

# Safety and Security Fact Sheet

## York University – March 2014

The ability of our entire community to study, work, and live in a safe environment is of foremost importance to York University.

### Background:

Four years ago, the President commissioned a campus safety audit which was conducted by METRAC (Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children), a third-party safety audit firm. Their report was presented in June 2010, following extensive community consultation and engagement. The report was embraced by the President and the entire administration of the University. There are over 100 recommendations in the report, and the University is working diligently to implement these.

### ONGOING INITIATIVES:

#### Security Services

- York Security Officials are licensed by the Province. As of Summer 2012, York introduced its own certification and training program. All personnel are trained and certified accordingly. Since November 2012, Security Officials have been issued Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and are empowered to effect a citizen's power of arrest where circumstances warrant.
- Current number of Security Officials is 76, with 2 more Officials being added in each of the next 2-3 years.
- The Residence Watch Program brings security personnel right into our residences in the evenings from 8 pm to 8 am. Residence Watch Officials are all licensed, trained and certified.
- 56 exterior "Blue Light" phones are located on the Keele Campus and 6 at Glendon.
- Interior safety phones are located in building hallways.
- 70 LCD screens have now been installed across the Keele campus, 2 at Glendon.
- Over 600 CCTV cameras are installed across the Keele campus.
- Security Bulletins are emailed to all students, CPM staff, and faculty and posted on the York Security Services website at: <http://security.news.yorku.ca/>
- An Emergency PA system is currently installed in Ross & HNES. Work in Vari Hall, Student Centre and York Lanes currently underway. Remaining academic buildings to be phased in over the next 2 years.

#### Bystander Intervention Program Development

- The METRAC Safety Audit highlighted the need to implement an entry level educational program

designed to change current norms.

- York has chosen to adopt a bystander intervention model which seeks to work with our community members to shift the cultural norms and attitudes by encouraging them to act/intervene in pro-social ways.
- The bystander approach shift the focus of prevention efforts from the immediate individuals involved in a situation to peers and community members, suggesting that these members can intervene as active bystanders. It begins to lay the foundation to shift cultural norms and build a caring community.
- A committee of engaged individuals has begun working on program development. The group is comprised of representatives from the Office of the Vice-President Finance and Administration, Centre for Human Rights, Student Community & Leadership Development, Residence Life, Office of Student Conflict Resolution, Sport York, Security Services, Sexual Assault Survivors' Support Line & Leadership (SASSL), Centre for Women & Trans People and York Federation of Students.

### **Sexual Assault Awareness, Prevention and Response Policy Development**

- A working group has been struck to develop a sexual assault awareness, prevention and response policy.
- The working group is comprised of representatives from the following campus groups: Office of the President, Office of the Vice-President Finance and Administration, Centre for Human Rights, Student Community & Leadership Development, Office of Student Conflict Resolution, Security Services, Office of the Secretariat & General Counsel, Sexual Assault Survivors' Support Line & Leadership (SASSL), Centre for Women & Trans People, York Federation of Students and Graduate Students' Association.
- The policy will aim to: communicate that sexual violence is not acceptable in our community, define what sexual violence is, as well as the role our community needs to take in addressing this issue, include a formal procedure for responding to incidents of sexual violence which include disclosures, reporting, support services available to survivors, and disciplinary proceedings, provide a framework for a cohesive approach to education, awareness, and prevention in order to effectively build community engagement to address sexual violence on campus.
- The proposed policy development plan will rely on *Developing a Response to Sexual Violence: A Resource Guide For Ontario's Colleges and Universities (2012)*.
- The working group is currently mapping out current processes to better understand the current landscape and identify strengths and opportunities.

### **Awareness and Training:**

- The online REDI (Respect, Equity, Diversity, Inclusivity) Tutorial provided by the Centre for Human Rights can be accessed with a Passport York login at <http://www.yorku.ca/redi/>
- Safety information and campus resources can be found on the Safer Together website: [www.yorku.ca/safety](http://www.yorku.ca/safety).
- The [York U Mobile Safety App](#), is available for iPhone and Android users. It provides contact information for the various safety resources on campus including: Security, goSAFE, the Village Shuttles, Centre for Human Rights, SASSL, TBLGAY, as well as the contact for Good2Talk, the

24/7 crisis line for post-secondary students.

- Level-one and Level-two Violence/Threat Risk Assessment seminars with Kevin Cameron, the leading expert in North America, have been held with key university staff.
- Updates on the progress of the METRAC recommendations can be found on the METRAC Safety Audit website: <http://safety.yorku.ca/metracssafetyaudit/>

#### **Leadership and Community Involvement:**

- The York University Community Safety Council (CSC) is a broadly representative advisory body to the President with a focus on safety outcomes, practices and policies. For more information visit their website: <http://csc.info.yorku.ca/>
- A Town and Gown committee has been established to collaborate on activities that improve community safety. Key constituents include: City of Toronto municipal services, Toronto Police Services, Toronto Fire Department, York University staff, students, the Residents Association and community members.

#### **Emergency Preparedness**

- The University has an [Emergency Preparedness Plan](#).
- In emergencies, Security will communicate immediately to effected areas on campus, employing our LCD emergency screens, Emergency PA systems in buildings where they are installed, employee phone trees, and on-site person-to-person communications.

#### **Evening Transportation**

- [goSAFE](#), York's walking escort service operates in the evenings from 6 pm to 2 am in the Fall/Winter and 8 pm to 2 am in the Summer. Our student staff accompany you to any on campus location.
- The [Village Shuttles](#) provide transportation options in the evenings to the off-campus housing area to the south of the Keele Campus known as 'The Village'. The service is comprised of three York University shuttles; "Village Express", "Village East", and "Village West" and pick up is in front of Vari Hall.

#### **Financial Investment:**

- In 2011-12, York committed approximately \$10.2 million in safety and security-related expenses.