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University of Lethbridge approves revised sexual violence policy

The University of Lethbridge Board of Governors recently approved an updated <u>Sexual Violence</u> <u>Policy</u> that reinforces its intolerance of sexual violence and promotes a safe and supportive community for all who work, live and study at the University.

The revised Sexual Violence Policy is the result of extensive review and community consultations. It sets out consistent procedures for complaints and investigations and, among other important changes, more explicitly emphasizes the University's role in providing robust support for those who have experienced sexual violence. The policy reflects the diversity that exists in society and at the University, and puts no time limits on when complaints can be made.

"The Sexual Violence Policy is an extensive document that has been developed carefully and thoroughly, with a great deal of thoughtful input from the University community," says Ariane Tennant, associate vice-president (Human Resources). "The policy establishes the U of L as a place where sexual violence is prohibited conduct and we are dedicated to ensuring the security of everyone in the University community."

"Sexual violence is a critical problem in society and will not be tolerated at the University of Lethbridge," says Kathleen Massey, associate vice-president (Students). "We are committed to continuing our work to create a culture of consent and, working with our community, doing our part to put an end to sexual violence."

The policy establishes clear processes and the University will continue to inform and educate the campus community about consent, how to access support and guidance about the options available, and how to contribute to creating a safe and welcoming community, free of sexual violence.

Workshops and training for staff and students about the new policy and procedures will be offered throughout the academic year. More information on the policy, resources and support is available on the <u>Sexual Violence Support & Education website</u>.

Universities and colleges across Canada grapple with how best to educate their communities about consent and provide services related to sexual violence. The need for education about consent is ongoing and the U of L will regularly review its policy to ensure it meets the needs of the campus community.

This news release can be found online at <u>U of L approves revised sexual violence policy</u>.

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