OFFICE OF CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT SUPPORT & ADVOCACY

SVNB ANNUAL REPORT

2021 - 2022

SVNB CAMPUS

ESSENTIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sexual Violence New Brunswick (SVNB) is located on the traditional unceded territory of the Wolastoqiyik, Mi'kmaq and Peskotomuhkati peoples and our work takes place throughout Wabanaki territory. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which did not deal with the surrender of lands and resources but established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.

SVNB is an organization that began as a grassroots movement that was, and continues to be, guided by those affected by sexual violence. The founders of many rape crisis centres were largely white, middle-class and urban-based women who worked primarily with all-white survivors. In recognition of this history, we practice as an intersectional and trans-inclusive feminist Collective that functions from a survivor-centred, trauma and violence-informed perspective, whose primary goal is reflected in our work to build communities safer from the impacts of sexual violence.

We cannot participate in anti-violence work without recognizing the role of colonialism and other oppressive systems in causing and upholding violence. We strive to center and elevate the work of those most impacted by systemic oppression and violence. SVNB is committed to recognizing and honouring our collective responsibility towards Reconciliation and decolonization; a process that must centre Indigenous voices and work toward building meaningful partnerships throughout the province.

We credit the knowledge and work of trauma and violence-informed care to activists within the Queer and Trans communities, as well as Black, Indigenous, and racialized individuals who have persevered through extreme barriers to amplify messages of equity in our society. We are thankful for our partnerships throughout the province and we commit to taking an anti-colonial and inclusive approach to the work we do.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CSASA TEAM

2021-2022 marked the second year we navigated covid-19 and restrictions on in-person service delivery, events, and prevention and education efforts. While it was challenging navigating the ever-changing environment, it did provide us with a unique opportunity to explore dual delivery models, online learning, and the creation of a short film in partnership with the Ferguson Foundation.

This year also marked the end of our fearless leader Maggie Forsythe's time on campus in the role of a Campus Sexual Assault Support Advocate (CSASA) as she moved into the role of Director of Post-Secondary Sexual Violence Programming. In this role, Maggie manages Sexual Violence Prevention efforts on a provincial level. While her presence is missed thoroughly on campus, we are grateful for her leadership and mentorship within our campus program at SVNB and are excited that she will now get to share her talents with Post-Secondary Institutions across the province.

