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TO: All MUNFA Members

FROM: The MUNFA Executive Committee

DATE: November 12, 2026

SUBJECT: Lack of Support Services for ASMs

The MUNFA Executive is hearing from Academic Staff Members (ASMs) who are concerned about the current lack of support services available to them as required in Clause 26.17 of the Collective Agreement. MUNFA is hearing particular concern about the lack of staff positions available in academic units to provide necessary administrative support to ASMs and units.

ASMs have noted that the recent Voluntary Retirement Plan (VRP), as well as continued budget restrictions, have left many units with either part-time support staff, or no staff at all. ASMs who have contacted MUNFA have expressed concern about the difficult situations facing current administrative support staff. They note that staff in many cases are expected to support multiple academic units, often in different locations on campus. Some ASMs have reported that administrative staff positions in their office are vacant at this time, and that the positions is not expected to be filled in the foreseeable future. ASMs have been clear that they appreciate the work that current administrative staff are doing under very difficult circumstances, and that the problem facing units is due to a lack of resources and funding from the University administration.

Clause 26.17 requires the University to provide best efforts to provide appropriate support services to ASMs. MUNFA has heard from ASMs that the lack of provided support is impacting their work, as well as the functioning of their academic units.

If your duties and responsibilities as an ASM are being impacted by a lack of administrative support in your unit, MUNFA would like to hear from you. Please email munfa@mun.ca to provide information on how your work is being impacted by the cutting of administrative staff in academic units.