



# ANNUAL REPORT ON THE POLICY ON PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, 2020

Prepared by: Deanne Fisher, Vice-Provost, Students & International

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## BACKGROUND

Bill 132, the *Sexual Violence and Harassment Action Plan Act* (2016), requires colleges and universities to report annually to their Boards of Governors on:

- number of times supports, services and accommodation relating to sexual violence are requested and obtained by students enrolled at the college or university, and information about the supports, services and accommodation.
- number of incidents and complaints reported by students, and about such incidents and complaints.
- any initiatives and programs established by the college or university to promote awareness of the supports and services available to students.

OCAD University's Policy on Prevention and Response to Sexual and Gender-based Violence was approved by the Board of Governors in December 2016. A review of the policy by the Sexual Violence Working Group recommended significant revisions which were approved by the OCAD University Board of Governors in June 2020 and came into effect on July 1, 2020.

## DISCLOSURES, INCIDENTS AND COMPLAINTS

Data reported below cover the period of January 1 to December 31, 2020. (2017, 2018, 2019 data provided for comparison purposes.)

	2017	2018	2019	2020****
<b>Number of disclosures* to Student Wellness Centre</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Number of incidents reported to Safety &amp; Security Services**</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
Of the incidents reported to Security:				
Incidents that occurred off campus	3	1	1	0
Incidents that occurred on campus	2	2	1	0
Incidents reported to Police	1	2	0	0
<b>Number of formal complaints made under the <i>Sexual Violence Policy</i>***</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>

### Notes:

\* Disclosures are made by students but may involve parties who are not students, staff, or faculty.

\*\* Incident reports are those reported directly to Safety & Security Services

\*\*\* Under OCAD U policy, complaints against employees of the University are covered by the Respectful Work & Learning Environment Policy and are reported separately.

\*\*\*\* OCAD University campus facilities were largely closed from March 2020 through to 2021. All classes in Spring/Summer, fall 2020 were held remotely.

## **STUDENT VOICES ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE SURVEY**

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From February-April 2018, the Ontario government administered a province-wide survey of students in post-secondary education to gather information about perceptions and experiences of sexual violence that can be used to inform and enhance the sexual violence response and prevention efforts. In February 2020, the government released the results to each institution, along with sector level data. The survey results were reviewed in detail by OCAD U's Sexual Violence Working Group to guide development of services, programs, training and awareness initiatives.

## **SEXUAL VIOLENCE WORKING GROUP**

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The Ministry of Colleges and Universities stated in a March 19, 2019, announcement that each Ontario post-secondary institution is required to create a task force by September 30, 2019. The Ministry further clarified that the task force should be responsible for assessing the sufficiency of OCAD's sexual violence policy, assessing the effectiveness of current programs and services to combat sexual violence on campus, and providing recommendations on the additional steps that OCAD may take to ensure a safe environment for all. The task force should represent the diversity of OCAD's student population, as well as faculty and administration.

OCAD U's Sexual Violence Working Group was established in November 2019 under the leadership of Jennifer Robinson, Dean of Students. Membership of the Working Group includes representatives of the OCAD Student Union, Office of Diversity, Equity & Sustainability Initiatives, Indigenous Student Centre, Safety & Security Services, and Student Affairs, as well as students and faculty.

The Working Group's focus to date has been on revisions to the Sexual Violence Policy, which were presented to the Board for approval at its June 2020 meeting, revising all training and awareness materials to reflect the new policy, and the development of a new staff position of Sexual Violence Education & Support Coordinator.

## **INITIATIVES & PROGRAMS**

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### **Draw the Line: Consent Workshop at Virtual Orientation**

This virtual workshop was presented by OCAD U's Student Union in cooperation with White Ribbon, a Toronto based organization dedicated to the prevention of gender-based violence, and shared tips for being a better ally to women and 2SLGBTQ+ individuals, to become part of the solution to ending gender-based violence.

### **Consent animation series**

We continue to highlight a series of 1-minute animations were created in collaboration with OCAD U Integrated Media graduate Nikole Hidalgo McGregor. Each focus on an attribute of consent; Consent is Enthusiastic, Coherent and Ongoing, and are tailored to the OCAD U community and environment. These videos are on our [YouTube channel as a playlist](#), are embedded on our website, and are periodically shared on our social media channels, especially at the start of each Fall/Winter term.



### **Support**

The [Sexual Violence Support website](#), accessible off the main Students menu, provides information to students on where to seek support (on and off-campus) and reporting options as well as general advice.

A new initiative of the OCAD Student Union in partnership with the Student Wellness Centre and the [Dandelion Initiative](#) provided a series of workshops called “Survivors Thrive” focused on empowerment, resiliency and healing for self-identified survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. Sessions are attended by the Indigenous Student Counsellor who provides support and makes themselves available following the workshops should any participants want to connect for support, debriefing or counselling.