

OFFICE OF CAMPUS SEXUAL  
ASSAULT SUPPORT & ADVOCACY

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# SVNB ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



# ESSENTIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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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



The 2022-2023 academic year may have been our most ambitious year yet in regards to education and prevention efforts on campus. We began with one of the largest events that we have ever done. Providing consent and comprehensive sexual health education for all incoming post-secondary students at UNB, STU and NBCC. Through a partnership with Student Services, the Student Union, Orientation Chairs and local Drag Artists, we hosted two sex Trivia events for over 500+ students within the Fredericton campus community. These events covered the topics of consent, sexual health, and myths and misconceptions about sex and intimacy in the media, and the importance of pleasure and communication in healthy sexual relationships. Being able to provide this education as early as possible during students' post-secondary careers is something we are incredibly proud of and believe it will lead to a reduction in rape culture and increase in students' comprehension of consent.

This commitment to creative prevention and education campaigns expanded throughout the year through a physical display of red and green relationship flags in popular locations throughout orientation week. A Crafting Consent event, where we had discussions surrounding consent and intersectional feminism while also creating tote bags and buttons. In addition to the launch of our film "Support Grows Here" video, which was created, directed, and filmed in 2021. This video demonstrates how people can support survivors of sexual violence when they receive a disclosure. After two years where most of our prevention and education efforts were directed online it felt so great to have over 971+ individuals attend our events, trainings, and booths in person.

Through our events and connections made with the community we heard from survivors in ways that were incredibly insightful. We heard that students weren't aware that we were an accessible resource for them. We heard that there was a distrust in filing formal complaints for fear that complaint processes will not be followed. We heard that more efforts are needed to rebuild trust with the community that if they come forward their will be action. We are committed to lifting survivors voices and supporting both them and our campus communities in working towards solutions.

Campus Sexual Assault  
Support Advocate

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 activities
- 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, 2022 – June 30, 2023. This report speaks directly to the cases related to individuals on the 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

### CLIENTS SUPPORTED

Throughout this timeframe, we supported nearly 40 individuals who had been affected by sexual assault during their campus experience. This year we were requested to scope our services to only providing access to individuals who had experienced sexual assault as a member of the campus community, therefore these numbers no longer include cases of childhood sexual abuse that past reports would have included.

### INTERSECTIONAL PERSPECTIVES

Sexual violence is a product of the oppression 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 (100% of CSASA clientele). Further, clients who identified their sexuality as being represented within the 2SLGBTQIAP+ spectrum (35%), as having a disability (19%), or as being marginalized by racism or colonization (24%) are highly represented within our program. This also became the first year we started tracking international students who made up 16% of our clients.

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 changes in ways we haven't been able to before.

# 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 providing effective responses 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 hinders 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 causes 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"*.

## 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 Campus Sexual Assault Response Team to support survivors of sexual violence, receive accommodation, and consider trends in existing disclosures.
- Advised faculty on survivor-centred handling of disclosures.
- Facilitated access to services through the use of disclosure cards.

**269+**  
**SESSIONS**

in-person therapeutic sessions were utilized by campus survivors of sexual violence

## 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, we had less than 5 survivors initiate a formal complaint. For confidentiality purposes we cannot include numbers below 5, however it is important to note this year had fewer complaints than years previous. The reasons for these numbers are multifaceted, however there has been a trend in survivor feedback that there has become an increase of mistrust in the complaint processes due to perceived challenges with timelines, adjudicator practice, and sanctioning practices. The CSASA's and SVNBS are committed to working with the Tri-campus community to rebuild trust and a trauma and violence informed process. As we do not adjudicate these files, this number may not be inclusive of all those who sought the administrative process at UNB Fredericton Campus, STU, or NBCC Fredericton Campus.





