

## Sexualized Violence (SV) Data and Reporting Working Group

### Terms of Reference (as of February 1, 2022)

#### Members:

- A cross section of public post-secondary institutions (PSIs) and Advanced Education and Skills Training (AEST) staff (see attached table).

#### Background:

- In May 2016, BC's *Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act (SVMPPA)* was passed, requiring each public PSI to independently establish and implement a policy to prevent and respond to SV on campus; and set out procedures for making and responding to complaints/reports of SV. To assist in this process, AEST provided guidelines for policy development.
- In keeping with the principle of institutional autonomy, each PSI was tasked with developing its own administrative practices for policy implementation, including: the definition of key terms; and institutional-level protocols for the collection and reporting of qualitative and quantitative data.
- In accordance with SVMPPA, PSIs submit annual reports on the implementation of their SV policies to their Board of Governors. The content of these reports is at the discretion of each PSI and varies across the system with a mix of qualitative and quantitative data.
- To date, PSIs have not been required to report to the Province on the implementation of their SV policies. In December 2019, PSIs were required to report on the process and outcome of their three-year SV policy review as part of the annual IAPR reporting cycle.
- As part of AEST's 2017/18 public outreach campaign to gather input on priority actions to support SV policy implementation, the issue of transparency, accountability and a desire to explore the possibilities of developing a common reporting framework across the PSI sector was raised.
- Challenges for the development and implementation of a common reporting framework include:
  - Lack of consistent definitions;
  - Varying institutional practices in data collection due to the complexity of collecting data, differences in work due to policies, procedures, and campus community needs; and
  - Concerns regarding the communication and public interpretation of data.

#### Purpose:

- To develop a set of shared principles for the reporting of SV incidents and prevention education initiatives to support PSIs in responding to section 6.2 in B.C.'s SVMPPA.
- To provide advice and guidance for the development and implementation of a common understanding of reporting on incidents of SV within the jurisdiction of PSIs that is publicly available to their institutional community.

#### Goals:

- Establish a common understanding across the public PSI system for reporting on SV.
- Develop a common set of shared principles for the collecting and reporting of data elements. Provide recommendations for PSIs to consider in their implementation of annual data collection and reporting cycle.

- A shared set of principles should: provide transparency and accountability to students and the campus community; support efforts for the evaluation and assessment of SV policies and initiatives; enable comparability across institutions; and consider privacy/confidentiality as set out in FOIPA and SV policies.

**Scope:**

- The primary focus of this group is on quantitative data, with a secondary focus on qualitative data.
- Reporting of SV incidents and prevention education will be aligned with the scope of institutional policy. Some SV policies are limited to students only, and others include faculty and staff.

**Term:**

- Ongoing until shared principles and recommendations are developed.

**Governance and Role of Working Group Members:**

This working group will be co-chaired by AEST and PSI representatives.

- Co-chairs: develop agendas, facilitate meetings, and oversee Working Group activities.
- PSI members: represent the perspectives and experiences of their respective public post-secondary institutions, as well as PSIs with similar mandates; and undertake follow-up actions.
- AEST Staff: provide secretariat support; undertake follow-up actions; and align work of working group with legislation.

**Time Commitment/Meetings:**

- Regular monthly online meetings will be scheduled.
- Additional meetings will be scheduled as required.

**Confidentiality:**

- Confidentiality will be maintained in Working Group discussions to ensure a safe space for frank and open communication.
- Documents to be reviewed are not to be shared outside of the Working Group.

**Members:****\* Co-chairs**

VCC	Caralee Maloney (on leave until January 2023) Manager, Student Safety	<a href="mailto:cmaloney@vcc.ca">cmaloney@vcc.ca</a>
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