



*Northern Ontario School of Medicine
Faculty and Staff Association*



NOSM U Medical Education Faculty and Professional Staff unanimously support strike mandate

THUNDER BAY AND SUDBURY, August 16, 2023 – Medical education faculty and professional staff represented by NOSM U Faculty and Staff Association (NUFSA), members of OPSEU Local 677, voted 100% in favour of a strike mandate amidst ongoing negotiations with NOSM U administration.

In bargaining, NUFSA is proposing fair and equitable improvements to workload and working conditions to ensure the continued success of teaching, learning, and research at the University—in line with other universities across the province. Unfortunately, the University administration is seeking to remove important rights for NUFSA members in the areas of job security and resources for teaching and research, amongst others. The rights the administration is attempting to remove would create working conditions far below standard in medical schools in Southern Ontario and, in turn, negatively impact the learning conditions of Northern Ontario medical students.

“Our members are disappointed that the University administration is attempting to seriously degrade the quality of education at NOSM U by attacking faculty and professional staff who teach our students, develop innovative Northern-centric programming, and support students on their journeys to becoming physicians serving our communities,” said Darrel Manitowabi, President of the NOSM U Faculty and Professional Staff Union.

“NUFSA members’ overwhelming strike mandate is a clear indication that medical education faculty and professional staff are willing to take the measures necessary to protect teaching and learning conditions at NOSM U, up to and including a strike.”

NUFSA is calling on the administration to meaningfully engage with the union at the bargaining table, to ensure that workload issues, compensation and benefits, and working conditions for faculty and professional staff are addressed.

“We are a school of medicine, like our colleagues in the south of the province, and our faculty and staff deserve to be treated equitably. Our students deserve the best education and community members deserve the best doctors trained to meet Northern health care challenges,” said Nicole Bessette, NUFSA and OPSEU Local 677

President. “The NOSM U administration must work with us to create the best medical school in and for the North, which starts with a fair collective agreement.”

Founded in 2005, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine University Faculty and Staff Association is one of two OPSEU bargaining units representing NOSMU’s full time faculty, professional librarians, and professional staff. NUFSA is a CAUT & OCUFA Affiliate.

For more information or to arrange an interview please contact Dr. Darrel Manitowabi, the

NUFSA President at Tel (705) 929-0177, email: office@nosmfa.ca.

