

The LCBO, Private “Agency Stores” & Our Communities

A Special Fax from OPSEU Members

To: _____

Fax Number: _____ Date: _____

The Liquor Control Board of Ontario is important to our communities. The LCBO delivers great service and selection, and its trained staff ensures that alcohol is sold safely and responsibly. In fact, last year LCBO employees challenged more than 1.7 million customers who appeared to be underage or intoxicated. As a public agency, the LCBO also generated \$1.2 billion in provincial government revenue last year, not including taxes. This money helps pay for education, health care and public services in Ontario.

No wonder seven out of 10 Ontarians say “No” to privatizing the LCBO.

But many small and mid-size Ontario communities are being denied access to a real LCBO store. Instead they are forced to settle for privately owned “agency stores” that sell alcohol in grocery stores, gas stations and other private businesses.

Private agency stores short-change Ontario communities. They don’t provide the same service and selection as a real LCBO store. They don’t contribute as much to the local economy. And by putting the profit motive into alcohol sales, they increase the risk of sales to kids and people who are intoxicated. What’s more, many agency stores could be run more profitably as a public LCBO outlet. This costs the province millions of dollars each year in lost government revenue.

As one of your constituents, I am asking for your help. It’s time the government and the LCBO stopped opening new agency stores – and started replacing existing agency stores with real LCBO outlets wherever this would increase public revenue. Please raise this issue with your caucus colleagues, Premier McGuinty and LCBO chair Phillip Olsson.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Name: _____

Address: _____

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