



ANNUAL REPORT ON THE POLICY ON PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, 2021-22

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Date: September 19, 2022

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:

- The 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.
- Any initiatives and programs established by the college or university to promote awareness of the supports and services available to students.
- The number of incidents and complaints of sexual violence reported by students, and information about such incidents and complaints.
- The implementation and effectiveness of the policy.

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. A small revision to the policy was approved by the Board of Governors on March 7, 2022 to comply with a new government requirement to ensure complainants are not asked irrelevant questions during the investigation process.

A note on the reporting period: In a February 2022 memo to institutions, the Ministry of Colleges and Universities adjusted the timing on the submission of these annual reports from June 1 to **November 1** each year, which allows us to align our data with the academic/fiscal year, rather than calendar year.

Thus, this report covers activity of an 18-month time period (Jan.1, 2021 – May 31, 2022).

Annual reports hereafter will include data for the academic year.

DISCLOSURES, INCIDENTS AND COMPLAINTS

Data reported below cover the period of January 1 to December 31 for 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. To enable comparison, and shift the reporting period to align with the academic year, the data are presented in two periods below:

January 1, 2021-May 31, 2021

June 1, 2021 – May 31, 2022

	2017	2018	2019	2020	Jan 1, 2021 – May 31, 2021	June 1, 2021- May 31, 2022
Number of disclosures* to Student Wellness Centre	27	19	22	15	15	66
Number of incidents reported to Safety & Security Services**	5	3	2	0	0	1
Of the incidents reported to Security:						
Incidents that occurred off campus	3	1	1	0	0	1
Incidents that occurred on campus	2	2	1	0	0	1
Incidents reported to Police	1	2	0	0	0	0
Number of formal complaints made under the Sexual Violence Policy***	0	0	0	7	0	1

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.

A significant increase in the number of disclosures occurred in the 2021-22 year. This may be related to several factors: the increase in staffing in the Student Wellness Centre with the addition of the Community Worker role; staffing which is reflective of the diversity of students, facilitating increased comfort in disclosing; increased awareness of the support and accommodations available; and improved tracking through a new electronic medical records system. It is important to keep in mind that the disclosures are in the context of a therapeutic appointment and could be either historic or recent and most often not affiliated with the OCADU community.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE WORKING GROUP

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, 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

Awareness

Draw the Line: Consent Workshop at Virtual Orientation 2021

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, in order to become part of the solution to ending gender-based violence.

Support

[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.

Survivor Workshops: 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.

Sexual Violence Response and Support Resources: An updated Resource List was created and approved by the Board in June 2022. The updated Resource List includes both on and off campus resources specific to BIPOC students, international students and 2SLGBTQA+ students.