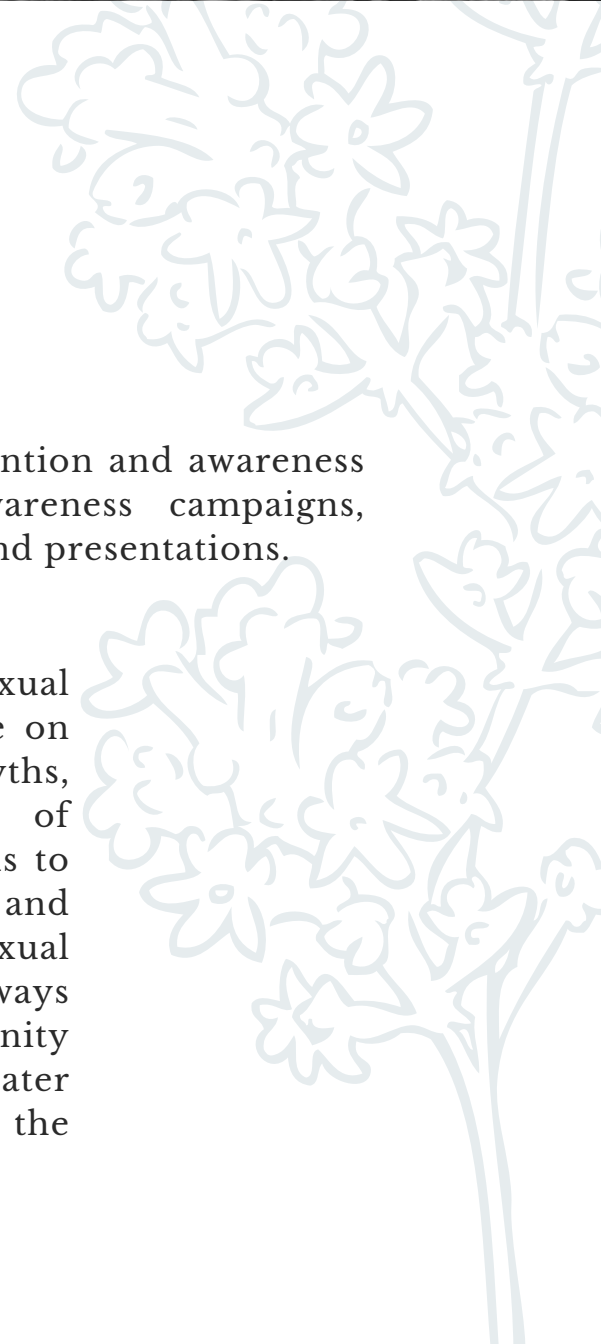
# PREVENTION BEYOND THE NUMBERS

## 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 people 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

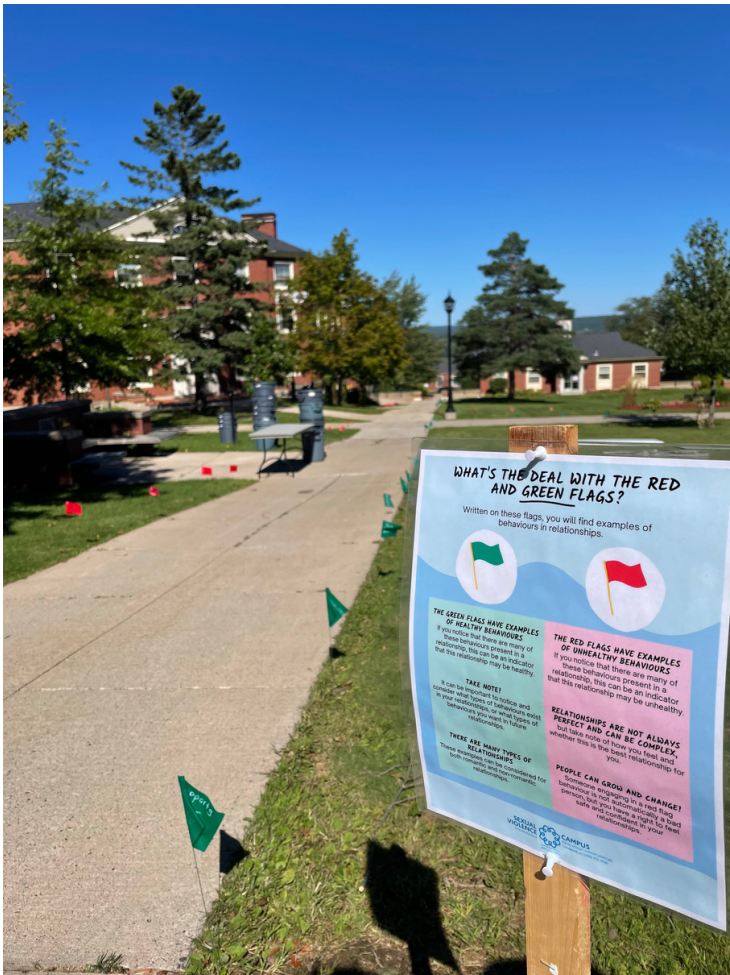
## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

971+

CONNECTIONS MADE

We were able to reach over 971 + people through the various prevention and awareness activities in person on campus.

Each year, we strive to work closely with student groups and give paid opportunities for students to practice their advocacy. Our summer and work-study students were tasked with finding creative ways to build awareness on the topics of bystander intervention and violence in relationships. Throughout these internships, our students wanted to challenge the narratives around hook up culture and the absence of consent that often takes place through interactive posters, social media posts, and an event called Crafting Consent. Crafting consent was an event partnered with the Fabrication Lab at the Harriet Irving Library where students could design their own feminist tote bags and pins. They included slogans such as “cats against cat calls” or “I believe you”. This event was a huge success and brought over 80 individuals within the two hours it was hosted.





# CRAFTING CONSENT



# SEX TRIVIA



# BUILDING AWARENESS

SEXUAL VIOLENCE & CAMPUS

## FLIP THE SCRIPT on hook-up culture

Navigating sexual consent with a new or casual partner takes communication and respect. Adding drugs or alcohol interferes with a person's ability to consent. When in doubt, wait it out.

SCAN ME To read more about setting boundaries for healthy hook-ups

SEXUAL VIOLENCE & CAMPUS

## FLIP THE SCRIPT on hook-up culture

Dating apps can be an accessible way to connect with others. Be transparent about what you are looking for and your personal boundaries. Always remember that you have the power to shut down the conversation if things feel uncomfortable.

