



CSA applauds the Ontario Government in strengthening sexual violence and harassment policies at post-secondary institutions

January 28th, 2021

TORONTO, ON - The Government of Ontario announced amendments to Regulation 131/16 that will strengthen sexual violence policies at post-secondary institutions to better protect survivors of sexual violence

CSA is delighted to see the need for survivor-centric sexual violence policies addressed at post-secondary institutions, with the recent amendments to Regulation 131/16. This regulation stipulates that all postsecondary institutions have a sexual violence policy in place, however institutional policies often differ fundamentally, which provides room for insufficiencies, loopholes, and reporting errors.

Inadequacies in sexual violence policies can make survivors of sexual violence more vulnerable, prevent access to supports for survivors with specific needs, and make the reporting process more difficult. The recent amendments provide additional safeguards will be enforced at all postsecondary institutions in Ontario.

In previous government submissions, CSA has highlighted the need for further government oversight from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities to ensure that all sexual violence prevention policies at institutions are comprehensive and effective, and do not cause further harm or retraumatization.

CSA is hopeful that these changes will spark further dialogue on how sexual violence policies can more effectively address the needs of students through a survivor-centric and intersectional lens. Future policy amendments should continue to draw from consultation with student groups and experts in the area of gender-based violence, such as the Courage to Act National Initiative and Students for Consent Culture Canada. Future improvements could include:

- Mandatory sexual violence training for decision-makers or investigators.
- Protections from face-to-face encounters.
- Clearly defined rights of those affected by gender-based violence with survivor-centric measures in place.
- Anonymous or third-party reporting.

For further information on the amendments to Regulation 131/16 and how to be involved in consultations, follow this link: <https://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/view.do?language=fr&postingId=35987>

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About College Student Alliance:

College Student Alliance (CSA) advocates on behalf of Ontario college students in partnership with student leaders. Through our member student associations, CSA represents the collective voice of Ontario's college students.

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