



Sexual Violence Prevention Advisory Committee 2023-24 Annual Report

Executive Summary

The Sexual Violence Prevention Advisory Committee (SVPAC) was formed in October 2017 in recognition of the need to better coordinate activities on campus, improve education and training to prevent and respond to sexualized violence, and to respond to concerns raised regarding MSVU's Policy Against Sexual Violence. The committee is also working to ensure MSVU successfully implements the 10 recommendations made in Nova Scotia's [Changing the Culture of Acceptance: Recommendations to address sexual violence on university campuses](#).

This year, the SVPAC completed the update begun last year to the Policy Against Sexual Violence and formed a communications subcommittee to work on campus information rollout. They supported campus programming including ManMade, Waves of Change, and consent content in Orientation and Mount 101. They also hired two student educators this year to assist with programming.

2023-24 Membership

Committee Member	Role
Dr. Keltie Jones (Chair)	Associate Vice-President, Student Experience
Kelly Gallant	Associate Vice-President, University Relations
Bobbi MacInnis (starting November 2023)	Manager, Marketing, University Relations
Carson Cameron	VP Advocacy, Students' Union
Jillian Mozvik (May 2023-August 2023)	President, Students' Union
Katerina Allan (starting September 2023)	President, Students' Union
Lillian Flynn	Student Representative: Student sexual health & safety educator
Cassidy Plagos (starting March 2024)	Student Representative: Student sexual health & safety educator
Dr. Meredith Ralston (starting November 2023)	Faculty Representative
Kim Peitzsche	Acting Director, Human Resources
Jody Lussier (starting February 2024)	Advisor, Human Resources
Jillian Rankin (until August 2023)	Manager, Counselling Services
Kyle Cleversey	Manager, Counselling Services (starting September 2023); provincial ManMade coordinator
Lisa MacNeil	Intake Counsellor, Counselling Services
Todd MacDonald	Manager, Residence Life
Megan White (starting September 2023)	Manager, Health & Wellbeing
Joe Kippax (until February 2024)	Manager, Security
Ryan Walker (starting February 2024)	Acting Manager, Security

Dr. Marisha Caswell (until November 2023)	Transition & Retention Program Manager
Nicolle Bowes Cashen (starting November 2023)	Transition & Retention Program Manager
Olivia Landry	Community Resource: Provincial Sexual Violence Prevention Education Coordinator

Meeting Dates:

Date	Time	Location
Monday, August 21, 2023	10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Rosaria Boardroom and Microsoft Teams
Tuesday, October 17, 2023	1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	McCain 201B and Microsoft Teams
Tuesday, February 20, 2024	1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Rosaria Boardroom and Microsoft Teams
Tuesday, April 16, 2024	1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	McCain 201B and Microsoft Teams

Policy Against Sexual Violence

The update to the Policy Against Sexual Violence was completed in Summer 2023. The process involved internal and external consultations on the policy including external legal review, Students' Union, Black Student Advisor, Faculty Union, and L'nu Advisory Circle. Major changes to the policy were the addition of a support person for the respondent, provisions for alternative culturally relevant resolution, and prohibition of relationships between students and faculty/staff, in addition to clarifying definitions.

The Board approved the new policy in Fall 2023 and a new working group was formed to be responsible for campus communications rollout. This academic year that working group:

- Updated the website for sexual violence policy and resources, particularly emergency, after-hours, and campus resources, and created a new url of msvu.ca/sexualviolence;
- Updated the policy guide booklet and posted it online, with printed copies available throughout campus and planned to be placed in every residence room in September 2024;
- Created a new video outlining the changes in the new policy and how to disclose or report sexual violence, which was posted to the website;
- Started work on an informational series in which paper posters, social media posts, and TV screen images will be in place on time for Fall 2024 Orientation.

