



# SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION ON CAMPUS

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE ALGOMA  
UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

ACADEMIC YEAR 2020 - 2021

*Picture Taken on March 5, 2020 at our Take Back the Campus Event*

**RESPECT.  
NOW.  
ALWAYS.**



## BACKGROUND

In 2016, the Ontario Government passed the [Sexual Violence and Harassment Action Plan Act](#). Section 3, specific to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and University Act's intent is to make campuses safer spaces through enforcement of a sexual violence policy, increasing supports to survivors of sexual violence and formalizing how institutions address incidents as they arise.

In March 2019, the Ontario Government announced additional action-based and reporting requirements for each publicly-assisted post-secondary institution. This includes the requirement that each post-secondary institution report annually to its Board of Governors on sexual violence and that this report would be publicly available. The government announcement also included a requirement that every publicly-assisted college and university in Ontario have a task force devoted to tackling sexual violence on campus be required to report its findings to both their respective Board of Governors as well as to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

As per the Ministry requirement (Pursuant to Subsection 17(7.1) Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Act):

A Sexual Violence Annual Report be presented to the Board of Governors for each Academic Year on or before June 1 of each calendar year.

**Please note:** The Academic Year is defined as May 1 to April 30.

## ALGOMA UNIVERSITY'S COMMITMENT

- respond to sexual violence as outlined in our [policy](#);
- for survivors to be believed, treated with compassion, dignity and respect and are supported
- ensuring survivors acting in good faith, would not be subject to actions for violations of the institution's policies related to drug and alcohol use at the time of the alleged sexual violence incident;
- educating and training the University community
- working closely with Algoma University Student Union (AUSU) and Shingwauk Student Association (SASA) peer mentors on sexual violence prevention
- annual reporting

## SEXUAL VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

The Sexual Violence Task Force (SVTF) is a University committee comprised of students and employees (faculty, staff, administration) who together make recommendations regarding the University's Policy on Sexual Violence and coordinates efforts regarding resources to prevent university sexual violence.

The committee works collaboratively towards effective change at the individual, institutional and cultural levels, with the goal of creating a safer campus environment for the Algoma University community.

### The specific roles of the Committee are to:

- annually review and make recommendations, if necessary, concerning the Sexual Violence Policy
- make recommendations on existing programs, services, resources and protocol implementation
- make recommendations regarding training and educational initiatives, as well as promote and lead awareness programs
- improve communication and information-sharing among campus partners and allies
- provide a forum to discuss emerging issues and initiatives related to sexual violence



## EVENTS

The SVTF, in collaboration with the student unions, Human Resources and other committees/departments on campus host several events each year. Due to COVID-19 our events were limited this Academic Year but we hosted the following:

“Consent is Mandatory” Bingo at the beginning of each semester and during our annual International Women’s Week Celebration.

We celebrate International Women’s Day with a panel discussion, to help bring awareness to cultural and societal differences for women and the importance of safety on campus. This year’s event was held virtually on March 8, 2021.

## TRAINING

Each fall, members of the SVTF meet with the Resident Advisors to walk them through supports and scenarios around sexual violence so they are able to ensure they can support student in residences and they have the proper supports for themselves as well.

Annually, we provide instruction to our employees on ‘What to do if someone reports an incident of sexual violence to you’. This year’s event was held virtually and was so well received that we are looking to host more events throughout the next Academic Year.

On April 29, 2021, the SVTF, specific staff, faculty and administration will participate in Human Trafficking Awareness Training to learn to be aware of and recognize the warning signs as well as how to respond human trafficking situations. This training will be provided through a partnership with Victim Quick Response Program, Human Trafficking Initiatives and Timmins Victim and Police Services.

In April 2021, The Sexual Violence Task Force will attend “10 Keys to Sexual Violence Prevention in 2021 An Expert Panel Discussion” in order to revisit material through a lens of intersectionality of race and sexual violence and understand best practices for developing comprehensive sexual violence prevention and response programming.

## AWARNESS

At each term during student orientation, an “Understanding Consent” video was showcased to ensure the importance of consent to all students.

We continue to review, update and promote our Sexual Violence Website as needed.

Future updates will include the recommendations coming out of the Minister of Colleges and Universities that are aimed at reducing student concerns around stigma and fear.

Review of our Campus Safety Plans for both Students and Employees conducted to ensure consistency and alignment of resources and supports.

Since 2020, the Task Force continues to promote awareness and education in April, for Sexual Violence Awareness Month. Multiple social media campaigns are run around the education of the month and importance of consent.

## REPORTING

Below reflects the number of incidents and complaints of sexual violence reported by and/or impact to students:

Academic Year	On Campus	Off Campus AU sanctioned event/activity	Off Campus Non-AU sanction event/activity	Virtual
2019 - 2020	2	1	2	0
2020 - 2021	0	0	0	1

*\*Algoma University’s Academic Year for 2020-2021 was hosted 100% virtually.*

There are several mechanism of support provided for survivors who report or other have disclosed past experiences that therefore required resources and support. The following supports/ services/ accommodations were provided to students:

- Two accessed counselling services
- Three accessed community services/resources
- accommodations offered if needed
- Two safety plans were created
- Zero referred to medical services
- One student success plan created
- Two connections to Victim Services

## **IN SUMMARY**

Algoma University continues to be well-positioned to proactively and consistently address the topic of reducing sexual violence on our campuses. We have a strong and committed Sexual Violence Task Force who are fully supported by our Leadership Team, who embraces a culture of safety and continuous improvement. So much so, that in addition to our annual review of our Policy by the Task Force, the University is bringing in an external consultant to review both our policies and procedures to evaluate the effectiveness of both and put forth recommendations that can help strengthen the existing policies and procedures currently in place.

Algoma University is committed to ensuring that our entire community (students, staff and faculty) are provided with the information, tools and resources to respond to sexual violence situation. Demonstrated through our assurance to continue to grow our education and awareness programs, with emphasis on repeated and ongoing exposure to prevention topics and information. By focusing on student/ community support regardless of whether a formal report has been filed, our goal is to ensure that each student is connected to timely and appropriate support services.

Our goal is to provide the members of our community with an environment to study, work, visit and live that is free of sexual violence.