

Hoteliers admire action taken by Listel

From A1

any other major business hotel that is 100-per-cent non-smoking."

Other Vancouver hoteliers said Monday they admire the action taken by the Listel but are unlikely to make their hotels completely smoke-free in the near future.

Four Seasons Hotel general manager Ruy Paes-Braga said just two floors of the 29-floor hotel are dedicated for smoking rooms.

"The trend is for the number of smoking rooms to diminish to nothing but we are really not considering that right now — maybe in the future," he said.

"We still have requests from certain clients who want smoking rooms."

Hotel operators who attract a large international clientele said many European and Asian guests, in particular, request smoking rooms.

Westin Bayshore Resort & Marina general manager Mark Andrew said 100 of his hotel's 510 rooms are dedicated for smokers.

"We just can't mandate those rooms to become smoke-free in today's world," he said. "But I can certainly see us becoming a smoke-free facility in five to 10 years without too much concern from the guests."

Fairmont Hotels & Resorts representative Jill Killeen said about five per cent of the rooms at the company's three Vancouver-area hotels have been set aside for smokers.



MARK VAN MANEN/VANCOUVER SUN

Cristina Lowe, hotel catering manager, is officially breaking the habit after the Listel Vancouver Hotel offered their employees cash to quit smoking for good.

"We're part of a group of global hotels that deals in the global marketplace and there is still a demand for these types of rooms," she said. "We're trying to remain customer-focused on all levels."

Mockford said he has only heard positive feedback so far on the move to create a smoke-free hotel.

"We know we are going to lose some individuals because there are smokers out there but we also

think we will gain more business by doing this," he said. "We even have people staying with us who are smokers but they don't smoke in their hotel rooms anyway. A lot of smokers are getting used to not smoking indoors."

Seattle food industry consultant Maggie Korvin, who checked into the Listel hotel this week, said she enjoys the smoke-free environment.

"It's great because when you think of Vancouver, you think of

fresh and clean," she said. "I have a European background so I'm used to cigarette smoke but it really is nice to not be around it."

"There are some things about the old country that are best left in the old country."