



Sexual Violence Statistical Report

2018-2019

FOR: OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
(ACADEMIC & PROVOST)

Submitted by:

Sexual Violence Education Prevention
Coordinator

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Executive Summary for May 1, 2018-April 30, 2019

Introduction/Context

Brandon University found itself in the third year under the stand-alone sexual violence policy. The 2018-2019 saw the continuation to improve our response to sexual violence on campus. Highlights from this year included the Sexual Violence Education Prevention Coordinator (SVEPC) opportunities to participate in a national sexual violence task force for sexual violence for post secondary institutions and two provincial committees.

In April of 2019, a national task force was formed by the Trudeau government's Minister for Women and Equality, Maryam Monsef. Sexual Violence Coordinators from across Canada met online to discuss best practices and challenges of designing and delivering sexual violence services to campuses. This information was gathered and compiled into a document for the newly developed federal Task Force for Gender Violence on Post Secondary Institutions. One of the main objectives of this information will provide guidelines for universities to implement to provide survivors consistent services across Canada at higher learning institutions. Release of the guidelines is scheduled for 2020.

On a provincial level, the SVEPC office signed up to participate in a pilot project to test a provincial-wide online reporting program for survivors of sexual violence. It will be the first of its kind in Canada. This will involve a link that will be located on BU's Sexual Violence Resources and Support page, and will provide individuals coming forward with the ability to input their sexual assault information and have control over who they wish to report to or save the information to access in the future. Survivors will have the capability to report to the university, law enforcement, SVEPC, or store the information within the system, to be used down the road, if they so choose. Local partners also included in the pilot project are Brandon Police Service, RCMP, The Women's Resource Centre and Assiniboine Community College. Meetings occurred this year and the tentative launch is expected for January 2020.

This year, Sexual Violence Education Prevention Coordinators held their first meetings of Western Canada Continuity of Practice, held in Calgary, Alberta in September 2018 and Victoria, British Columbia in April 2019. The rationale for the creation of this forum was roles such as Sexual Violence Response and/or Awareness Coordinators are new to campuses across Canada and we are working from new policies and recently implemented processes. As we continue

to develop and operationalize our practices, policies and procedures, it can be helpful to know what other institutions are doing, what has been successful, and what are some promising approaches to this work. A community of practice is an opportunity to share our knowledge and build our skills, as well as support each other along the way. Our motivation for the group is we believe we can further our missions by cultivating a learning and supportive community with our shared passion and expertise in the area of sexual violence response and prevention. I have found these conferences to be invaluable to my work on campus. Agenda items include data collection, insight into the roles, reporting processes, procedural challenges and anonymous disclosures.

Finally, new sexual violence brochures and resources developed and made available to our campus which include:

- General Sexual Violence Resource Brochure
- Sexual Violence Resources Handout
- Visitors Guide to BU's Sexual Violence Policy
- Self care for Trauma Survivors (developed by Candice Waddell, in partnership with Student Services, Personnel Counsellors and SVEPC)
- How to Respond to Disclosures

1. Accomplishments in Direct Services

- **13 individuals** from the Brandon University community accessed Sexual Violence Education Prevention Coordinator (SVEPC) in person for services between May 1 2018 and April 30, 2019.
 - Of the total **13, 5 individuals** came for services for themselves, and **2 individuals** came for information about how to help a friend/family member/partner/colleague/student.
 - **4 individuals** came to SVEPC because they had personally experienced an incident of sexualized violence including cyber stalking, stalking, revenge porn, stealthing, sexual assault, and sexual harassment.
 - **5 individuals received on-going case management services.**

- Of these **13** individuals, **2** requested accompaniment to law enforcement, and other criminal justice appointments.
- **4 individuals** came to SVEPC because they had been sexually assaulted within the past year.
- **2 individual** came to SVEPC because they had/or were currently experiencing sexual harassment.
- **1 individuals** came to SVEPC because they had experienced childhood sexual abuse.
- **17 individuals** came to (or called/emailed) SVEPC for other reasons, including referral, information about other resources on and off campus, information about sexual assault/harassment and prevention for research or academic projects. Follow up was provided to individuals, where appropriate on a case-by-case basis.

2. Education/Prevention

SVEPC provided **21 presentations** to various groups on campus, including student leaders, student athletes and coaching staff, students living in Residence, Residence Assistants, Student Leaders, classes in the Science, Health Studies and Arts Departments, Mini University counsellors, Sexual Assault Advisory Group. In total, approximately **234 individuals** learned about SVEPC's services, sexual assault and harassment, strategies for prevention and pro-social bystander intervention.

Two sexual violence awareness campaigns launched this year; the first was the #IBelieveYou campaign. With a combination of social media, a live selfie booth, and joined by local radio stations to launch this message: **when survivors of sexual assault disclose... believe them.** The research shows that once survivors hear this, they are more likely to come forward. Campaigns like this that aim to increase public support for survivors show a marked increase in sexual assault reporting, making our community safer for everyone. Historically, survivors have been afraid to disclose for fear of not being believed or blamed.

March was Sexual Assault Awareness Month at BU and we hosted three major events to raise awareness on campus. First was the screening of the new film “The Bystander Moment” and the second was “An Evening with Mandi Gray” and the screening of her documentary “Slut or Nut”. The second event was well attended, with approximately 60 people coming out to the event. Both events were facilitated by the SVEPC, followed by a question and answer following the film.

Finally, a Library Display was created, in partnership with A.E. Robins Library staff to showcase twenty new books and six films that have been acquired and available at our library for students, faculty and staff to access.

Community Partnerships (Local and Provincial)

- Brandon Police Service and Victims of Crime
- Prairie Mountain Health: Brandon Emergency Room Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE). Emergency Room
- Victims of Crime (Provincial)
- Westman Team Against Sexual Exploitation (WTASE)
- Sexuality Education Resource Centre (SERC)
- Women’s Resource Centre
- Sexual Violence and Awareness Act Committee (Bill 15)

External Partnerships (North America)

- Western Canada Community of Practice
- Ending Violence Association of Manitoba
- Klinik Health – Sexual Assault Program, Winnipeg, Manitoba
- Ending Violence Association of BC

A Final Note

This next academic year will see operationalizing the Sexual Violence Policy by implementing procedures to accompany principles and guidelines set out in our policy. In addition, development and implementation of an online Sexual Violence Training Modules for students, staff and faculty to utilize will set the agenda. It is important to continue to find innovative ways to reach audiences to learn about a subject that can be uncomfortable and invoke strong emotion.