



SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION ON CAMPUS

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE ALGOMA
UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVENORS
ACADEMIC YEAR 2021 - 2022

Picture taken in March 2020 at the first ever "What to do if Someone Reports an Incident of Sexual Violence to you" training session.

**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.

On March 1, 2022 additional language requirements were added to ensure those disclosing incidents of sexual violence are protected.

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 September of each calendar year. 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, People & Culture and other committees/departments on campus host several events each year. Due to COVID-19 our events were limited again this Academic Year but we hosted the following:

“Consent is Mandatory” Bingo at the beginning of each semester.

We celebrate International Women’s Day with a panel discussion, to help bring awareness to cultural and societal differences for women. This year’s event was virtually on March 11, 2022.

This year Algoma University participated in the annual [Moose Hide Campaign](#).

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’.

On March 9 we hosted a virtual training session on Sexual Harassment in the Workplace for Students, with a focus on ‘new’ workers.

Two separate sessions were held for students and employees respectively on Human Trafficking Awareness Training, provided through a partnership with Victim Quick Response Program, Human Trafficking Initiatives and Timmins Victim and Police Services.

Algoma University Leadership Team and several departments provided training on both gender and sexual identity. This training continues to be rolled out throughout the institution.

12 Student Success and Student Life staff and Admin completed a five week First Responder to Sexual Assault and Abuse Training provided by Association of Alberta Sexual Abuse Services.

AWARENESS

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

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

In the summer of 2021 we had an external third party come in and review our policy and procedure to ensure the effectiveness of both documents. No additional recommendations came out of this.

In an effort to ensure the safety of our 2SLGBTQIA+ student population, we had inclusive signage created for all our campus washrooms.

‘Step Up Bystander Intervention Training’ – Train the Trainer provided to members of the AU community.

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
2020- 21*	0	0	0	1
2021-22**	5	0	0	0

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

** In 2021 we added the option for anonymous reporting

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
- Two accessed community services/resources
- Two were provided academic accommodations
- Three safety plans were created
- Zero referred to medical services
- Multiple safety alarms distributed on SSM campus

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.

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 situations. 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.