



MEMORANDUM

Date: October 7, 2024
To: Board of Governors
From: Jill Symington, Vice President - Organizational Effectiveness
Subject: **Sexual Assault Sexual Violence Task Force**

The *Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Act* requires institutions to report the following to their Boards annually:

- The number of incidents and complaints of sexual violence reported by students, and information about such incidents and complaints;
- 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;
- Any initiatives and programs established by the college or university to promote awareness of the supports and services available to students; and
- The implementation and effectiveness of the policy.

To support this, Confederation College continues to operate a Sexual Assault/Sexual Violence (SASV) Task Force. Our Task Force has a robust membership, featuring representatives from administration, faculty, Apiwin, International Education, the Student Union of Confederation College (SUCCI), support staff, and the Mental Health Crisis System Navigator. The committee is chaired by the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisor.

During the 2023-24 year there were two SASV-related incidents reported by students, one relating to stalking, and another incident related to physical conflict with a partner. Additionally, during the 2023-24 year, students accessed supports, services, and accommodations relating to sexual violence a total of 7 times. All of these were directed through the Mental Health Crisis System Navigator and were related solely to off-campus experiences.

Confederation College continues to show leadership via a broad range of initiatives designed to promote safety, awareness, and healthy relationships, ensuring our staff and students alike have access to crucial information in a variety of ways.

All College employees are required to complete the SAFE campus training upon employment. This ensures that they are given full opportunity to understand our policies and protocols relating to campus safety. Additionally, this training is fully available to students by request. To complement this, we continue to make use of the Safe Campus app, which offers a 'Personal

Safety Toolbox'. This toolbox not only has our Safe Campus video, but also provides robust information on key SASV items such as reporting, consent, and safety features on campus. Via this app, campus community members can access a direct reporting link for sexual assault/violence under the support resources tab, providing resources and counseling options. We also distribute a Safe Campus booklet to students during community fairs, which offers tips on safety on and off campus.

International Education has also ensured that SASV has been built into the orientation process for their students, providing culturally sensitive pre-webinars to students. Additionally, they have engaged the Thunder Bay District Health Unit to offer clinics regarding sexual health, primarily geared towards female-identified students.

In February 2024, Apiwin implemented healthy relationship workshops. These workshops were successful in engaging students and Apiwin intends to do so again next year. As a safer space for Indigenous students, Apiwin is a crucial potential point of first contact when it comes to crisis response for students. As such, the SASV committee is excited to have Apiwin representation on the committee and looks forward to further collaboration.

The Health Centre is actively working with NorWest Community Health Centres with pathways for issues such as sexual health, birth control, and pregnancy supports. This is a key partnership as NorWest can link students to mental health and addiction supports, 2SLGBTQIA+ specific supports, and supports for those living with or at risk of HIV or Hepatitis C.

SUCCI continues to play a crucial role in outreach to students specific to SASV. Awareness of SASV is folded into orientation activities at the start of each semester. Additionally, a 'Healthy Sexuality Week' campaign is hosted each semester (Fall, Winter, Spring/Summer). This campaign highlights subjects such as consent, safety, and supports, with collaboration from community partners. With both virtual and in-person components, the campaign offers not only awareness and information, but also education from a judgment free, sex-positive lens.

Looking forward, the SASV Committee is considering several ways we can continue to be proactive in campus safety as well as continue to strengthen our response. This includes developing staff confidence and competence for responding when students disclose crisis situations, continued workshops and opportunities for the campus community to recognize and respond to issues related to SASV, and the utilization of the Pride room to promote safer spaces for 2SLGBTQIA+ campus community members. Additionally, the committee is evaluating stronger reporting mechanisms, data collection, and the reporting process from a holistic lens.

We respectfully request the Board's acceptance of this report.