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## City hotel butts out of smoking business

By **BRUCE CONSTANTINEAU**

The Listel Vancouver Hotel has made a New Year's resolution to become the city's first 100-per-cent, smoke-free hotel.

Since New Year's Day there have been no smoking rooms available at the 129-room Robson hotel.

"About 10 years ago, half of our rooms were smoking rooms but it dropped down to just eight rooms (out of 129) last year," said Listel Vancouver general manager Jim Mockford.

"All too often, we were having to put non-smokers into those rooms because we didn't have enough smokers to fill them."

The hotel has also offered its employees a \$100 bonus this year if they can kick their smoking habit. Mockford said about 15 to 20 of the hotel's 110 employees are smokers and just one has

signed up for the bonus so far but he expects others will follow.

"We know the \$100 bonus is just a little kick because if you're a pack-a-day smoker, you're probably spending about \$2,500 a year on cigarettes," he said.

The move by Listel to go smoke-free follows a fledgling movement that began in the U.S. about two years ago when Howard Johnson International made one of its Virginia hotels smoke-free.

Other hotel companies have since followed suit on a small scale but the trend is still considered experimental and guest reaction is being closely monitored before the programs are expanded.

"As far as we can tell, we are the first in the city to do this," Mockford said. "I don't know of

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See **HOTELIERS** A2