

July 25, 2019

Chair of the Liquor Control Board of Ontario Carmine Nigro
Chief Executive Officer George Soleas

Dear Mr. Nigro and Mr. Soleas:

I would like to meet with both of you as soon as possible to discuss the distribution problems that have created a mess this summer and my concerns about the future direction of the LCBO.

The frontline workers who OPSEU represents warned LCBO management both publicly and privately that the new distribution system was implemented too quickly and the results speak for themselves.

I noted with great interest the public commitment you have made this week to have these problems resolved by the August long weekend. Frankly, I am skeptical and so are the experts: Your frontline employees who are trying to sort out the mess you created.

We don't believe your two week timeline is a realistic goal and we want to know how you intend to achieve it, especially in light of the fact that 60 new privately owned convenience outlet stores plan to open next month.

I am also greatly troubled by persistent reports that Alcanna is sniffing around for business opportunities at precisely the same time these distribution problems have occurred.

As you know Melissa Lantsman, a member of Premier Doug Ford's re-election team is a registered lobbyist for Alcanna and we are wondering what is going on.

The botched distribution rollout and Alcanna's recent interest in the LCBO invite speculation that this is a deliberate attempt to create a crisis in order to justify privatization of a system that has faithfully served Ontarians for generations.

LCBO profits help pay for vital public services and Ontarians deserve to know the truth about what the government's plans are for the corporation.

OPSEU members are speaking out because we care about the kind of Ontario we live in and want to ensure that controlled substances are distributed responsibly and with great care. They've worked hard to make the current system the best in Canada and don't want to see their hard work go down the drain.

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The “C” in LCBO stands for Control and we are alarmed by this government’s use of another “C” word: Convenience. The lives of our youth are just too important to sacrifice so a few insiders can line their pockets.

I hope we can discuss these pressing matters as soon as a meeting can be set up.

Sincerely,



Warren (Smokey) Thomas
President, Ontario Public Service Employees Union