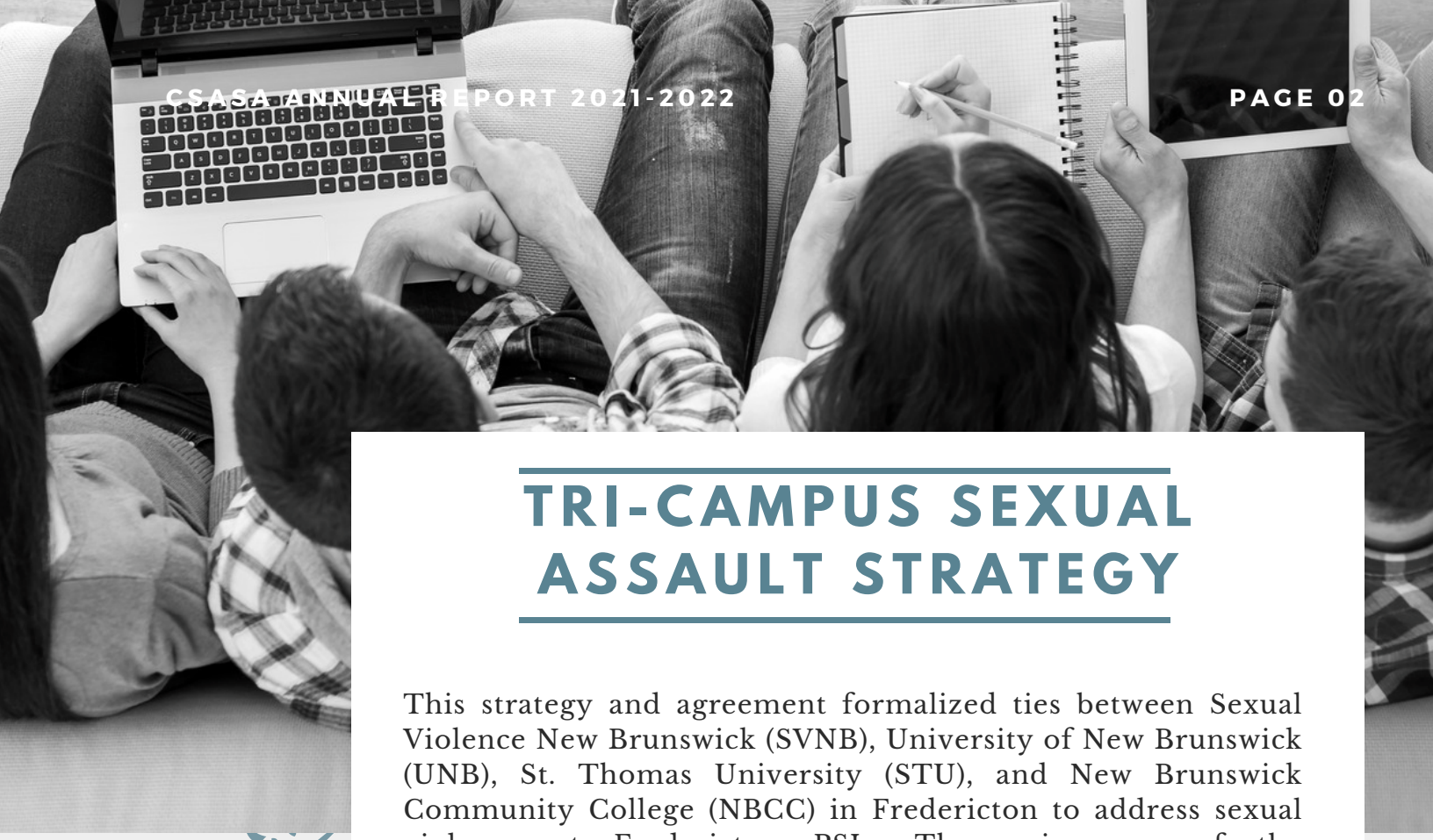
In Maggie's absence, we enthusiastically welcomed Megen Gaudet to the role of CSASA. Megen brought a wealth of knowledge from her past role as a Systems and Victim Advocate at our downtown office, where she worked as an advocate for survivors in government and social systems, as well as the criminal justice system. Megen is very excited to work with survivors in the Post-Secondary setting.

This past year allowed us to think outside of the box in terms of prevention and education delivery, offering a virtual panel "Not your High-schools Sex Talk", to having 430+ individuals participate in our online Seeds of Change training, to finally the creation, directing, and filming of a short film on how to support someone disclosing sexual violence.

We would not exist, nor could we continue our services, without the community support, partners, advocates, and financial benefactors we have. The important work and contributions made by the CSASA's in ending sexual violence are only made possible with the assistance of our campus allies Mark, Brock, and Mary-Ellen.

Hilary Swan
Campus Sexual Assault Support Advocate

Megen Gaudet
Campus Sexual Assault Support Advocate



TRI-CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT STRATEGY

This strategy and agreement formalized ties between Sexual Violence New Brunswick (SVNB), University of New Brunswick (UNB), St. Thomas University (STU), and New Brunswick Community College (NBCC) in Fredericton to address sexual violence at Fredericton PSIs. The uniqueness of the Fredericton Campus Sexual Assault Strategy emerges from the collaboration and partnership with community agencies. Each institution is contracted to contribute financially to SVNB, where the work will be housed as a team approach rather than resting solely on the shoulders of one office on campus. The data represented in this report reflects cases connected to all three institutions.

Addressing the issue of sexual violence requires thoughtful planning and strategy. Communities would be remiss to only consider one side of the matter, such as interventions, without careful consideration of prevention, education, and strategic development.

This strategy was co-developed to address the following key outcome areas of:

- Strategic Development,
- Prevention and Awareness,
- Interventions and Response, and
- Education and Professional Development

With these key result areas, Fredericton PSIs will have a stronger approach to addressing this issue. The key outcome areas to this strategy are outlined through this report to highlight the ways in which the three PSIs have been working to address sexual violence on campus.

CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT SUPPORT ADVOCATES (CSASA)

IN FREDERICTON

The CSASAs function as the recommended first point of contact or referral for any member of the university community who has experienced a sexual assault related to their campus experience. The CSASA provides initial and ongoing support including:

- confidential and trauma-informed counselling services
- consultation for students, faculty, and staff on issues of sexual violence
- referrals to other campus and community resources
- advocacy for support on campus
- support through complaints processes
- facilitate prevention and education activites
- consultation for policy development and reform
- collection of data related to sexual violence on campus

INTRODUCTION

This report covers the activities of the Fredericton CSASA over the reporting period of one full year, July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. This report speaks directly to the cases related to individuals on Fredericton campus and although some have been connected to the criminal justice system, details of those cases are not highlighted here

A YEAR IN REVIEW

TOTAL DISCLOSURES

Throughout this timeframe, almost 50 referrals for sexual assault support were associated with the three institutions. These disclosures come through self as well as third-party referrals. Over **82**% of those who were referred to our program sought follow-up support.

As the CSASA office is the point of contact for all those looking to receive support for an experience of sexual assault as well as those who have received a disclosure, some of the violence described in these referrals occurred outside of our reporting timeframe. We are inclusive of all disclosures in this report.

INTERSECTIONAL PERSPECTIVES

Sexual violence is a product of the oppressions produced within the power systems that govern our communities. Sexual violence, in adulthood, is experienced predominately by those who identify as women, transgender, or other gender non-conforming categories such as two-spirit, non-binary, or agender (95% of CSASA clientele). Further, clients who identified their sexuality as being represented within the 2SLGBTQIAP+ spectrum (26%), as having a disability (18%), or as being marginalized by racism or colonization (22%) are highly represented within our program.

These insights provide us with consistent data that reinforces our need to create stronger preventative measures and cultural change. Equity initiatives and visibility for those who are pushed to the margins on our campus can start to make change in ways we haven't been able to before.

50 DISCLOSURES OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

53% OF SURVIVORS DESCRIBED COERCIVE SEXUAL VIOLENCE

SEXUAL ASSAULT ON CAMPUS: A YEAR AT A GLANCE

JULY 2021 TO JUNE 2022

Sexual assault is any type of unwanted sexual act done by one person to another that violates the sexual integrity of the victim and involves a range of behaviours from unwanted touching to penetration (Criminal Code of Canada). Sexual assault is characterized by a broad range of behaviours that involve the use of force, threats, or control towards a person, which makes that person feel uncomfortable, distressed, frightened, threatened, or that is carried out in circumstances to which the person has not freely agreed, consented, or is incapable of consenting.

Throughout this timeframe, approximately 50 disclosures of sexual violence against members of the campus community (including UNB, STU and NBCC) were made to the CSASAs in Fredericton. Incidences vary with campus size and location.

While the gendered nature of these crimes is clear in the representation of survivors who seek our services, this is reinforced by highlighting that 89% of the disclosures to the CSASA office referenced assailants who are men. These statistics are mirrored in national as well as international research and is a continued call to better examine the gender roles and expectations we teach in society.

Incidences disclosed to the CSASA program range on a continuum of sexually aggressive and abusive behaviour, including unwanted sexual touching, non-consensual sexual penetration, to repeated sexual abuse. In the cases reported to the CSASA, the respondent knew the complainant 92% of the time and the assailant was in a position of authority on campus, 60% of the time.

INTERVENTION
BEYOND THE NUMBERS

STRATEGY

The office of CSASA offers feminist and trauma-specific counselling of up to 12 sessions for those who have experienced sexual assault related to their campus experience. This approach focuses on creating safety, teaching emotional regulation, processing trauma, as well as providing options for medical, legal, and campus needs. We also offer advocacy within the campus structures to support their identified goals.

A DEEPER LOOK

Depending on the nature of sexual violence, many types of interventions are required. A survivor may need emergency and ongoing health care, police services, crisis intervention, counselling, community programs, advocacy, as well as victim and court support services. the CSASA office is one link in the extensive chain of support available to survivors. Our focus has been to mitigate the secondary wounding that occurs through the process of a person reaching out for help, offering support, and provide effective response in a timely fashion.

IMPACT

Sexual violence is unique to other forms of hardship that students may experience. Anxiety over being around others, particularly their offender, often hinder their ability to go to class, the library, or meal halls. Intrusive thoughts may get in the way of concentration, being attentive in class, or finishing homework. Secondary wounding due to responses from peers or school administration often cause survivors to avoid classes, transfer to other institutions, or drop out altogether.

