

Policy Name:	Workplace Harassment Prevention
Originating/Responsible Department:	Department of Risk Management
Approval Authority:	Senior Management Committee
Date of Original Policy:	June 2010
Last Updated:	December 2025
Mandatory Revision Date:	December 2026
Contact:	Associate Vice President, Department of Risk Management

Policy Statement:

Carleton University is committed to the protection of the health, safety and well-being of all members of the university community. As such, the university will take all precautions reasonable to provide and maintain a respectful learning and working environment that is free of harassment, including sexual harassment. Harassment will not be tolerated in the workplace, and, if identified, will be addressed immediately.

This policy will be implemented through a supporting workplace harassment prevention program that will provide an overall framework for addressing workplace harassment under the Human Rights Policy and Procedures, the Sexual Violence Policy, the Human Resources Policies, and the Students Rights and Responsibilities Policy. The Workplace Harassment Prevention Program will be reviewed annually.

Purpose:

This policy fulfills the legal obligations under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* for a Workplace Harassment Prevention Policy which is renewed annually. Further, this policy confirms the university's commitment to ensuring a respectful learning and working environment that is free of harassment, including sexual harassment.

Scope:

This policy applies to all university community members including faculty, staff, students, contractors, volunteers and visitors.

This policy applies wherever university activities occur. This includes on university premises, while conducting field work, on official university business, at university functions or social events, or when members are interacting through social or other electronic media, including while working remotely or on a flexible work arrangement.

Definitions.

"Workplace Harassment", as defined by the Occupational Health and Safety Act, means:

- engaging in a course of vexatious comment or conduct against a worker in a workplace that is known or ought reasonably to be known to be unwelcome, or
- workplace sexual harassment;

"Workplace Sexual Harassment", as defined by the Occupational Health and Safety Act, means:

- engaging in a course of vexatious comment or conduct against a worker in a workplace because of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, where the course of comment or conduct is known or ought reasonably to be known to be unwelcome, or
- making a sexual solicitation or advance where the person making the solicitation or advance is in a position to confer, grant or deny a benefit or advancement to the worker and the person knows or ought reasonably to know that the solicitation or advance is unwelcome.

Workplace harassment does not include legitimate performance management and legitimate exercise of academic freedom.

Procedure:

Reporting

- Harassing behavior shall not be ignored. Employees shall report any incidents of Workplace Harassment that have been experienced or witnessed. Reports should be directed to a Manager/Supervisor or to Human Resources or the Deputy Provost's Office. Workplace sexual harassment reports shall be reported in accordance with the Sexual Violence Policy.
- In the event of an emergency on campus, Campus Safety Services should be contacted at (613) 520-4444.
- In the event of an emergency off campus, local emergency services should be contacted.
- There will be no negative consequences for persons making reports in good faith.

Investigation

- The university will investigate and deal with all reports of workplace harassment in a fair and timely manner, respecting the confidentiality of all persons involved as much as possible.
- The results of the investigation and corrective action will be communicated to the worker(s) involved as required by law.

Roles and Responsibilities:

All employees are responsible for complying with all applicable health and safety requirements; including legislated requirements and university policies and procedures. This includes successful and timely completion of Respect and Safety Training (formerly Workplace Violence and Harassment Prevention), as well as periodic refresher training as directed. Employees are responsible for complying with this policy and the Workplace Harassment Prevention [Program](#).

Supervisors and managers who have the authority to direct the work or assign tasks are responsible for maintaining safe and healthy work conditions and ensuring safe work practices in their assigned areas. Supervisors and managers will inform their direct reports of the requirements of this policy and the Workplace Harassment Prevention Program and ensure that these requirements are followed.

Students are responsible for acting in a manner that protects the health and safety of themselves and others and for complying with all applicable health and safety requirements. Students must adhere to the requirements outlined in the Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy.

The university will hold employees, students, volunteers and visitors accountable and will impose discipline and other sanctions up to and including discharge, expulsion, and trespass notices for violation of this policy. The university may also initiate criminal or civil proceedings against persons who engage in workplace harassment.

Contacts:

Associate Vice President, Department of Risk Management
Vice-President (Students and Enrolment) and University Registrar
Deputy Provost (Academic Operations & Planning)
Associate Vice-President Human Resources and Chief People Officer
Director, Environmental Health and Safety
Director, Patrol Operations, Campus Safety Services
Associate Vice-President, Equity and Inclusive Communities
Director, Staff and Labour Relations (Professional Services)
Director, Labour Relations (Academic)

Links to related Policies:

Access to Information and Privacy
Environmental Health and Safety
Hazard Reporting
Human Rights Policy
Sexual Violence
Students Rights and Responsibilities
Workplace Violence Prevention