

Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response Annual Report

Introduction

Thompson Rivers University's Sexual Violence Policy (the "Policy") was brought into force by the Board of Governors on March 31, 2017. It was created in accordance with requirements set out in BC's Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act (the "Act"), which mandates all public post-secondary institutions in the Province of BC to have a standalone policy addressing sexualized violence. This report was compiled in compliance with section 6(2) of the Act, which provides as follows: "(2) Each year, the president of a post-secondary institution must report to the governing body on the implementation of the post-secondary institution's sexual misconduct policy." The University's Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response Managers ("the Managers") assisted the President in the preparation of this report.

This report reflects work from June 1, 2021, through May 31, 2022.

Staffing and Location

Return-to-campus funding provided for the hiring of additional temporary staffing for the program which increased staffing to two full-time positions. This allowed the program to pilot a new format for delivering services that aligns with how most other institutions in B.C. operate, with one staff member focusing primarily on support services while the other focused primarily on education and prevention efforts. We are pleased that the second position received on-going funding beginning in April 2022.

Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response (SVPR) also moved to a new location in Old Main, which allowed for a separate, confidential space for survivors and more space to accommodate staffing and programming.

Education and Prevention

The Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response office has worked alongside campus and community stakeholders to develop and deliver active and passive education and prevention programming to the TRU community.

Topics included awareness of policy and supports, consent, responding to disclosures, supporting survivors, bystander intervention and healthy relationships. Initiatives took shape as web content, social media campaigns, print material, posters, workshops, and speaker panels.

Highlights:

Building Safe Community project: SVPR collaborated with Kamloops Sexual Assault Center (KSACC), Kamloops Immigrant Services (KIS), TRU Student Life and TRU World on educational programming tailored to TRU's international student community

Wolfpack Athletes Responding to Disclosures training: January 2022 marked the first "Responding to Disclosures" training to be provided to all student-athletes

simultaneously, thanks to the ongoing support and organization of the Athletics Learning and Administrative Support Specialist, Eryn Barrett.

Adventure Studies student training: Fall 2021 saw the second round of a robust, 6-hour training for all students enrolled in both the certificate and diploma cohorts of the Adventures Studies program. Training included responding to disclosures, consent, and bystander intervention training.

"Red Zone" campaign: The first six weeks of September present the highest risk for first-year students to experience sexualized violence. In fall 2021, SVPR executed a poster and social media campaign to raise awareness of risk and support systems and promoted consent and bystander intervention skills.

Consent Tea: SVPR supported the Wellness Center in executing the annual Consent Tea for the sixth consecutive year. This event provides an opportunity for all members of the TRU community to learn about consent, skill build and engage in meaningful dialogue.

Professional Development Week: SVPR collaborated with Kamloops Sexual Assault Counseling Center to deliver two "Responding to Disclosure" sessions to faculty and staff.

Survey for Ministry: The Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training released their Sexual Violence Perceptions survey early this year; this was promoted across campus by SVPR and the FSD Communications team. The results were released to SVPR on June 1, and plans are underway for their consideration and dissemination.

Gender Equity Round Table Working Table: SVPR sits on the community round table for the local Elizabeth Fry Society, which recently received funding to conduct research on gender inequity in Kamloops and to develop a robust response to address it. SVPR will continue supporting this community-driven project.

Violence Against Women in Relationships (VAWIR): SVPR sits on the VAWIR committee, a local community-based network of services responding to gender-based violence that meet monthly to discuss current trends, issues, and programming.

BCCampus work: In 2020/21, the provincial government assigned BCCampus the task of developing four modules of education related to sexualized violence to better support institutions across B.C. that may struggle with capacity and resourcing to execute education and prevention work. Two of TRU's Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response Managers, Amber Huva and Meaghan Hagerty, were engaged to support the development of these modules. In addition, the project utilized previous training that TRU's SVPR office had developed regarding working with perpetrators of harm to inform their own module regarding perpetration.

[These modules](#) are available free of cost to any institution or community member across Canada.

Response

Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response provides essential, tailored support services to all members of the campus community. Regardless of when the event occurred or whether it occurred on campus, SVPR provides support to all victims/survivors of sexualized and domestic violence. This includes emotional support, safety planning, academic accommodations, referrals to community services, information about reporting options, support through formal processes, and accompaniment to relevant services and appointments.

i) *Disclosures and reports*

Disclosures of sexualized violence	66
Disclosures of domestic violence	3
Number of formal reports to TRU	9
Number of TRU Faculty/staff who have notified the SVPR of a disclosure	7

ii) *Supports accessed*

Individuals who accessed at least one kind of support	66
Emotional support (includes those who are supporting a victim/survivor)	62
Referrals to on or off-campus support services (may include services related to counselling, housing support, outreach, advocacy, Victim Services, mental health, food security or substance/alcohol use)	53
Safety planning support	13
Information about reporting options, on or off-campus	49
Information about other support strategies or services	6
Support through reporting options, on or off-campus	17
Academic accommodations (may include deferrals, withdrawing in extenuating circumstances, etc.)	17
Emergency housing support	6
Accompaniment to other services (access RCMP, medical services, counselling services, etc.)	10

Addendum

Year-over-year Data (note there was no report submitted to the Board in 2021)

a) Disclosures and Reports

	2018	2019	2020	2022
Disclosures of sexualized violence	66	82	68	66
Disclosures of domestic/intimate-partner violence	3	9	8	3
Number of formal reports to TRU	9	6	6	9
Number of TRU Faculty/staff who have notified the SVPR of a disclosure	7	28	47	7

b) Supports Offered

	2018	2019	2020	2022
Individuals who accessed at least one kind of support	34	48	41	66
Emotional support (includes those who are supporting a victim/survivor)	18	40	41	62
Referrals to on or off-campus support services	33	31	41	53
Safety planning support	19	11	11	13
Information <u>about</u> reporting options, on or off-campus	30	22	22	49
Information about other support strategies or services	N/A	13	0	6

Support <u>through</u> reporting options, on or off-campus	5	7	5	17
Academic accommodations (may include deferrals, withdrawing in extenuating circumstances, etc.)	12	12	4	17
Emergency housing support	2	1	1	6
Accompaniment to other services	3	3	3	10