When asked about their experience with the CSASA program, clients have shared feedback such as: "*I felt supported, listened to, and motivated to work on myself and to give more thought to things I wasn't considering before*".

INTERVENTIONS

BY THE NUMBERS

90%

CSART SUPPORT

Over 90% of survivors sought more than one support from the CSART to increase success and safety in their lives on campus

> *"What someone else does in response to my boundaries is a reflection of them and not a reflection of my own failures."*

- A client's most impactful takeaway from counselling

CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM (CSART)

The Campus Sexual Assault Response Team (CSART) consists of campus service providers, such as Counselling, Health, Residence Life, and Security, who have abilities to intervene in support of a survivor disclosing sexual violence. Though many survivors did not wish to undertake the disciplinary process, over 86% of clients successfully sought informal resolutions through the CSART to help them feel safe and empowered at UNB. Interim measures that were taken include:

- Academic Appeal and Accommodation for the complainant
- Residence alterations for safety
- No-Contact Orders
- Trespass orders

Interim measures or informal resolutions were often chosen in lieu of formal complaints as clients were more interested in pursuing safety and empowerment rather than making themselves more vulnerable through administrative systems.

INTERVENTION ACTIVITIES

- Provided advocacy and support to students from a trauma-informed perspective.
- Connected students to trauma-specific counselling, support groups, and/or crisis support services.
- Helped survivors access medical care and follow-up services in a timely fashion.
- Provided support and advocacy through the court process.
- Worked with the CSART to support survivors of sexual violence, receive accommodation, and consider trends in existing disclosures.
- Advised faculty on survivor-centred handlings of disclosures.
- Facilitated access to services through the use of disclosure cards.

235

SESSIONS

Over 260 **virtual** and **in-person** therapeutic sessions were utilized by campus survivors of sexual violence

82%

OF REFERRALS ACCESSED SUPPORT

Of the referrals that were received by the CSASA office, 95% of survivors wanted counselling or advocacy support

FORMAL COMPLAINTS

Sexual violence has one of the lowest police reporting rates for all criminal offences, often less than 5% to legal authorities (Statistics Canada, 2014). Complainants often feel frustrated, blamed, and shamed by society, stalling their ability to achieve justice and support.

There are three levels of formal help-seeking on campus:

- Disclosure, where the complainant seeks support but no further action;
- Informal Complaint, where the complainant wishes certain steps to be taken but does not wish to enter into a formal process that could lead to discipline against the respondent; and
- Formal Complaint, where the complainant wishes to bring formal charges against the respondent (under the Student Discipline Code or under appropriate staff/faculty policies).

Over the course of this reporting period, **seven** formal complaints have been forwarded from our office to the campus administration responsible for the respondent. As we do not adjudicate these files, this number may not be inclusive of all those who sought the administrative process at UNB-F, STU, or NBCC-F.

PREVENTION
BEYOND THE NUMBERS

STRATEGY

Through the tri-campus sexual assault strategy, prevention and awareness activities include information booths, annual awareness campaigns, support to student committees, events and activities, and presentations.

A DEEPER LOOK

Awareness is crucial to enhancing our response to sexual violence. To decrease the amount of sexual violence on campus, a cultural shift away from sexual assault myths, victim-blaming attitudes, and the objectification of women and gender non-conforming individuals needs to occur. Further, without a dismantling of colonial and white supremacist systems and structures, sexual minorities, Indigenous, and racialized folx will always be oppressed through sexual violence. Greater community awareness of these dynamics leads to a greater understanding of the issue and a dismantling of the structures that facilitate this type of violence.

