processes and the appropriate provincial regulations as administered by the AGCO.

Both the winners and the newly accredited establishments receive a BBN decal and other marketing materials to promote their status as a BBN-accredited venue. The Best Bar None Ontario decal assures patrons an establishment has met the highest standards for responsible service of alcohol.

BBN Ontario partners include MADD Canada, the AGCO, the LCBO, Ontario Provincial Police, ByWard Market Safety and Security Committee and the City of Ottawa.

*"These establishments have proven that they deserve to receive these inaugural awards for the high standards they have established. They all serve liquor responsibly and reduce the potential for alcohol-related issues. These makes them leaders in building a vibrant and safer ByWard Market, more attractive to visit while developing positive relationships with industry partners, law enforcement and the community at large,"*

**-Tony Elenis, the President and CEO of ORHMA** (the Ontario Restaurant, Hotel and Motel Association).



*“Together with our industry partners, we are working towards our goal of stopping impaired driving and keeping our roads safe. The Best Bar None Ontario program is a key component in this effort – it establishes a framework of operating standards for licensed establishments that keeps their customers and the public safe.”*

- **Andrew Murie, CEO of MADD Canada**

*“The AGCO is proud to once again be involved in recognizing those businesses that uphold the highest standards for their patrons and staff, in the responsible sale and service of alcohol, and in maintaining important working relationships with the community and industry partners. The public can be assured that these accredited establishments maintain the greatest standards in their operations, in compliance with Best Bar None and the Liquor Licence Act and regulations.”*

- **Tom Mungham, Chief Operating Officer of the AGCO**

### **About Best Bar None**

**Best Bar None is an industry-led annual international accreditation and awards program for liquor sales licensees. The program** originated in Manchester, U.K in 2003 and has been credited with increasing levels of public safety and reducing crime in downtown entertainment districts. The program also improves the economic viability of these districts and builds positive relationships between owners of licensed establishments and local community groups and police.

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