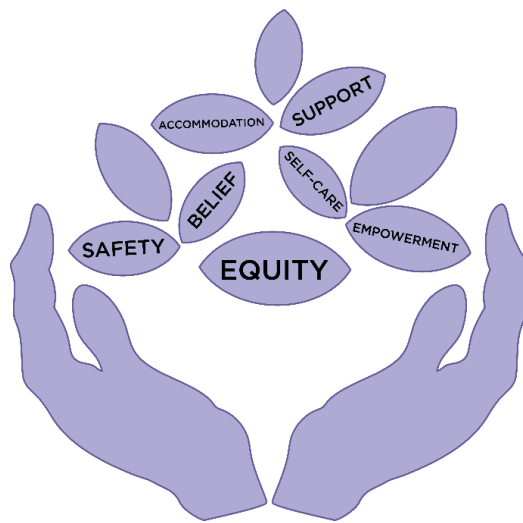


Carleton University 2022-2023 Report on Sexual Violence

Presented to the Board of Governors



Equity and Inclusive Communities and Office of the Vice-President (Students and Enrolment)
October 10, 2023

Content Warning

As a content warning, please note that this report discusses sexual violence. We understand that reviewing the report can trigger strong reactions and we encourage the community to connect with [Carleton University's Sexual Assault Support Centre](#) and/or [Health and Counselling Services](#) for support. [Additional community supports](#) are also available.

Executive Summary

The Board of Governors approved the revised Carleton Sexual Violence Policy for a three-year period on June 9, 2022, following an extensive consultation and review process with the Carleton community. The Policy and related legislation requires that an annual report be presented to the Board for information. As indicated in the last Annual Report on Sexual Violence, the Ministry of Colleges and Universities advised the University on February 28, 2022, that the deadline for submitting annual reports has been changed to November 1 for all future reports. As such, the annual reporting timelines have been adjusted from the calendar year (January – December) to the academic year (May – April) beginning with May 2022 to April 2023. Comparable statistics from May 2021 to April 2022 have been provided in this report. From May 2022 to April 2023, the Carleton University Sexual Assault Support Centre (CUSASC) provided 78.5 hours of sexual violence prevention and response training to more than 1,341 members of the community. Between May 2022-April 2023, there have been 150 disclosures seeking support services. Of the 150 disclosures, 12 cases proceeded to a formal investigation process as requested by the respective complainants. Of the 150 total disclosures, 102 are based on incidents that occurred within a year of the disclosure and 48 are considered to be based on historical incidents. When comparing these statistics to the previous academic year, we believe that the changes in the data reflect the fact that students had returned to campus following the pandemic. As with the previous year, the intensity of support remained higher. Finally, CUSASC completed the first three years of *Honouring Each Other*, adding numerous prevention, advocacy and support efforts that have been developed and delivered across campus with various stakeholders. This strategy has been updated to provide another three-year blueprint that focuses on prevention and education initiatives for 2023-2026. A separate report on this initiative will be presented to the Board of Governors at its October 10, 2023 meeting.

Prevention, Education and Awareness Initiatives

From May 2022 to April 2023, multiple campus partnerships were continued in order to provide sexual violence education and awareness initiatives. Partners included:

- Centre for Indigenous Support and Community Engagement
- Office of the Vice President (Students and Enrolment) (OVPSE)
- Health and Counselling Services
- Department of Housing and Residence Life
- Office of Student Affairs
- Student Experience Office (SEO)
- Campus Safety Services
- Carleton University Students' Association (CUSA)
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA)
- Department of Recreation and Athletics

Carleton was also proud to partner with a number of organizations in the broader Ottawa community that seek to end gender-based violence in our city, including:

- Sexual Assault Support Centre of Ottawa
- City of Ottawa Women and Gender Equity Strategy Working Group
- Ottawa Coalition To End Violence Against Women
- Courage to Act: Community of Learning
- Ontario University Sexual Violence Network
- Ottawa Post-Secondary Sexual Violence Network
- Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre

Training Statistics and Highlights

From May 2022 to April 2023, the Carleton University Sexual Assault Support Centre (CUSAC) provided 78.5 hours of sexual violence prevention and response training to 1,341 members of the campus community. These trainings were a combination of online and in-person and were offered to staff, students and faculty members across all departments at Carleton University.

Some of the trainings offered to the Carleton community include:

- Responding to Disclosures of Sexual Violence
- Community Approaches to Sexual Violence Prevention
- Creating Consent Cultures on Campus
- Trauma-Informed Approaches to Sexual Violence
- Alcohol and Sexual Violence Prevention
- Peer Support Training
- Bystander Intervention Training

Communications

The Office of the Vice-President (Students and Enrolment), in collaboration with Equity and Inclusive Communities, has developed a multi-faceted communications strategy to highlight the University's commitment to sexual violence prevention and education. This strategy uses social media assets, student communications and website collateral to convey multiple key messages to the Carleton community about sexual violence. The messaging ensures members of the Carleton community and survivors on campus are aware of the supports available, how to take action or access resources as a survivor and reinforces the commitment to prevention as a University value. The plan identifies optimal timeframes for relevant messaging to ensure prevention and education themes are present throughout the year.

