



UNIVERSITY COMMUNIQUE  
RE: SEXUAL ASSAULTS

**OFFICE OF THE  
VICE-PROVOST  
STUDENTS**

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Since the end of August, four incidents involving York students have been reported which can be defined as Sexual Assault under the Criminal Code. All suspects were male York students. In each case, the suspect has been apprehended by Toronto Police, with University suspensions being issued where appropriate under section 15 of the [Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities](#).

All members of our community are advised that under the Criminal Code of Canada, Sexual Assault is an actual or threatened unwanted advance, gesture, touch, or any other sexual act to which an individual has not consented. It includes a person being forced to perform sexual acts against their will. Sexual assault violates a person's boundaries, trust, and feelings of safety. It is determined by a lack of consent, and not by the act itself.

Sexual Assault is an act that cannot be justified in a community built on mutual trust among students and other members of our community. Sexual Assault between acquainted students is no less serious and is equally unlawful. York University is committed to building a community where mutual respect extends to all levels of our social encounters and relationships, and the University expects all community members to contribute to achieving this goal. As essential partners with the University in addressing these very serious issues, students, faculty, and staff are called upon to exhibit care and concern for one another. We all share individual and communal responsibility. When educational efforts or personal responsibility fall short and sexual assaults occur, the University will offer all its available resources to ensure support for survivors and others who may be affected. The University will also facilitate investigations into all reported sexual assaults; ensuring disciplinary proceedings are initiated against suspects where appropriate, up to and including Criminal Code charges.

The ability of our entire community to study and work in a safe environment is the foremost priority of the University. Community members are encouraged to become familiar with all our safety related services and supports which can be viewed at [yorku.ca/safety](http://yorku.ca/safety).

Janet K. Morrison, Ph.D.  
Vice-Provost, Students

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