



Agency stores committee begins planning for 2008 campaign

Members of the LBED's Agency store committee met June 5 to start planning for the resumption of the Let's Keep it Public campaign which aims to stop the creeping privatization of the LCBO, primarily through the rapid spread of privately-operated agency stores.

"There's every indication the LCBO is forging ahead with the opening of more and more agency stores even though the evidence, based on revenue and profits, shows that dozens of these privately-operated stores should be converted to real LCBO outlets," said Laurie Miller, chair of the Agency store committee.

Besides Miller, committee members include: Shawn Swayze (Local 287), Holly Boudreau (Local 682), Anne Makela, (Local 741), Jeff Scobie (Local 498) and Eric MacKenzie (Local 375).

Agency stores started in the early 1960s

Russ Christianson (foreground, at computer) presents his financial analysis of the LCBO Agency store program to members of LBED's Agency store committee.

From right: LBED chair Vanda Klumper, OPSEU negotiator Rob Field, Laurie Miller, Shawn Swayze, Anne Makela, Jeff Scobie

as a method to service remote northern communities. Over the past several years, however, the LCBO has added dozens of new privately-operated outlets bringing their total number to more than 200. Many are now located on the fringes of large, urban centres and generate millions of dollars of revenue for their owners.

LBED kicked off its Let's Keep it Public campaign in 2007 in an effort to inform the public, media and politicians about privately-operated Agency stores and creeping privatization of the LCBO.

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EAP Hotline

1-800-263-1401

The LCBO Employee Assistance Program is a confidential, hassle-free counseling service for eligible LCBO employees and their immediate families.

For assistance, please call 1-800-263-1401. To find out more about the program, visit:

www.opseu.org/leb/eap

Get on the list!

You can receive the Echo directly by fax or e-mail. Just let us know how to reach you. Give us your secure email address or fax number by calling OPSEUdirect: 1-800-268-7376 or 416-443-8888.

Avoid Agency stores whenever possible

With the summer holiday and travel season just around the corner, LBED members are being asked to avoid shopping at privately-operated Agency stores whenever possible.

“Agency stores are not staffed by our members, they pay low wages and don’t practice social responsibility as strongly as real LCBO stores,” said LBED chair Vanda Klumper. “If we patronize them that will only encourage the LCBO to open up even more of these privately-operated outlets.

“Spread the word to your family and friends that when they’re out traveling around Ontario this summer they should avoid shopping at Agency stores whenever possible. That’s the only way the LCBO will get the message that it’s time to put a stop the spread of this sort of privatization.”



Committee begins planning

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Rhythm Communications conducted a financial analysis of Agency stores based on revenue data supplied by the LCBO and the results were shocking.

Figures showed that at least 89 communities across Ontario currently served by Agency stores could be repatriated to the LCBO, adding more than \$16 million in annual profits to the crown corporation. In these communities access to a real LCBO store would mean better service and selection, a lower risk of sales to kids and intoxicated customers and a significant boost to the local economy through higher wages, more jobs and property taxes.

At the June 5 meeting, committee members studied different campaign proposals. More information about the forthcoming campaign will be available after the next meeting of the divisional executive.

To learn more about the Let's Keep it Public campaign, visit: <http://www.opseu.org/lbed/privatization.htm>

Coming this autumn! LBED health & safety project

The provincial health and safety committee, along with your divisional executive, is pleased to announce that a series of health and safety planning workshops will be organized this autumn in every region across Ontario.

The workshops will be designed to assist health and safety reps and committee members in their understanding of relevant provincial legislation. In turn, reps can use this knowledge to take action whenever workplace health hazards pose a danger to our members.

Local LBED presidents are asked to assist in the organization of the health and safety workshops by reserving 80/20 days in order for their members to attend. Presidents are also asked to facilitate the attendance of members. More details will be available shortly.

LBED health & safety workshops: dates and locations

Date	Region	Location
October 2	5	Toronto
October 16	2	Hamilton
October 23	6	North Bay
October 28	1	London
November 4	4	Kingston
November 6	7	Thunder Bay
November 13	3	Whitby

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Stay on top of all the breaking news that affects OPSEU and liquor board employees by regularly visiting this website. It has all the information, updates and contacts you'll need when it comes to your union, your rights and your workplace.

LBED delegation to attend NUPGE conference

LBED chair Vanda Klumper will lead a small delegation this week to a meeting of liquor board union reps organized by the National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE).

The June 12-13 conference in Regina will bring together more than 30 union representatives from all provinces with the exception of Newfoundland, Québec and Alberta. LBED bargaining officer Rob Field and campaigns officer Greg Hamara will also attend along with Klumper.

Those attending the conference will discuss major legislative and policy initiatives taking place in provincial jurisdictions, and will receive a status report from reps on the issue of privatization of wine and spirit sales on a province-by-province basis.

Also under discussion will be a review of NUPGE's draft statement on "social responsibility standards for the granting of licenses to private liquor agency stores."

Delegates will review the status of bargaining across Canada and will discuss effective ways to oppose liquor sale privatization.

The Echo is authorized for distribution by:



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Warren (Smokey) Thomas
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Got a question? Call OPSEUdirect at 1-800-268-7376

