



# THE ECHO

Information for OPSEU members in the Liquor Board Employees Division - Issue 3 - December 7, 2005

## “Local assembly” Jan. 23-24 will review plan for new locals

Over 100 front-line LCBO employees will meet Jan. 23-24 to discuss a plan to assign former OLBEU members to locals in their new union.

The “local assembly” will take place in Mississauga.

“This plan is the final chapter in our journey from OLBEU to OPSEU,” says John Coones, chair of OPSEU’s Liquor Board Employees Division.

“Once all members are assigned to locals, we can hold local elections. Once we hold elections, we can provide funding for locals and get them up and running right away.”

The proposal, written by the committee set up to oversee the transition from OLBEU to OPSEU, will create 27 brand new locals. About 125 LCBO employees will be assigned to existing OPSEU locals in northern areas where communities are far apart.

The Transition Committee is still fine-tuning its plan prior to presenting it to the OPSEU Executive Board Dec. 14-15. After that, the plan will be printed up in time for mailing to assembly delegates in early January.

The Transition Committee includes John Coones, Jo Ann Fisher, Mike Sullivan, and

Tom Galli (from the Liquor Board Employees Division) and Nancy Pridham, Terry Moore, and Heino Nielsen (from OPSEU).

Invited delegates to the member assembly will include:

- Current LBED zone reps;
- Member mobilizers who were booked off during bargaining in the summer;
- Members who attended the July strike committee training; and
- Other zone stewards.

Some spaces may still be available. Members who do not receive the conference package by Dec. 16, but would like to attend, should contact OPSEU Campaigns Officer Myles Magner. Send Myles an e-mail at [mmagner@opseu.org](mailto:mmagner@opseu.org) or call ext. 8777 at 1-800-268-7376 or (416) 443-8888.

The Transition Committee’s proposal will be on the OPSEU web site in early January. Members who do not attend the assembly will still be able to comment on the proposal and suggest improvements by e-mail and phone. All comments will be presented to the assembly for consideration.

*More stories on page 2*

**PLEASE POST**  
and circulate

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# Stay safe this holiday season

by Jackie Jackson and Denise Davis

Unloading trucks, lugging stock, and spending hours on cash registers is tough work at the best of times. During the holidays, LCBO employees do more of it. And we do it faster.

This year, don't let the frenzied holiday shopping season put your safety at risk. Don't accept pain as part of the job. Don't get injured. If you think your safety is at risk, know what to do.

## Know your rights

Under Ontario law, all workers have a right to safe and healthy workplaces. You have the right:

- **to know** about workplace hazards;
- **to refuse** unsafe work; and
- **to participate** in decision-making around health and safety.

If you face a health and safety issue at work, follow these steps:

- **Inform your supervisor** and ask him or her to address the problem.
- If that doesn't work, **contact your health and safety person**. This could be a union steward, a health and safety rep, or (in larger workplaces) a union member on your joint health and safety



committee.

- If you still have a problem, **call your Liquor Board Employees Division staff rep** (In the new year it will be your OPSEU staff rep). Your reps can provide ideas and advice on all sorts of things, like (for example) how to refuse unsafe work. OPSEU has two health and safety officers on staff who can also provide support. To find the right person, call OPSEUdirect at (416) 443-8888 or 1-800-268-7376.

## Building a health and safety network

Your provincial health and safety committee is committed to building a strong health and safety network for LCBO workers everywhere. We want to make sure every workplace has a union health and safety rep. Then we want to make sure every rep has health and safety training.

Centrally, we want to negotiate a province-wide health and safety agreement with our employer. We need an effective forum to prevent injuries and improve health and safety at all LCBO stores, warehouses, and offices.

We look forward to working with you. Stay safe!

In solidarity,

Jackie Jackson, Store 363, North Bay  
Denise Davis, Durham Warehouse  
Your union health and safety committee

**Zone 27 challenge:**

# Support Children's Aid!

Some sisters in Zone #27 (Durham warehouse) have contacted their local Children's Aid Society and adopted a local family for Christmas. And they are challenging other zones to do the same.

The "adoption" basically involves buying specific articles the family needs or wants, but cash donations are definitely welcome. Zone #27 will use the money for a gift certificate for groceries.

Please fire up your zones to do something at Christmas. Many may already be doing something for others — that's great — but those of us who don't might want to make this a yearly challenge within our Liquor Division.

Hats off to Debbie Gallagher, the driving force behind the Zone #27 initiative!

— Denise Davis,  
Director of Warehousing

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## Need help? Call OPSEU Direct

If you have an issue, concern, or question about anything that's going on in your workplace, your union is there to help. The zone stewards, zone reps, and staff representatives that helped you before are there to help you today — backed by the full resources of OPSEU.

Don't know your steward?

Don't know your zone rep?

Don't know who to call about benefits, grievances, health and safety, the Employee Assistance Program, or any other issue?

**Call OPSEU Direct at (416) 443-8888 or 1-800-268-7376. We'll direct you to the person who can help!**

### 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 e-mail address or fax number by calling OPSEUdirect at 1-800-268-7376 or (416) 443-8888.

*The Echo* is authorized for distribution by:



John Coones  
Chair, Liquor Board  
Employees Division



Leah Casselman,  
President

\*\*\*\* *Happy holidays!* \*\*\*\*

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