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Today's Paper

Friday, June 12, 2009

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Submit a Letter to the Editor

## LCBO strike is about preserving good jobs

June 02, 2009

**PAULA SOSSI**

Dear Editor - Re: LCBO Employees Have Nothing To Strike Over. --  
May 28

In response to the letter written by James Fox, he stated that hard working people are losing their jobs and having extremely hard times getting by. He is correct. That's the point that we, as members of Ontario Public Service Employees Union, are trying to make.

The LCBO employs approximately 6,000 people, and of those people 60 per cent work as casual employees. Being a casual employee of the Liquor Control Board of Ontario means someone does not have any guarantee of hours. Some casual employees find themselves working a few shifts per week and have to take on other part-time jobs to make ends meet. Some casuals find themselves going weeks without shifts. Casual employees do not receive benefits or vacation time.

I was a casual employee for eight years before I received a full-time job. In some areas of the province, casual employees with the LCBO wait 15 to 20 years with the hope of getting a full-time job. Can you imagine waiting that long for a full-time job?

Working at the LCBO is not always as good as it appears. We have to deal with shoplifters who sometimes bring weapons into our workplace. We also have to deal with aggressive and intoxicated customers. We work vigilantly in trying to prevent alcohol being served to minors.

And sometimes, we work alone in our stores. Therefore, we are seeking a safer work environment, not only for ourselves but for customers too.

Our fight is the fight for good jobs in our communities. No, we are not whiny or greedy people, but people fighting to save the few good full-time jobs we have left.

We are fighting to create more jobs so people can live a proper life. I think everyone can relate to what we are fighting for -- more good full-time jobs. We are very proud of the work we do and are not ashamed to say our community needs good jobs.

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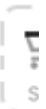
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The LCBO generated almost \$1.4 billion in profits last year. As a government corporation, the LCBO should take the lead in creating more jobs at a time when people need them. Instead, it wants to lay off full-time employees. So we too are hard working people fighting to keep our jobs.

Sure we have good jobs -- but so should other people who need them.

Paula Sossi, president, OPSEU Local 285, Guelph

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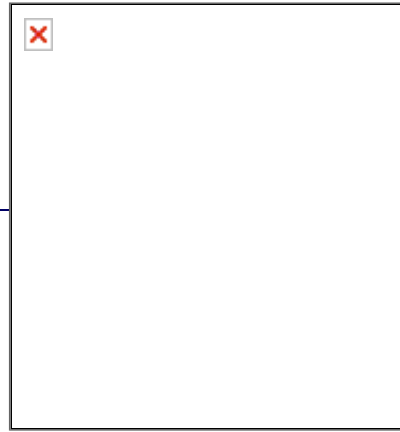
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