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## **President delivers an update on safety to the York community**

Dear Members of the York Community:

Over the coming weeks, students will be returning to our campuses for the 2012 winter term. While it is an exciting time, we should be mindful of our safety and the role that all of us can play.

Since my last update, I am encouraged with the progress that we have made in the implementation of the METRAC (Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children) recommendations. Close to 60 per cent of the recommendations are either significantly advanced or completed, highlighting our ongoing undertaking to enhancing safety for all members of the York community.

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the key initiatives that we implemented during the fall term:

1. Safety Budget Commitment

The University has allocated \$1 million in new base budget funds to support the implementation of the METRAC recommendations. This annual budget allocation is in addition to the \$8.5 million York already invests on an annual basis for safety related programs.

2. York Security Service Delivery Model

Preparations are underway for implementing changes I announced in August to the service delivery model for York Security Services (YSS) personnel. You may recall that as part of these enhancements, YSS staff will be issued with additional personal protective equipment. Standard operating procedures are being revised or new ones developed to reflect these new arrangements. Key to these changes will be an effective and appropriate training program.

3. York Security Services Personnel Increasing

During the summer, the University agreed to hiring ten new Security Officials and two new Security Supervisors. The two new Supervisors were hired in November. The hiring process for the 10 new Security Officials is complete and the new officers will be in place early in the New Year.



4. Campus Shuttle Services

With the beginning of classes in September, we expanded the Campus Shuttle service further into the Village – the community of privately owned houses immediately to the south of the Keele campus. Three distinct shuttle bus routes now service the Village. Ridership through September and October increased 87 per cent to 7,365 passengers compared to the same period in 2010.

In response to concerns raised by students from the School of Social Work, this month we expanded the Shuttle Bus routes to include the Kinsmen Building.

5. Inclusivity Training

The METRAC recommendations emphasize the need for ongoing training programs for the York community. An important initiative this fall was to ensure that inclusivity training sessions were held for senior members of the University administration and student leadership. Members of the University Executive Committee (including myself, as President, the Vice-Presidents, and Deans), the Management Safety Committee, and the Community Safety Council all participated in these important sessions.

6. Mass Notification System

The pilot project for a campus-wide public address system has been completed and we now have operational systems in the Ross Building and in the Health, Nursing, and Environmental Studies Building. The Board of Governors has approved funding to install an integrated PA system in all academic and student buildings on the Keele campus over the next three to four years.

Funding has been approved for the expansion of our very successful LCD screen program. Twenty-five new screens will be installed over the next six months, and we are investigating how to integrate existing standalone LCD screens with the campus-wide system.

The Registrar's Office has developed an effective mass email notification system that will be available for emergency communications.

The initiatives noted above are in addition to the many other measures that we have already implemented. To view a more comprehensive list, please refer to my previous [statements](#).

York University is committed to creating a space where people feel valued and safe. We will continue to work collaboratively with the entire York community to enhance the quality of life for those who study and work here. For more information on York University's detailed action plan regarding METRAC's recommendations, please visit the [safety audit website](#). If you would like additional information on our safety services, please visit [www.yorku.ca/safety](http://www.yorku.ca/safety).

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