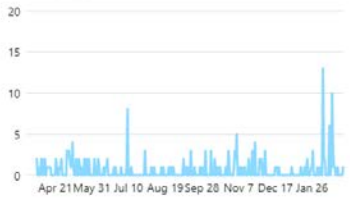
PREVENTION

BY THE NUMBERS

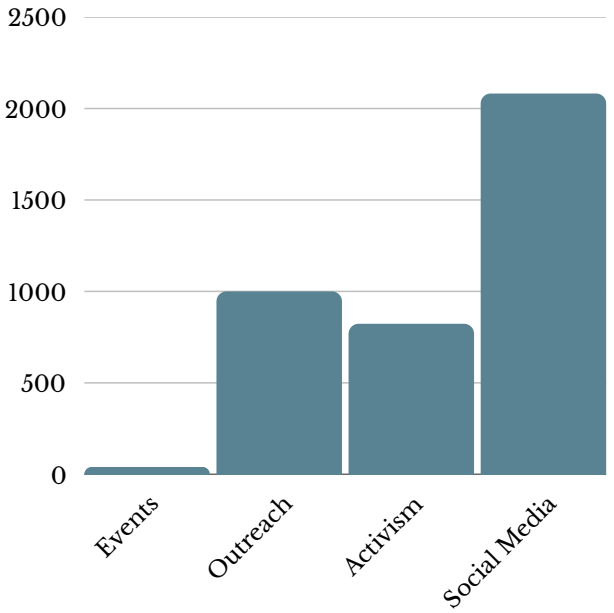
6,828+

ENGAGEMENTS

We were able to reach over 525 people through the various prevention and awareness activities on campus.



PARTICIPANTS PER ACTIVITY

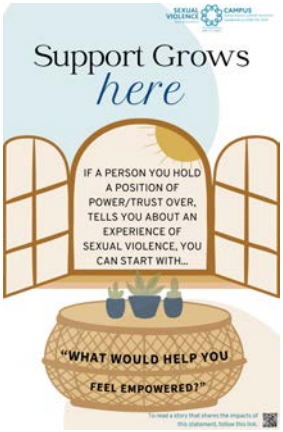


STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

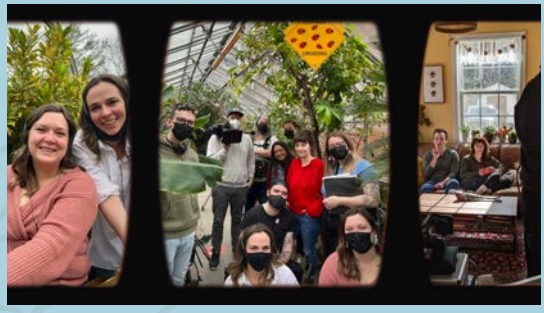
Each year, we strive to work closely with student groups and give paid opportunities for students to practice their advocacy. Our summer student was tasked with finding creative ways to build awareness on the topics of bystander intervention and violence in relationships, as these were the topics outlined by our tri-campus sexual violence prevention team. Throughout this internship, our student found information about secondary wounding to be moving and powerful in their own learning and collaborated on the campaign "Support Grows Here". This campaign took the form of posters, social media, and a short-film and focused on the ways that we, as potential support people, can make immense impact on the lives and healing of survivors of sexual violence. This campaign was further supported by two additional work-study students from St. Thomas University.

> *"Contributing to bringing awareness about sexual violence by working with this year's Sexual Violence Prevention Team was so meaningful"*
>
> - Testimonial from a work-study student

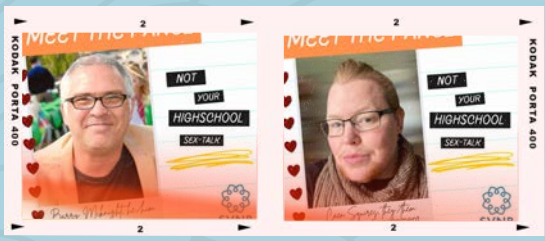
BUILDING AWARENESS



THE MAKING OF SUPPORT GROWS HERE SHORT FILM



NOT YOUR HIGHSCHOOL SEX-TALK



FrederictonCSASA

PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

The CSASA office works in collaboration with members of the Campus Sexual Assault Prevention Team including the 2SLGBTQIAP+ Wellness Coordinator, Student Unions from UNB and STU, NBCC Counselling, Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research (MMFC), Campus Security, Residence Life, and the Office of Human Rights and Positive Environment Office at UNB. This team discusses themes of sexual violence and plans initiatives to address sexual assault on campus. This year, our campus-wide sexual assault prevention team chose the topic of bystander support for disclosures of sexual violence as the issue to address with our awareness activities.

The team supported the initiatives through our “Support Grows Here” campaign and our “Not your Highschool Sex-Talk” virtual panel event. Our event was accessible by the tri-campus and all NBCC sites in the province as we hosted an expert panel to answer anonymous questions about sex, consent, and sexuality virtually on Zoom.