SCAN ME To read more about setting boundaries for healthy hook-ups

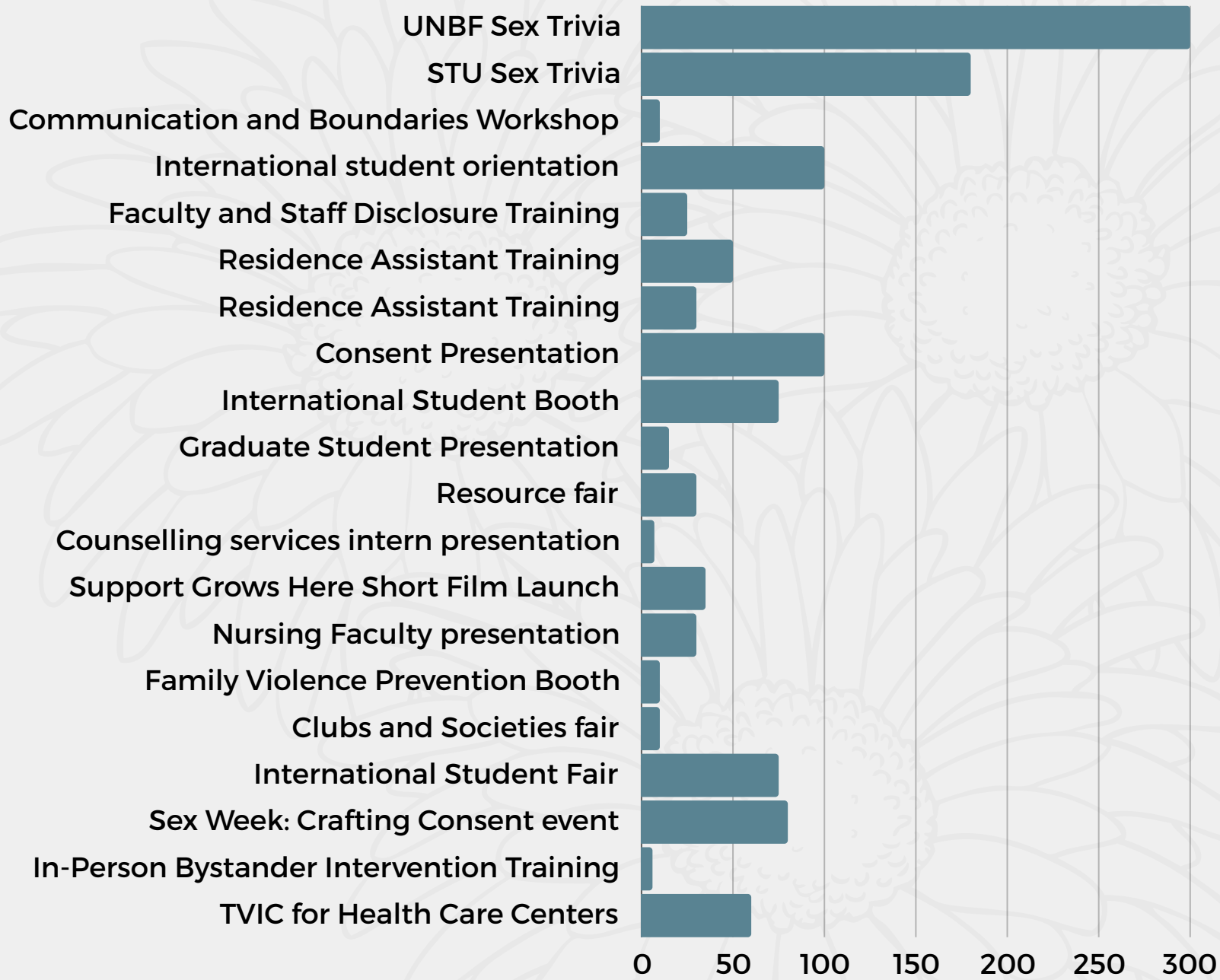
SEXUAL VIOLENCE & CAMPUS

## FLIP THE SCRIPT on hook-up culture

It's important to avoid assumptions when it comes to situations like "Netflix & Chill", since a person cannot give consent to sexual activity before it happens. Make sure communication continues when you are together so your partner's boundaries as well as your own are being respected.

SCAN ME To read more about setting boundaries for healthy hook-ups

# ENGAGEMENT





# EDUCATION

## BY THE NUMBERS

533+

### VIRTUAL LEARNERS

Students, student athletes, and leaders completed the Online Seeds of Change Bystander Intervention Training

## 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 A,B,C's of Receiving a Sexual Violence Disclosure" training for faculty and staff
- 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

## 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 endeavours. 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. Over the past year, both UNB and STU created committees to update the current sexual violence policies. Due to resourcing issues, these processes have both been placed on pause. As UNB commits to unifying their provincial campuses, UNB has halted the meeting of the policy-prescribed bi-campus sexual assault task force. We look forward to continuing to support these efforts in the coming year.

# IN CONCLUSION

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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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