Information on Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy – including how to disclose an experience of sexual violence (in both an emergency and a non-emergency situation) and how to file a formal complaint – continues to be posted on the Current Student website, in the Carleton360 Student Portal and the new Carleton Mobile app as a supplement to other ongoing promotions. Printed documents on Responding to Disclosures of Sexual Violence and Formally Reporting an Experience of Sexual Violence were sent through interoffice mail to all faculty and staff at the end of August 2022 as everyone returned to campus and continue to be made available upon request.

Programming Updates and Awareness Programs

In early 2023, the Carleton University Sexual Assault Support Centre (CUSASC) conducted a strategic review of the prevention and support programming offered to Carleton community members as part of its commitment to continuous improvement and being responsive to the requests from the Carleton community.

The following key awareness events were held in the reporting year. Additional support, awareness and public education initiatives are outlined in the 2023 Honouring Each Other Annual Report which will be presented to the Board of Governors at its October 10, 2023 meeting.

#CUriousAbout Campaign 2022

The 2022 #CUriousAbout campaign was very successful, with twelve featured events in six weeks. The initiatives included self-care sessions, training initiatives, public awareness and education events and panel discussions. Many of these events also included community or provincial partnerships, like #IBelieveYou Day, in which every university across Ontario participated.

Sexual Assault Awareness Week 2023

Equity and Inclusive Communities (EIC), along with campus and community partners, hosted eight events, activities and workshops for Sexual Assault Awareness Week. The lineup of events included a collaboration with Campus Safety Services and the Gender and Sexuality Resource Centre entitled, "Walk a Click in their Kicks," a paint along and a workshop focused on pleasure after trauma. The keynote event was a continuation of provincial partnership between all universities in Ontario, "Stories Spark Change." The event featured a conversation between internationally-renowned author adrienne maree brown and student activist Keneisha Charles.

Annual Statistics

Carleton University continues to collect and report on statistics related to sexual violence through six broad categories as required by the Government of Ontario. These categories are sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, indecent exposure, voyeurism and sexual exploitation.

There have been 150 disclosures seeking support services based on these categories from May 2022 to April 2023. Of the 150 disclosures, 12 cases went to a formal investigation process as requested by the respective complainants. Of the 150 total disclosures, 102 are based on incidents that occurred within a year of the disclosure and 48 were considered to be based on historical incidents. Furthermore, 74 of the 150 involve a respondent who is a member of the Carleton community and 72 incidents took place on campus.

The breakdown of disclosure statistics that are based on the six broad categories of sexual violence are as follows:

Table 1: Disclosure Statistics

Measure	May 2021 – April 2022	May 2022 – April 2023
Sexual Assault	67	73
Sexual Harrassment	32	64
Stalking	3	1
Indecent Exposure	0	3
Voyeurism	0	4
Sexual Exploitation	5	5

We also collect statistics on consent education meetings as part of our alternative resolution work. In the reporting timeframe, EIC provided seven sessions for consent education, four of which were mandated by the Sexual Violence Review Committee and three that were voluntary conversations.

A comparison has been provided for reference to show the year-over-year comparison.

Table 2: Total Disclosures

Measure	May 2021 – April 2022	May 2022 – April 2023
Informal disclosures	104	138
Formal reports	3	12
Total	107	150

Table 3: Disclosure Breakdown

Measure	May 2021 – April 2022	May 2022 – April 2023
Recent cases	78	102
Carleton University Respondent	61	74
On-campus incidents	37	72
Consent education	4	7

For the purposes of this report, we considered virtual campus spaces like Zoom classrooms to be “on-campus.” However, the increase in on-campus cases is attributed to the return of in-person activities.

The numbers we are currently seeing have returned to similar statistics to 2018 and 2019, prior to the emergence of COVID-19. The past academic year represents the highest number of formal complaints we have received since the creation of the Sexual Violence Policy, with 12 formal reports made, or 8% of disclosures. Previously, our highest formal reporting year was in 2019, with six cases moving to a formal investigation (or 4.8% of disclosures). This increase is due to a deeper trust in the outcomes of the Policy, more awareness among the campus community of the process, a greater return to in-person activities, and can be attributed to a societal shift where survivors feel more generalized belief and support for their stories.

Policy Review Process

After an extensive consultation and review of the Sexual Violence Policy, the revised Policy was approved by the Board of Governors at its meeting on June 9, 2022. The revised Policy incorporated a number of changes based on feedback from the Carleton community in the themes of policy administration, response, and prevention and education. The Policy is scheduled for a mandatory review in 2025 and a holistic and transparent consultation process will begin in Fall 2024.

Honouring Each Other: A blueprint for building consent cultures on campus, together

After the initial three years of *Honouring Each Other: Building consent cultures on campus, together*, EIC reviewed the document and updated it to reflect the new initiatives for the next three years. Some highlights of the achievements in the 2019-2022 document include events that reflect intersectional and inclusive approaches to prevention programming, expanded training and new community partnerships, and provincial collaborations on multiple initiatives. A companion report on *Honouring Each Other* will be presented with more detail to the Board of Governors at its October 10, 2023 meeting.

What Has Been Learned

There was a substantial shift in the way our community and campus operated from 2021 through 2022 and to the beginning of 2023. Returning to in-person activities has increased our in-person training and engagement with students, many of whom have been excited to attend programming with us in physical spaces where they can be supported and connect with one another. We were also able to shift our prevention work to respond to the needs of the community on the physical campus space, while also growing our impact and reach by increasing virtual collaborations across the province. We look forward to balancing all these new initiatives and continuing to support survivors as we move into 2023-2024.