EDUCATION

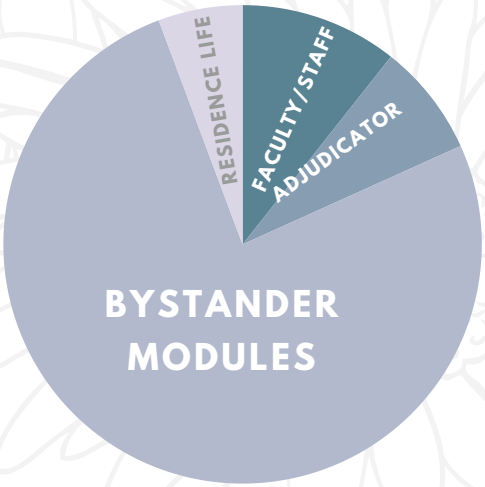
BY THE NUMBERS

437

ACTIVE LEARNERS

Through our virtual and in-person trainings, we were able to engage with 437 individual learners.

PARTICIPANTS PER ACTIVITY



IMPACT

Members of the larger SVNB team partnered to facilitate educational opportunities such as:

- workshops that address why sexual violence happens (including education on myths and stereotypes, gender roles, privilege and oppression, as well as consent and coercion) and how to support a friend;
- tri-campus "Trauma-Informed Offices" training for faculty and staff receiving disclosures of sexual violence;
- training for receiving and handling disclosures for residence life student staff at UNB and STU;
- training for those adjudicating sexual assault files as UNB and STU;
- and online modules for bystander intervention skills, awareness of sexual violence, consent, how to receive a disclosure, and support one's own wellbeing from the impacts of trauma.

"I now feel more mentally prepared to handle a disclosure situation. I also have more information about resources."

- Participant after receiving the training for faculty and staff.

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

BEYOND THE NUMBERS

STRATEGY

The office of CSASA supports the tri-campus community in the evaluation and updating of their current sexual assault policies. Although the responsibility is not on the CSASAs to perform policy updates, the information, research, and experience from this office is offered to support institutional endeavors. The office of CSASA supports the tri-campus community through coordinating and collaborating on research of sexual violence issues, policies, and programs to inform the work of this strategy. The office identifies appropriate evaluation methods to assess the effectiveness of the implementation of this strategy, and uses the results to inform future actions.

A DEEPER LOOK

Institutional policies and protocols outline the vision, stance, and structure from which sexual violence is addressed. While each institution may vary on the details of how reports of sexual violence are handled internally, it is essential that there is a cohesive perspective through which sexual violence is understood. Policies need to be clear and relatable to campus community members so that individuals can see themselves within the definition of sexual violence and know where to go to receive support or file complaints. UNB completed its official sexual assault policy review which was facilitated by the MMFC and involved the CSASA office in many consultations to provide recommendations to the President's Office for review. STU also began their internal sexual violence policy review.

EXTERNAL GROWTH

GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS

The Seeds of Change online education modules for bystander intervention has continued in its pilot form and was extended to all Anglophone PPSI's who were interested in accessing it. Mount Allison University as well as NBCC sites across the province, took advantage of this opportunity.

Over the past year, SVNB and the CSASA office have worked in partnership with the Government of New Brunswick, including Women's Equality Branch and Post-Secondary Education, Training, and Labor to consult on the provinces recommendations for addressing sexual violence on campus. This Oversight Committee on Campus sexual violence is an ongoing collaboration between government departments, PPSI's and SVNB. The GNB report was released on September 8th, 2021 and highlights many areas of importance for the province and provincial PPSI's. In addition to this, we collaborated on and supported the Sexual Violence Research Conference that occurred the week of November 1st, 2021.

IN CONCLUSION

SVNB's post-secondary sexual violence programming has become recognized nationally for the innovative partnerships that are working to create safer campus communities. Our Fredericton office of CSASA is one piece of the approach to addressing the impacts of sexual violence in the Fredericton post-secondary community, and we appreciate all the partnerships that come together to make a united front on this issue.

For more information or to contact your office of CSASA, please...

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SEXUAL VIOLENCE NEW BRUNSWICK

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UNB | STU | NBCC