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Officials at Soaring Eagle did not respond to repeated requests for information, and people familiar with the casino said employees aren't allowed to speak with the media. But Hadden and others consider the jobs quality employment.

There's a healthy mix of

positions, they said. Many of the jobs pay hourly wages but some people -- such as managers -- earn salaries, said Rich Morrison, the city's community services director. A visit to the casino showed while some services such as cash-changing machines are automated, employees are numerous and varied. Wherever one turned there were security guards, floorwalkers, ticket sellers, maintenance crews, attendants, waiters and cashiers.

Although the tribe's human-resources website specifically targets tribal members as potential job candidates, most of the people who work at the casino have no tribal ties, Hadden said. "The majority of the jobs (at the casino) have not necessarily gone to tribal members because the tribe is not that large," she said.

Point Edward Charity Casino and Hiawatha slots

Combined, the gaming centers in Point Edward and Sarnia employ 611 people.

The casino, which opened in 2000, has 467 employees and an estimated annual payroll of \$22.8 million in Canadian currency. Hiawatha Slots has a \$7.8 million payroll and 144 employees.

There's a mix of full-time and part-time workers as well as hourly and salary jobs, said Don Pister, a spokesman for the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation. A majority of jobs at the casino are on the gaming floor, including dealers and customer service representatives. Other positions range from accounting to custodians.

Pay rates are set by comparing the jobs to those in the public and private sector, Pister said. The OLG is looking for a customer relations manager in Point Edward, a job that pays \$71,920 to \$107,880 a year in Canadian currency, according to a posting on the corporation's website. A slot technician -- responsible for maintaining slot machines -- is being sought for a gaming facility in Ajax, Ontario. The job pays \$16.84 to \$21.05 an hour in Canadian currency, according to the website.

Dick Kirkland, mayor of Point Edward, said people who work at the Blue Water Bridge and the casino account for a big percentage of the region's employment.

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