

23 January 2009

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 18TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MUNASA

I'm pleased to inform you that MUNASA's membership continues to rise and that we are close to the 500 mark. This reflects our ever-increasing significance and weight as the representative of McGill's "M"s. Support for MUNASA recruiting efforts has been shown by the Principal and the Associate Vice-Principal Human Resources, underlining that they too recognize the legitimate and very important role we play.

During 2008 MUNASA handled 78 grievance cases, up from 52 in 2007. And we successfully helped four members to early retirement. All in all, due to great work done by our V-P Liaison and our Executive.

MUNASA asked for and was accorded regular electronic deposits of MUNASA fees, resulting in some administrative and budgetary efficiencies. Gopal Menon, our Treasurer, continues his valuable contribution and Maureen McNulty, our administrative assistant, continues to impress our auditor

The Health and Wellness Project, based on the so-called Laval Protocols, has been spearheaded by our V-P-L Karen Sciortino. More meetings are coming up soon and work continues apace. We are doing our utmost to see that those of our colleagues who come back from short or long-term leave find themselves returning to a more caring workplace.

The maintenance of dialogue with the senior administration is key to what can be done. They cannot simply ignore us when it suits them. We are the voice of the 'M's. By building a better workplace, we are, in our own way, contributing to building a better university. The 'M Compensation' meetings were at best sporadic. We were basically told what would happen in terms of salary policy. If they choose not to listen, they do so at substantial risk. They have a knack for implementing measures which breed cynicism and aren't terribly progressive. We see the return to the old 'Merit' system, arbitrary, expedient and not transparent. Our Special General Meeting and our Symposium gave credence to the opinion that the higher administration has not achieved progress.

We continue to be ably represented at CACPUQ by our former V-P, Bob Stanley. And I'm pleased to report that a fair number of MUNASA members attended the 2008 Conference at Université Laval.

Anne Kosowski has done yeoman efforts to bring members together with the annual BBQ and with the pizza lunch.

MUNASA representatives continue to work on the Staff Benefits Advisory Committee, the University Safety Committee, and our former Vice President, Sacha Young, continues

to represent us on the Harassment Review Committee. We continue to monitor the Asset Backed Commercial Paper imbroglio. A letter regarding how this has impacted the pension plan, sent to the Provost in November, remains unanswered.

Thanks to all of our Executive: Patrick O'Neill our V-P Membership, to Gordon Burr, our Executive Secretary; to Francine Tardif, our new councilor, who brings Macdonald Campus back to the Executive table; and to the tireless Assaad Zakka, our Vice-President. Again, thanks to Trevor Garland for his continuing interest in our cause. Thanks to another former president, Jim McVety; to our legal counsel, Me Michael Cohen and to Gregg Blatchford, our Chief Returning Officer.

Please, when you leave this meeting, if you remember nothing else, please, please remember that MUNASA, by building a better workplace, is helping this university excel!