Working Group Members:

Committee Member	Role
Bobbi MacInnes	Manager, Communications & Marketing
Cassidy Plagos	Student Sexual Health & Safety Educator
Lillian Flynn	Student Sexual Health & Safety Educator
Megan White	Manager, Health & Wellbeing
Suzie Cleversey	Administrative Assistant, Office of Student Experience
Todd MacDonald	Manager, Residence Life

Meeting Dates:

Date	Time	Location
Thursday, November 9, 2023	1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Evaristus 403 and Teams
Tuesday, February 6, 2024	2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Microsoft Teams

Student Educators

Student sexual health & safety educators were provincially funded again this year. Lillian Flynn stayed on from last year along with the addition of Cassidy Plagos as a second student educator who started in March 2024. Olivia Landry organized a province-wide training session for all student educators which took place in November. Lillian delivered Waves of Change training to Orientation leaders, Residence Life student staff, and Mount Mentors in August 2023. She also had booths at any student services fairs and events to give information out to students.

After Cassidy joined the team, Lillian and Cassidy worked with Olivia to plan a train-the-trainer day so more students can be facilitators; these were cancelled for snow twice, so it is now planned for summer 2024. They also assisted with the Policy Against Sexual Violence communications plan by designing posters to distribute around campus. Other events Lillian and Cassidy held included a trivia night with Venus Envy and an interactive event on consent.

Courage to Act finished as a project in April 2024 and handed out awards to recognize people doing good work in this area. One of the awards went to Nova Scotia's student educator program.

ManMade

ManMade is a bystander intervention training program tailored for men and other male-identified students. The province first provided funding for this project in 2020 which has carried over each year since. Kyle Cleversey is the provincial coordinator for the program which is a collaborative effort between seven Nova Scotia institutes: MSVU, Dalhousie, Saint Mary's University, Cape Breton University, St. Francis Xavier, NSCAD, and NSCC.

One session was run for students in Fall 2023 who gave very positive feedback. The Nova Scotia institutions collaborating on the program later received approval from Anova, who originally created the content, to take it and modify as needed. ManMade is currently now going through a re-design to make it more tailored to individual institutions, and once it is ready for MSVU the next training session will be planned.

Working With People Who Caused Harm Pilot Project

Working With People Who Caused Harm (WWPHCH) is a toolkit pilot funded through the provincial Sexual Violence Prevention Grant and offered in partnership with Dalhousie and Courage to Act. It's an online course designed to support campus gender-based violence educators in building sustainable campus-wide support plans for working with people who cause harm. Sessions continued through this academic year and Kyle Cleversey participated as the MSVU representative. A two-day conference is being planned for June 2024.

Orientation

The Orientation committee invited Venus Envy to Fall 2023 Orientation to facilitate a sex toy bingo night where they also delivered content on consent. It was very well attended and the committee

plans to invite them back annually for this fun and informative event. The Waves of Change bystander training was also incorporated into training for RAs, Orientation student leaders, Mount Mentors, and other student groups on campus in August 2023.

Investigator Training

Although MSVU had two representatives complete Level 1 and 2 investigator training in Summer 2023, by the end of this academic year neither of them worked at MSVU any longer. We will seek new MSVU volunteers to receive the training and catch up. Meanwhile, the rest of the investigators in the province will complete Level 3 training in summer 2024. CBU has also compiled a roster of external investigators who may be called upon; if MSVU needs to hire someone, they would contact a person directly off the list.

Funding Applications for 2024-25

ManMade's remaining funding from the amount received in 2020 continues to be carried over annually, and will be spent on trainings once the program update is ready.

Olivia's job title has been changed to Provincial Sexual Violence Prevention Education Coordinator in a contract from October 2023 through May 2025. Institutions are working more collaboratively on shared projects instead of their own standalone initiatives, and Olivia helps coordinate that work.

Other funding the provincial group received in March 2024 included:

- Renewal of the student educator position for all institutions;
- Sports! Considering Our Role in Education (SCORE) project, researching the role of men in SVP education and led by Dee Dooley;
- Principles Based Evaluation, assessing effectiveness of the Waves of Change programming, to continue;
- Investigator Training Level 3;
- Working With People Who Caused Harm ongoing sessions and 2-day conference planned for summer 2024.