

Carleton University 2025-2026 Report on Sexual Violence

Presented to the Board of Governors



Office of the Vice-President (Students and Enrolment)
Equity and Inclusive Communities
October 8, 2026

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. This report covers the academic year period from May 2025 to April 2026. During this reporting period, Equity and Inclusive Community's (EIC) Carleton University Sexual Assault Support Centre (CUSASC) provided 34 hours of sexual violence prevention and response training to 1,250 members of the community. There have been 101 disclosures seeking support services, including three cases that proceeded to a formal investigation process at the request of the complainants. Of the 101 disclosures, 59 are based on incidents that occurred within a year of the disclosure and 42 are considered to be based on historical incidents. The implementation of support services, awareness campaigns and public education initiatives is undertaken by EIC as part of [Honouring Each Other](#).

Prevention, Education and Awareness Initiatives

Carleton continued to work with campus partners to deliver sexual violence prevention, education and awareness initiatives, including events for Sexual Assault Awareness Week and Consent Action Week.

Partners included:

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

Carleton also partnered with organizations in the Ottawa community that work to end gender-based violence and support survivors. These partnerships supported survivor groups, public education and awareness initiatives, writing and healing programs, resource development and city-wide and provincial collaboration on sexual violence prevention and response. Examples included Take Back the Night, the New Adventures Writing Retreat, survivor support groups and public education events. Key partners included:

- Interval House of Ottawa
- Ontario University Sexual Violence Network
- Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women
- Ottawa Post-Secondary Sexual Violence Network
- Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre
- Planned Parenthood Ottawa
- Project Agape
- Sexual Assault Support Centre of Ottawa
- Women's Event Network Ottawa
- Women's Initiatives for Safer Environments Ottawa (WISE)

Training Statistics and Highlights

From May 2025 to April 2026, EIC's CUSAC provided 34 hours of sexual violence prevention and response training to 1,250 members of the campus community. Training was delivered online and in-person to faculty, staff and students across the university. Training topics included:

- Alcohol and Sexual Violence Prevention
- Bystander Intervention Training
- Creating Consent Cultures on Campus
- Responding to Disclosures of Sexual Violence
- Sexual Violence Prevention Training

Communications

The Office of the Vice-President (Students and Enrolment), in collaboration with EIC, delivers a year-round communications strategy promoting sexual violence prevention, survivor support and a culture of consent. Through student newsletters, website content, social media, event listings and the Carleton Mobile app, the strategy provides information on supports, prevention education and reporting pathways, with messaging aligned to key periods throughout the academic year. Information on Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy — including how to disclose an experience of sexual violence, access supports and services and file a formal complaint — remains readily available to the Carleton community. Resources such as [Responding to Disclosures of Sexual Violence](#) and [Formally Reporting an Experience of Sexual Violence](#) are also available online and promoted through ongoing awareness and education activities.

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 Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security.

Programming Updates and Awareness Programs

The following awareness campaigns were held during the reporting year as part of EIC's CUSASC prevention, education and survivor-support programming. Additional support services, awareness campaigns and public education initiatives is undertaken by EIC as part of [Honouring Each Other](#).

Consent Awareness Week 2025

EIC hosted Consent Awareness Week from September 15-19, 2025, a rebranded initiative replacing the #CUriousAboutConsent Campaign. The national campaign is held annually during the third week of September, within the 'Red Zone', when post-secondary students are at heightened 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, yoga tote-bag craft night and a healing space for Black survivors of sexual violence.

Sexual Assault Awareness Week 2026

EIC, in collaboration with campus and community partners, hosted Sexual Assault Awareness Week from January 26-30, 2026. The campaign raised awareness to the of the impacts of sexual violence while fostering a culture of care for survivors and promoting a campus-wide culture of consent. Events included a self-care day with the Health and Wellness team, the launch of survivor support groups and a safety planning workshop in partnership with Campus Safety Services.

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 101 disclosures seeking support services based on these categories from May 2025 to April 2026. Of the 101 disclosures, three cases went to a formal investigation process as requested by the respective complainants. Of the 101 total disclosures, 59 are based on incidents that occurred within a year of the disclosure and 42 were based on historical incidents. Furthermore, 42 of the 101 involve a respondent who is a member of the Carleton community, and 30 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 2024 – April 2025	May 2025 – April 2026
Sexual Assault	87	63
Sexual Harassment	27	19
Stalking	4	12
Indecent Exposure	3	4
Voyeurism	0	2
Sexual Exploitation	4	1

Carleton also tracks consent education sessions delivered through alternative resolution processes. In the reporting timeframe, Equity and Inclusive Communities provided one session for consent education which was voluntary

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

Table 2: Total Disclosures

Measure	May 2024 – April 2025	May 2025 – April 2026
Informal disclosures	118	98
Formal reports	7	3
Total	125	101

Table 3: Disclosure Breakdown

Measure	May 2024 – April 2025	May 2025 – April 2026
Recent cases	84	59
Carleton University Respondent	68	42
On-campus incidents	48	30
Consent education	7	1

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

As part of the 2023–2026 Honouring Each Other strategy, EIC continued to advance sexual violence prevention, survivor support and consent education through awareness campaigns, training, survivor support groups and campus partnerships. As the final year of *Honouring Each Other* concludes, EIC and the Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Committee will begin to develop a new strategy to support the university's ongoing effort to prevent and respond to sexual violence. It is anticipated that this new strategy will be released to the Carleton University community in late fall 2026.

What Has Been Learned

During the 2025–2026 academic year, Carleton continued to advance sexual violence prevention, education and survivor-support initiatives through a range of campaigns, training opportunities and awareness activities. The reporting period reinforced the importance of accessible support services, ongoing prevention education and strong collaboration among campus and community partners. It also highlighted that many individuals seek support, accommodations, information and safety planning without pursuing a formal complaint process, underscoring the need for multiple pathways to access assistance and resources.

As Carleton looks ahead to 2026–2027, the university will build on these lessons through the review of communications, training, supports and prevention initiatives identified through the Sexual Violence Policy consultation process. Carleton remains committed to fostering a campus culture grounded in safety, dignity, respect and consent, and to continuously strengthening its efforts to prevent sexual violence, support survivors and respond to the evolving needs of the campus community.