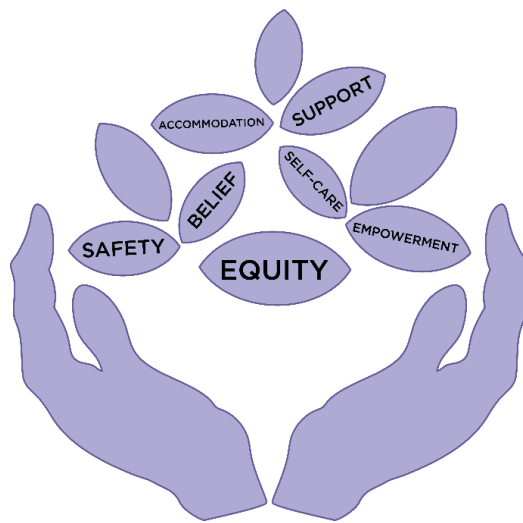


Carleton University 2023-2024 Report on Sexual Violence

Presented to the Board of Governors



Office of the Vice-President (Students and Enrolment)
Equity and Inclusive Communities
October 10, 2024

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 various support and resources](#).

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. The reporting period for this report is based on the academic year (May – April) beginning with May 2023 to April 2024. Comparable statistics from May 2022 to April 2023 have been provided in this report. From May 2023 to April 2024, the Carleton University Sexual Assault Support Centre (CUSASC) provided 87.5 hours of sexual violence prevention and response training to more than 1,580 members of the community. Between May 2023 and April 2024, there have been 109 disclosures seeking support services. Of the 109 disclosures, 8 cases proceeded to a formal investigation process as requested by the respective complainants. Of the 109 total disclosures, 80 are based on incidents that occurred within a year of the disclosure and 29 are considered to be based on historical incidents. Finally, Equity and Inclusive Communities completed a strategic review of [Honouring Each Other](#), implementing several new prevention initiatives for the coming years. A separate report on these initiatives will be presented to the Board of Governors at its October 10, 2024 meeting.

Prevention, Education and Awareness Initiatives

From May 2023 to April 2024, 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)
- 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
- Women's Initiatives for Safer Environments Ottawa (WISE)
- Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women
- Planned Parenthood Ottawa
- Ontario University Sexual Violence Network
- Ottawa Post-Secondary Sexual Violence Network
- Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre
- Women's Event Network Ottawa

Training Statistics and Highlights

From May 2023 to April 2024, the Carleton University Sexual Assault Support Centre (CUSAC) provided 87.5 hours of sexual violence prevention and response training to 1,580 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
- Champions for Change
- Alcohol and Sexual Violence Prevention
- Sexual Violence Prevention 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, mobile app notifications, student newsletters and website collateral to convey multiple key messages to the Carleton community about sexual violence prevention and support in addition to consent. 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 and consent as University values. 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 Carleton Mobile app as a supplement to other ongoing promotions. Electronic documents on Responding to Disclosures of Sexual Violence and Formally Reporting an Experience of Sexual Violence are available online and printed copies continue to be provided through interoffice mail to all faculty and staff upon request.

Following the presentation to the Board of Governors, this annual report is [published publicly on the Sexual Violence Policy](#) website and is included in a Board of Governors update to the Carleton community.

Programming Updates and Awareness Programs

The following key awareness campaigns were held during the reporting year as part of Carleton University Sexual Assault Support Centre's (CUSASC) commitment to providing responsive programming to the Carleton community. Additional support, awareness campaigns, and public education initiatives are highlighted in the 2024 Honouring Each Other Annual Report, which will be presented to the Board of Governors on October 10, 2024.

#CURiousAbout Campaign 2023

The 2023 #CURiousAbout campaign was very successful, with twelve featured events throughout the first six weeks of the fall term. The initiatives included training programs, public awareness and education events, and programming for new and returning students. Many of these events also featured community or provincial partnerships, such as #WeBelieveYou Day, in which universities and colleges across Ontario took part.

Sexual Assault Awareness Week 2024

Equity and Inclusive Communities (EIC), along with campus and community partners, hosted seven events, activities and workshops for Sexual Assault Awareness Week. The lineup of events included a collaboration with the Student Experience Office and Campus Safety Services entitled, "Expressions of Survivors and Allies Art Exhibit," a weeklong art exhibition capturing the themes of strength, resilience and community of art created by survivors. In addition to a Queer Survivors Panel on student voices navigating sexual violence while identifying as a member of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, an art affirmation workshop, a self-care day with the CUSA's Gender and Sexuality Resource Centre and more.

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 109 disclosures seeking support services based on these categories from May 2023 to April 2024. Of the 109 disclosures, 8 cases went to a formal investigation process as requested by the respective complainants. Of the 109 total disclosures, 80 are based on incidents that occurred within a year of the disclosure and 29 were based on historical incidents. Furthermore, 47 of the 109 involve a respondent who is a member of the Carleton community, and 82 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 2022 – April 2023	May 2023 – April 2024
Sexual Assault	73	72
Sexual Harassment	64	28
Stalking	1	2
Indecent Exposure	3	3
Voyeurism	4	0
Sexual Exploitation	5	4

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

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

Table 2: Total Disclosures

Measure	May 2022 – April 2023	May 2023 – April 2024
Informal disclosures	138	101
Formal reports	12	8
Total	150	109

Table 3: Disclosure Breakdown

Measure	May 2022 – April 2023	May 2023 – April 2024
Recent cases	102	80
Carleton University Respondent	74	47
On-campus incidents	72	82
Consent education	7	9

Policy Review Process

As required by the Policy and related legislation, the Sexual Violence Policy is scheduled for revision and renewal in 2025. Carleton is committed to implementing another [holistic and transparent consultation process](#) as conducted in 2018-19 and 2021-2022. Consultations have already begun and will continue through the winter 2025 term in order to meet the approval deadline of June 4, 2025. The Board of Governors will be provided with updates throughout this process.

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

Following the strategic review of *"Honouring Each Other: Building consent cultures on campus, together"* in early 2023, the Equity and Inclusive Communities implemented several new prevention initiatives for the coming three years. Highlights of the 2023-2026 strategy include greater training opportunities, the establishment of new community collaborations, the implementation of a Peer Educator Program and the expansion of intersectional prevention programs. A companion report on *Honouring Each Other* will be presented with more detail to the Board of Governors at its October 10, 2024 meeting.

What Has Been Learned

The past academic year has been highlighted by a number of impactful programs, campaigns and trainings. The campus community's enthusiasm for in-person programming was evident in the number of requests and attendance. This has been balanced by continuing to provide survivors with the option of in-person and virtual support. Prevention efforts will continue to be adapted to meet the evolving needs of the Carleton community. As we look ahead to the 2024-2025 academic year, we anticipate introducing new initiatives and programs while maintaining our commitment to supporting survivors and continuing to promote a culture of consent.