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Wet/Dry

By Brandon MacKenzie

This year lot of discussion has arisen around Wet/Dry events at The Wave - why don't we have more? Why are some events wet only? Why do we have them at all? Perhaps it is time to clear up some confusion. The Student Union, in operation of The Wave pub, has long recognized the difficulty in providing entertainment at our facility to a student body with over 800 members under the legal age of 19 who have limited access to our entertainment venue.

Our Constitution, adopted on February 13, 1986, maintains through our philosophy that "the Student Union is dedicated to the betterment of University life and

enhancing the student experiences at UPEI." Since that time, the Student Union, under the approval of the PEILCC, has provided an environment whereby all students, including those under the age of 19, have the opportunity to participate in major University social functions. But many at UPEI take this for granted.

At present, wet/dry events are prohibited under the law. Rather, only goodwill from the PEILCC, historical precedence and efforts by the Student Union allow for the opportunity for Wet/Dry events to occur. The option is never a simple task, nor considered lightly, but when the PEILCC does establish that a Wet/Dry event can

take place the actions of our patrons, in particular those under the legal drinking age, determine whether another will be possible.

At the Student Union, we love of Wet/Dry events. Throughout the year we aim to include everyone in a number of functions as we recognize the importance of student to student social contact in providing new students with a sense of belonging to the University community.

The Wave pub (previously the Barn), by virtue of the PEILCC has, since 1987, been allowed to support a Wet/Dry environment for major events. The success of these events can easily be measured by the overwhelming positive feed-

back from University participants over the past sixteen years. But I caution, only the actions of those students who enjoy the benefits of Wet/Dry will determine whether this long history of success will continue and that the actions of some may harm this tradition forever.

Just something to ponder.