



**FOR INFORMATION**

**PUBLIC**

**OPEN SESSION**

**TO:** University Affairs Board

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**DATE:** MA 16 for May 23, 2019

**AGENDA ITEM:** 4

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

Two-year activity report of the Sexual Violence Prevention and Support Centre

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

According to its terms of reference, the University Affairs Board is responsible for “policy concerning multi-campus services, campus and student services on the St. George campus and University-wide policies that apply to the St. George, UTM and UTSC campuses.”

**GOVERNANCE PATH:**

**1. University Affairs Board [for information] (May 23, 2019)**

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

The University’s *Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment* was approved by Governing Council on December 12, 2016 and came into effect on January 1, 2017.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

The University’s Sexual Violence Prevention and Support Centre opened in 2017 as part of the Provost’s four-point Action Plan on Preventing and Responding to Sexual Violence. The Centre has locations on each campus to help students, staff and faculty who have been affected by sexual violence or sexual harassment access support, services and accommodations. Under the *Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment*, the Centre also has a mandate to offer education activities related to sexual violence prevention and response.

This two-year activity report includes a description of the Centre’s activities since its opening, including the number of disclosures received, the number of reports received, and a summary of education offerings. These data provide a baseline from which future activities might be evaluated. This document will also be used to provide context during the upcoming three-year review of the *Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment*.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no financial implications for this item.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

None.

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**DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:**

Two-year activity report of the Sexual Violence Prevention and Support Centre

# THE SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SUPPORT CENTRE: THE FIRST TWO YEARS

The University of Toronto opened its Sexual Violence Prevention and Support Centre in 2017 with locations on all three campuses to make it easier for members of our community – students, faculty and staff – to access supports and information. The Centre is one of the ways the University is working to provide our community with a clear pathway for people seeking support.

Since its opening, the Centre has grown in size and scope and is working to raise awareness in our community with workshops and training. Under the University's Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment, the Centre also provides support and accepts disclosures and reports of sexual violence. This document provides a snapshot of the Centre's work in the first two years as it established permanent sites on each campus, hired staff and began several outreach programs. The data presented encompass the period from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2018.

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

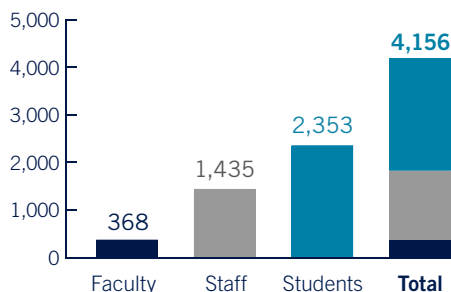
The Centre offers a variety of education and training opportunities for members of our community centred on sexual violence prevention and raising awareness of services and supports. The Centre's education initiatives are designed to be interactive and thought-provoking and enhance our community's ability to understand, respond to and prevent sexual violence. The Centre's approach to education and outreach and the content of these initiatives are guided by the recommendations of the University's Expert Panel on Education and Prevention of Sexual Violence.

Some of the most common and requested workshop topics include:

- How to build a culture of consent
- Introduction to the University's Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment
- Bystander intervention training
- Training on receiving disclosures of sexual violence

In 2018, the University released an online sexual violence prevention training module, which includes tailored content for students, staff and faculty. The training, which is available through Quercus, introduces the Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment and develops skills to help recognize sexual violence and respond supportively to a disclosure. By the end of 2018, 4,156 students, staff and faculty members had engaged with the online training.

Online Sexual Violence Prevention Training, 2018



190

workshops delivered by the Sexual Violence Prevention and Support Centre to members of our community

300

hours of training delivered to

7,920

participants including students, staff and faculty

64

outreach activities across all campuses at resource fairs, Centre art circles and other campus events

## SUPPORT

We know that it is important for people who have been affected by sexual violence to feel that they have a safe and confidential space where they can go to learn about their options. That's the type of space we are committed to providing for our community. We want people to know that they are not alone and that they have a place to go.

**506** requests for support from students, staff and faculty

The Centre offers:

- Confidential, non-judgmental, client-centred services
- Coordination and navigation of University supports, services and accommodations
- Support in making a disclosure
- Assistance with reporting should someone wish to make a report
- Referrals to on- and off-campus services
- Self-care resources

Any member of our community who has experienced or witnessed sexual violence or who has received a disclosure of sexual violence can visit the Centre for support. Its supports are available to all members of our community, regardless of when or where they experienced sexual violence and whether or not they choose to make a formal report. In the first two years of operation, the Centre has responded to 506 requests for support from students, staff and faculty who have been affected by sexual violence.

## REPORTING

Reporting an incident of sexual violence is the first step in initiating a formal process under the Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment. Reports of sexual violence can be filed at the Centre. In its first two years, the Centre received 56 reports of sexual violence under the University's Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment.

**56** reports of sexual violence under the University's Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment

Under the Policy, a report of sexual violence can be filed by any student, staff or faculty member when the respondent is a member of the University community. A report can lead to a variety of outcomes, including an investigation, pre-adjudicative resolution, withdrawal of the report, a hearing or sanctions.

## OUR COMMITMENT

The Centre recognizes that individual needs, circumstances and choices are unique. When someone accesses services from the Centre, they will:

- Be treated with dignity and respect
- Receive non-judgmental, empathetic care
- Be free to ask questions and drop in and out of service
- Learn about on- and off-campus support services and resources
- Be fully informed about Centre policies, confidentiality and conditions of service
- Get the information they need to make informed choices about whether to report sexual violence and how and where to do it – and know that their decision will be respected

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## THE SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SUPPORT CENTRE

Visit: [www.svpscentre.utoronto.ca](http://www.svpscentre.utoronto.ca)

Phone: 416-978-2266 (all locations)

Email: [svpscentre@utoronto.ca](mailto:svpscentre@utoronto.ca)

### Locations

St. George Campus:  
Gerstein Science Information Centre, Suite B139

Mississauga Campus:  
Davis Building, Room 3094G

Scarborough Campus:  
Environmental Science & Chemistry Building, EV141