

Student Support Services

2018-2019
Sexual Violence
Prevention
Annual Report

Introduction

In March 2015, the province of Ontario launched an action plan to stop sexual violence and harassment against women across the province. Sexual violence is defined as “any sexual act or act targeting a person’s sexuality, gender identity or gender expression, whether the act is physical or psychological in nature, that is committed, threatened or attempted against a person without the person’s consent. It includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, indecent exposure, voyeurism and sexual exploitation” (Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Sexual Violence and Harassment Action Plan Act – Supporting Survivors and Challenging Sexual Violence and Harassment, 2016, S.O. 2016, c. 2 – Bill 132). As part of this plan, all Ontario Colleges collaborated in the development of a common Sexual Assault and Sexual Violence Policy – SA16 at Algonquin College.

Following the release of the 2018 Student Voices on Sexual Violence Survey on March 19th 2019, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities outlined several new requirements for post-secondary institutions. Each institution was to create a sexual violence prevention task force that would be accountable to the institutions Board of Governors and the Ministry. Each institution was asked to report annually on sexual violence prevention to its Board of Governors, review their sexual violence policy before September 2019 and each institutions Women’s Campus Safety Grants (Algonquin College received \$76,273 in 2018- 2019), will be doubled moving forward, to be used in supporting institutional efforts to prevent sexual violence.

Data Collection

An additional component of the provincial action plan is the Student Voices on Sexual Violence survey. In February and March of 2018, over 746,000 full time post-secondary students in Ontario were invited to participate in the provincial Student Voices on Sexual Violence Survey. Over 160,000 students participated in the survey, or 16.3 % of Ontario’s college students. This comprehensive 54-question survey was intended to provide information about how students perceive, understand and respond to sexual violence, as well as how institutions address sexual violence.

The survey results are expected to be used to help post-secondary institutions to:

- Increase awareness of sexual violence,
- Increase awareness of services and support available to students who have experienced unwelcome sexual attention,
- Learn more about how students perceive those services,
- Improve policies and processes for responding to sexual violence,
- Improve services and support offered to survivors,
- Better understand student experiences of sexual violence,
- Better understand how bystanders in the campus community may react to harassment or assault,
- Better understand how students perceive consent to sexual activity, and
- Reflect on social dynamics that contribute to sexual violence.

A summary report of the Student Voices on Sexual Violence survey was released on March 19, 2019 by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. <https://files.ontario.ca/tcu-summary-report-student-voices-on-sexual-violence-survey-en-2019-03.pdf>

The results of the Student Voices on Sexual Violence Survey were gathered in early 2018, the results were released on March 19th 2019. In general, Algonquin received results similar to the College average. Some of the key elements of the survey include;

College Average	Algonquin College	Category of Student Responses
83.9%	86.4%	Have a good understanding of consent
30.4%	28.9%	Strongly agree of having knowledge of sexual violence supports, services and reporting procedures
49.6%	50.4%	Experienced at least one form of sexual harassment experience
23.0%	23.0%	Experienced one of the five listed types of stalking
17.2%	17.8%	Experienced a non-consensual sexual experience
58.9%	52.7%	Very satisfied with the Institutional response to sexual violence
69.4%	70.1%	Witnessed concerning behaviors and intervened

Data collected between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019, by Security Services on all three Algonquin College campuses indicated the following;

Total number of Complaints/Reports	Complaints of Sexual Violence
	32
Total number of formal complaints/reports of sexual assault	25
Total number of formal complaints/reports of sexual harassment	16
Total number of formal complaints/reports of stalking	2
Total number of formal complaints/reports of indecent exposure	1
Total number of formal complaints/reports of voyeurism	1
Total number of formal complaints/reports of sexual exploitation	0

Students seeking support were assisted through the Colleges Health Services and Counselling Services, and where appropriate, by community partners in Ottawa, Perth and Pembroke.

Sexual Violence Prevention Efforts

In January 2017, Algonquin College hired an expert in sexual health and sexual violence prevention as a 'Sexual Violence Prevention and Harm Reduction Coordinator'. Since January 2017, this individual has been responsible for leading a wide range of activities, campaigns and events on all three of Algonquin's campuses through Project Lighthouse. Project Lighthouse is Algonquin College's sexual violence prevention project, aiming to shine a light on sexual violence and promote healthy relationships. Activities offered by Project Lighthouse have included;



- Sexual Violence Prevention campaigns on all three campuses, 42 events on Ottawa campus, 9 events in Pembroke and 5 events in Perth, reaching over 8,837 students,
- Providing training to Algonquin College staff on all three campuses and in Residence on consent, responding to disclosures of sexual violence and best practices in sexual violence prevention,
- The creation of an on-line anonymous reporting mechanism for students,
- Presenting on post-secondary best practices in sexual violence prevention at Canadian Association of College and University Student Services and providing the key note address on sexual violence prevention at a national conference on best practices at Arcadia University,
- Engaging with, and fostering links with community based agencies specializing in supporting survivors of sexual violence in Ottawa, Pembroke and Perth,
- Working with internal colleagues, placement students, hired students and volunteers to provide content, best practice information, community resources and promote sexual violence prevention on campus through messaging on social media, marketing campaigns, advertising, swag, speakers events and information booths on all three campuses,
- Created messaging in multiple formats for specific high risk occasions, like Halloween, St Patrick's Day and Christmas, and
- Promoted multiple campaigns, including 'I Believe You', 'Think Again Thursday' and a monthly poster series.
- The Colleges efforts in the area of sexual violence prevention were recognized at the national level, by the White Ribbon Project, with Project Lighthouse and the College winning the 'Draw the Line' award for sexual violence prevention in a post-secondary campus.





Women's Campus Safety Fund

During this reporting period, Algonquin College received \$76,273 from the provincial Women's Campus Safety Fund. These funds were shared with Security Services and allocated as follows;

- \$8,701 – the development of a Algonquin College mobile safety app,
- \$16,183.00 – guest speakers who presented at large scale student events,
- \$35,713.00 – Events, resources and marketing on all three campuses, and
- \$15,676.00 – enhanced security equipment on campuses, esp. cameras in areas of concern.

SA16 Sexual Assault / Sexual Violence Policy

Between October and December 2018, 456 front line, student facing Algonquin College employees attended training designed to orient them to the SA16 Sexual Assault / Sexual Violence Policy, ensuring employees were prepared to support colleagues and students should they become aware of a disclosure of sexual violence.

SA16 Sexual Assault / Sexual Violence Policy can be reviewed at <https://www.algonquincollege.com/policies/#sa>

Conclusion

Algonquin College is well positioned to tackle the topic of reducing sexual violence on campus, with informed and committed leadership, a strong and robust policy and programming on all three campuses that engages students and employees in significant numbers.