

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

**Policy Statement:**

Carleton University is committed to the protection of the health, safety and wellbeing 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 violence, including sexual violence. All acts of violence in the workplace are strictly prohibited, and if identified, will be addressed immediately.

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

**Purpose:**

This policy fulfills the legal obligations under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* for a Workplace Violence 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 violence, including sexual violence.

**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 Violence" as defined by the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, means,

- the exercise of physical force by a person against a worker, in a workplace, that causes or could cause physical injury to the worker,

- an attempt to exercise physical force against a worker, in a workplace, that could cause physical injury to the worker,
- a statement or behavior that it is reasonable for a worker to interpret as a threat to exercise physical force against the worker, in a workplace, that could cause physical injury to the worker.

Workplace violence includes domestic violence that could cause physical injury to a person in the workplace.

“Sexual Violence” as defined by the *The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Act*, means,

- any sexual act or act targeting a person’s sexuality, gender identity or gender expression, whether the act is physical or psychological in nature, that is committed, threatened or attempted against a person without the person’s consent.
- It includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, indecent exposure, voyeurism and sexual exploitation.
- For further clarity, sexual assault includes rape.

**Procedure:**

*Reporting*

- Threatening or violent behavior shall not be ignored. Employees are strongly encouraged to raise any concerns about workplace violence and are required to report any violent incidents or threats. Reports should be directed to a Manager/Supervisor or to Campus Safety Services. Workplace sexual violence reports shall be reported in accordance with the Sexual Violence Policy.
- In the event of an emergency on campus, Campus Safety Services is to 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 violence in a fair and timely manner, respecting the privacy of all persons involved as much as possible.

**Roles and Responsibilities:**

All employees are responsible for complying with all applicable health and safety requirements; including legislated requirements as well as 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 Violence Prevention [Program](#).

Supervisors and managers, who have authority to direct 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 Violence Prevention Program and will 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 violence.

**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  
Sexual Violence  
Students Rights and Responsibilities  
Workplace Harassment Prevention