

Carleton University 2024-2025 Report on Sexual Violence

Presented to the Board of Governors



Office of the Vice-President (Students and Enrolment)
Equity and Inclusive Communities
October 2, 2025

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 supports and resources](#).

Executive Summary

The Board of Governors approved the revised Carleton Sexual Violence Policy for a three-year period on June 4, 2025, following an extensive consultation and review process with the Carleton community. The Policy and related legislation require 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 2024 to April 2025. Comparable statistics from May 2023 to April 2024 have been provided in this report. From May 2024 to April 2025, the Carleton University Sexual Assault Support Centre (CUSASC) provided 71.25 hours of sexual violence prevention and response training to more than 1,475 members of the community. Between May 2024 and April 2025, there have been 125 disclosures seeking support services. Of the 125 disclosures, 7 cases proceeded to a formal investigation process as requested by the respective complainants. Of the 125 total disclosures, 84 are based on incidents that occurred within a year of the disclosure and 41 are considered to be based on historical incidents. Finally, Equity and Inclusive Communities continues to implement [Honouring Each Other](#) and a separate report on the various support, awareness campaigns and public education initiatives will be provided to the Board of Governors at its October 2, 2025 meeting.

Prevention, Education and Awareness Initiatives

From May 2024 to April 2025, 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)
- Gender and Sexuality Resource Centre

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
- Interval House of Ottawa
- Project Agape
- Women's Event Network Ottawa

Training Statistics and Highlights

From May 2024 to April 2025, the Carleton University Sexual Assault Support Centre (CUSAC) provided 71.25 hours of sexual violence prevention and response training to 1,475 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
- Creating Consent Cultures on Campus
- 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. A complete review of these documents and the overall communications plan will be undertaken in the 2025-2026 academic year.

Following the meeting of 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. A copy of this report is also provided to the Minister.

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 2025 Honouring Each Other Annual Report, which will be provided to the Board of Governors at its October 2, 2025 meeting.

Consent Awareness Week 2024

Equity and Inclusive Communities hosted Consent Awareness Week from September 16 to 20, 2024, a rebranded initiative replacing the #CUriousAboutConsent Campaign. Consent Awareness Week is a national campaign held annually across Canada during the third week of September, designated as being within the 'Red Zone', when post-secondary students are at higher risk of sexual violence. The week featured workshops, discussions and events that promoted consent as an everyday practice and focused on the prevention of sexual violence and bystander intervention. Highlights included We Believe You Day, trauma-informed yoga, an Instagram Live on tech-facilitated harm and more.

Sexual Assault Awareness Week 2025

Equity and Inclusive Communities, in collaboration with campus and community partners, hosted Sexual Assault Awareness Week from January 27 to January 31, 2025. The campaign aimed to spread awareness to the Carleton community about the impacts of sexual violence on campus while fostering a culture of care for survivors and promoting a campus-wide culture of consent. Events included a self-care day with the CUSA's Gender and Sexuality Resource Centre, a trauma-informed accessible self-defence workshop, a traditional teachings and grounding event for Indigenous students 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 125 disclosures seeking support services based on these categories from May 2024 to April 2025. Of the 125 disclosures, 7 cases went to a formal investigation process as requested by the respective complainants. Of the 125 total disclosures, 84 are based on incidents that occurred within a year of the disclosure and 41 were based on historical incidents. Furthermore, 68 of the 125 involve a respondent who is a member of the Carleton community, and 48 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 2023 – April 2024	May 2024 – April 2025
Sexual Assault	72	87
Sexual Harassment	28	27
Stalking	2	4
Indecent Exposure	3	3
Voyeurism	0	0
Sexual Exploitation	4	4

We also collect statistics on consent education meetings as part of our alternative resolution work. In the reporting timeframe, Equity and Inclusive Communities provided seven sessions for consent education. Six of these sessions were voluntary, and one was mandated by the Sexual Violence Review Committee.

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

Table 2: Total Disclosures

Measure	May 2023 – April 2024	May 2024 – April 2025
Informal disclosures	101	118
Formal reports	8	7
Total	109	125

Table 3: Disclosure Breakdown

Measure	May 2023 – April 2024	May 2024 – April 2025
Recent cases	80	84
Carleton University Respondent	47	68
On-campus incidents	82	48
Consent education	9	7

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 4, 2025. The revised Policy incorporated a number of changes based on feedback from the Carleton community. As part of our commitment to a transparent review process, all feedback received throughout the consultation process has been made available on the [Sexual Violence Policy website](#). The Policy is scheduled for a mandatory review in 2028, and a holistic and transparent consultation process will occur in the 2027-2028 academic year.

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

As part of the 2023–2026 strategy, Equity and Inclusive Communities committed to building a more cohesive and accessible approach to sexual violence prevention across the university. Key actions include supporting survivors from diverse backgrounds, strengthening partnerships in Ottawa’s community, as well as provincially with post-secondary institution partners and prioritizing intersectional approaches to programming. The previous Fall campaign, #CUriousAboutConsent, was rebranded to align with post-secondary partner institutions across Ontario, creating Consent Awareness Week. This introduced new programming specific for Black survivors of sexual violence and expanded partnerships with expert gender-based violence organizations like the Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women.

A companion report on Honouring Each Other will be presented with more detail to the Board of Governors at its October 2, 2025, meeting.

What Has Been Learned

The academic year 2024-2025 has been highlighted by a number of impactful campaigns, education and supportive programming for survivors. As we look ahead to the 2025-2026 academic year, we recognize the importance of adapting and sustaining our existing programming to ensure that our limited resources are used strategically to create the greatest possible impact for the Carleton community. Based on feedback received through the Sexual Violence Policy consultation process, a collaborative review of communications, initiatives, processes, training and support will be undertaken over the academic year.