

## Labour impasse sparks Kellogg's lockout

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By [PATRICK MALONEY](#), THE LONDON FREE PRESS

Kellogg Lane is thick with pickets this weekend after workers were locked out of the cereal giant's Old East factory.

In a statement obtained by The Free Press, the union says negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement have been ongoing since April and the company locked out 480 workers at 11 p.m. Friday.

"Kellogg negotiators have suggested that during these tough economic times, we should be happy to have a job, comparing our situation to the ailing auto sector," reads the statement from Local 154-G of the Bakery, Confectionary, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers (BCTGM) union.

The union's view, though, is that Kellogg "has consistently earned profits of more than \$1 billion annually" and this year looks no different.

"We are not the auto sector. The corporation is not in danger of going bankrupt."

A Kellogg official told The Free Press on Saturday that the "legal lockout" commenced hours after the union rejected an offer from the company.

"Kellogg Canada regrets that the company and its union have been unable to resolve key contract issues," a statement read.

"The company remains hopeful that the work disruption will be brief and that a fair and equitable agreement can be reached."

There are pickets standing along Dundas Street and at the factory's main gates, which as of Saturday morning were still padlocked shut.

"It's organized, we have picket teams," worker Phil Hames said of the demonstration.

The 11 o'clock shift of workers arrived Friday night to find the doors locked, he said.

The collective agreement expired in April, as have two contract extensions since then.

The union suggests these negotiations are more contentious than past ones and says it is "seeking modest gains to the wage and benefit package."

The company's history in London began in 1924, when its founder bought the Canada Corn Co. and started making his cereal here.

The plant was producing 750,000 cartons of cereal a day as of 2006.

<http://lfpres.ca/newsstand/News/2009/06/06/9699411.html>