



## Board Report

**Session:** ☐ Closed Session; ☒ Open Session

**Action Requested:** ☐ Decision; ☐ Discussion/Direction; ☒ Information

**To:** Executive Committee and Board of Governors

**Date:** February 5, 2021

**Presented by:** Nona Robinson - Associate Vice President, Students  
Robyn Ocean – Sexual Violence Prevention & Peer Support  
Coordinator

**Subject:** Annual Report on Sexual Violence

### Committee/Board Mandate:

The Government of Ontario has mandated that each university present to their boards of governors an annual update on sexual violence, including the work of the institutional Sexual Violence Task Force. In May, the Ministry of Colleges and Universities provided a new December 31, 2020 deadline for this report in consideration of the pandemic.

### Motion for Consideration (if applicable):

That the Executive Committee (and subsequently, the Board of Governors) receive this report for information.

### Executive Summary:

This report includes data on Trent's sexual violence prevention education, support for survivors, and the numbers of individual students supported. It also includes a summary of the activities of Trent's Sexual Violence Task Force. For the purposes of this report we employed a version of the previous government reporting template, as no template was provided this year.

This report is for the period January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019.

### Analysis/Alternatives Considered:

1. 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.

### Supports/Services/Education

**Consent Education for Orientation Week:** 2,270 participants at over 52 events

**Workshops and events, Promotional or Information tables or Resource fairs:**

Fall- 910 participants at 24 events/workshops

Winter- 390 participants at 11 events/workshops

**Class visits:** 2 class visits, 65 students total

**Individual Support:**

New clients:

Winter 2019: 21

Fall 2019: 25

Summer 2019: 5

Returning clients: 35

Note that we are concerned at the lower number of new individual clients since the start of the pandemic, as survivors are likely finding it more difficult to access support resources in their current situations. We have introduced a “quick exit” button on the sexual violence website in case individuals are accessing this remotely from a dangerous home situation.

Housing Services supported students in 18 cases of sexual violence; note that there can be overlap in numbers as students are referred from one service to another.

**Total impact:** 3,739 people

**Accommodation**

30%-50% of clients accessing the Sexual Violence Prevention Coordinator seek accommodation related to the impacts of sexual violence. Accommodations include changing residence rooms or buildings, changing classes or seminar sections, and academic consideration including but not limited to: extensions, reweighing coursework, aegrotat standing, incomplete standing, late withdrawal, and financial accommodation including tuition refunds for withdrawn courses.

Accommodation is sought directly with Housing, Academic Advisors, Student Accessibility Services, or by students with their faculty.

**2. Any initiatives and programs established by the university to promote awareness of the supports and services available to students.**

**Partnership initiative:**

This year we successfully applied to the Centre for Innovations in Campus Mental Health Community Partnership grants to receive two \$25,000 grants for partnerships with the Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre and Durham Rape Crisis Centre respectively, to provide additional counselling and training support for each campus.

**Educational initiatives:**

- Promotional and informational tables
- Resource fairs

- Consent Education Day for Orientation Week for incoming students and Varsity athletes. Note that for F2020 we developed an online module
- Bystander Intervention Workshop
- How to Support a Friend Workshop (receiving disclosures)
- Flip the Script: Sexual Violence Prevention Week
- Resource Inserts in Exam Care Packages and other promotional materials working collaboratively with other departments and the Student Union
- Updating the website
- My Trent portal events and bulletins
- Social Media: Instagram
- Using College newsletters for promotion (online)
- Placing ads in the University's student newspaper
- Collaborating with the Student Union and clubs/groups
- Print campaign (posters, brochures, etc.)
- Class guest lectures
- Staff and faculty workshops (receiving disclosures)

### 3. The number of incidents and complaints of sexual violence reported by students.

Total number of Formal Complaints/Reports complaints of sexual violence	
Total number of formal complaints/reports of sexual assault	2
Total number of formal complaints/reports of sexual harassment	
Total number of formal complaints/reports of stalking	
Total number of formal complaints/reports of indecent exposure	
Total number of formal complaints/reports of voyeurism	1
Total number of formal complaints/reports of sexual exploitation	1

Note that these are cases formally reported through the Trent Sexual Violence Policy or the Discrimination and Harassment Policy. There are additional cases involving students and not included in these policy reports that have been handled by the Sexual Violence Prevention & Peer Support Co-ordinator, Housing Services, the Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre and the Durham Rape Crisis Centre.

