

## **2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SVAC**

Members of the Sexual Violence Advisory Committee for 2023-2024:

Leshia Verkerk – Chair

Marlin Reimer – Vice-Chair

Chiamaka Juliet Ibedu – UC Student Representative

Jessica Bautista – UC Student Representative

Simran Graba – UC Student Representative

Rajat Upadhayay – UC Student Representative

Motunrayo Ilo – UC Student Representative

YJ Erkamp-Montalbo – UC Faculty Representative

### **2024-2025 Sexual Violence Education Overview**

#### **Orientation**

In 2024-2025 all new University College Providence students (including Providence Downtown) were required to complete an online lesson entitled “A Culture of Caring: Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Violence.” The presentation is a 45 – 60 minute lecture-style presentation which included a student story component for the undergraduate students. This was changed from online to in-person following the feedback from the SVAC in 2023-2024.

Upper year students were offered an optional session at the beginning of the year discussing the student story that was shared with the undergraduates.

PDT undergraduates were not shown the story, but were part of gender-segregated sharing circles after the presentation to discuss the material.

#### **Website**

In Fall 2024, we launched the Sexual Violence Resource Centre, found on our website here: <https://www.prov.ca/campus-life/health-and-wellness/sexual-violence-resource-centre/>

It is a stable site where students can consistently find support for survivors, all reporting mechanisms, and resources on sexual violence education. It underwent some modifications after feedback from the 2023-2024 SVAC to ensure that the emergency and support elements were the first things visible on the site.

## **Social and Digital Media Education**

The ProvStudentLife Instagram page shared stories designed by REES to educate students on sexual violence and reminded students of reporting mechanisms.

## **Physical Media**

Posters were placed around the school (especially in washrooms) with information on sexual violence and where to go for support. There is also a full bulletin board dedicated to educating students about sexual violence and providing students with resources and support.

## **SVAC Recommended Changes for 2025-2026 Education**

The Sexual Violence Advisory Committee (see policy for full details on the committee) met on August 14, 2025 to review and recommend changes to the education we provide and the policy. Full minutes are available upon request. This meeting focused on the PDT education as part of a cycle to focus on one location each year.

The committee recommended the following changes for the 2025-2026 year:

### **Orientation**

The committee felt that the orientation training was too overwhelming because it was between a number of different orientation sessions. The student representatives did not remember the presentation at all from their first week at Providence. The committee felt that this session would be better if it was held a week or two after classes started in future years.

### **Website**

The committee made the following recommendations for changes to the website resource centre:

- Find a way to communicate the languages spoken by each Compassionate Responder so that the students know where to go.
- The committee felt the website was a good resource, but students didn't know where to find it, so it was suggested that signs and bulletin boards are put up at PDT. QR codes in the bathroom would be particularly helpful.

## **Physical and Digital Media Education**

The committee felt it was important to increase the amount of communication around sexual violence on the PDT campus to help reduce the stigma and make sure people know where they can go for help.

It was suggested that it should become a permanent part of the responsibilities of the Student Services Assistant for Personal Wellness to communicate sexual violence prevention and response materials. This change has been made.

### **Miscellaneous**

The committee felt that it was most important to ensure that students knew who they could turn to if something happened and that we need to do a better job of communicating the names of the compassionate responders and the student leaders who are trained to receive disclosures of sexual violence. The committee felt strongly that including the languages spoken by these people would be helpful in breaking down barriers to reporting.

### **SVAC Recommended Policy Changes**

The Committee did not recommend any policy changes.