#### **4. The implementation and effectiveness of the policy.**

##### **Policy and Response**

The policy is currently under review. Students using the policy in some cases view the reporting process favourably and are optimistic about the outcomes. Others would like to see more sanctions for respondents. One piece of significant feedback from both staff and students is replacing the formal adjudication procedure with a process more in line with human rights cases approaches than with criminal court cases. In the 2018 provincial Student Voices on Sexual Violence survey, 70.9% of respondents experiencing sexual violence reported they were very satisfied with Trent's response, putting Trent 1<sup>st</sup> among Ontario Universities.

The policy is effective in responding to survivors with choices and options for their safety. All policy options for reporting come with support and potential accommodations. The policy is effective in highlighting the needs of survivors of sexual violence and provides context for administering various accommodations most often with housing and academics.

##### **Policy and Education**

Sexual Violence Prevention programming including Bystander Intervention workshops is an engaging part of our education strategy and is a central tenet of our policy. In the 2018 provincial Student Voices on Sexual Violence survey, Trent students were readily available to intervene when they witnessed incidents of sexual harassment: 75.4% reported bystander intervention; the 2nd highest intervention rate.

##### **Taskforce Implementation**

The Sexual Violence Taskforce oversees the efficacy of the policy and provides recommendations and assessment. Students can participate in this process at the taskforce level, as well as with an official open channel for sharing direction on policy with their student union and therefore with the taskforce policy committee. Student representation includes the Trent Central Student Association, Trent Graduate Student Association, Trent Durham Student Association and other interested students.

The Taskforce has identified several key areas to continue to focus on: Student education and outreach, community outreach (notably to local pubs/clubs around student safety and bystander intervention), and policy review.

The full Taskforce has met September 30<sup>th</sup>, October 29<sup>th</sup>, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, but was interrupted by the pandemic in the winter semester. Meetings have now resumed in Fall 2020. The various subcommittees have continued to meet, including developing partnerships with the Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre, Northumberland Legal Clinic, Peterborough Legal Aid, Peterborough Public Health, Fleming College, and several downtown Peterborough restaurants and clubs.

##### **Financial Implications:**

Sexual violence is a prevalent issue in society, and individuals in the traditional student age group (18-24) are particularly vulnerable. Providing prevention education and support for students who have experienced sexual violence helps limit and mitigate the impacts of sexual violence on our student committee. Experiencing sexual violence can

be highly traumatic and can severely impact students' ability to persist in their degree, affecting student retention.

**Enterprise Risk Assessment:**

In the past number of years there has been an increased focus on sexual violence in society, and in postsecondary in particular, including significant attention to individual cases in various institutions. Efforts to prevent and respond to sexual violence incidents have a significant reputational impact.

**Next Steps:**

The Task Force and its subcommittees will continue to meet. We anticipate bringing a policy review around formal adjudication to the Board prior to April 2020. We will continue to work on our community outreach efforts for clubs/bar prevention and bystander intervention, but their operations have generally been curtailed by the pandemic.

**Alignment with Mission, Vision, Values, Strategic Plan:**

An environment free of sexual violence is in keeping with Trent's objectives around providing an equitable learning environment for students.

**Consultation:**

The Sexual Violence Task Force continues to meet and includes representatives from student associations, staff, and faculty, and community members on the community outreach subcommittee.

**Compliance with Policy/Legislation:**

This report is submitted in compliance with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities requirement of an annual report to the Board of Governors.

- The proclamation of subsection 17(7.1) of the *Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Act* (MTCU Act), requiring each publicly-assisted college and university, covered by the Act, to provide an annual report to its board of governors. This is an ongoing requirement. Although there is no due date in legislation, in August 2019 the ministry indicated to each institution that the reports must be Board approved by June 1<sup>st</sup> each year [deadline extended in 2020 to December 31].
- The requirement for each publicly-assisted college and university to create a task force dedicated to addressing the issue of sexual violence on campus. This is a one-year requirement with each task force required to submit their report to their respective board of governors and to the ministry by June 1, 2020 [deadline extended in 2020 to December 31]

**Supporting Reference Materials (attached):**

None