



ANNUAL REPORT

September 1, 2024 - August 31, 2025

The Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office (SVPRO) provides support and education to students, staff, and faculty around gender-based and sexualized violence. Educational opportunities focus on prevention, intervention, and peer responses to sexual violence. Support can look like work or academic accommodation, safety planning, and/or referrals to organizations and services. The SVPRO values self-determination, empowers the client to lead the process and strives to be trauma-informed in its approach. With the consent of clients, the SVPRO Navigator, Candice Perry, explores options including informal disclosures, formal complaints, formal reports to the police, and/or receiving medical screening, care or forensic exams.

Prevention and Education

In the first year with the newly expanded SVPRO team, the goals for prevention and education included:

Promoting awareness of the SVPRO staff and services	Fostering an understanding of consent culture and healthy relationships	Creating community as a protective factor
Empowering campus community members to act via bystander intervention and responding to disclosures	Using intersectional, trauma-informed, accessible and inclusive lenses in all communication	Promoting sexual health, body positivity, inclusion and positive communication

The SVPRO Education Officer, Kelly Robinson, devoted significant time and care to becoming familiar with the training sessions delivered in previous years, and updated, refined, and customized them to better meet current needs. In addition, new presentations were



developed to address the evolving needs of students, faculty, and staff. The SVPRO Education Officer also reviewed and enhanced existing SVPRO resources and created new materials, including, but not limited to:

- Emergency cards to be handed out by staff, faculty or Security Services who received a disclosure
- SVPRO signs in every washroom stall on campus
- A new SVPRO video for the website

Between September 2024 and August 2025, over 2600 students, staff and faculty attended 41 various SVPRO facilitated educational sessions on campus that included:

- Tables/ booths that helped to increase awareness of the SVPRO services and different kinds of support offered. These tables included information on topics like consent, emotional well-being, and resources online and in the community for those that have experienced sexual violence.
- “Intro to SVPRO” sessions that describe the role of the SVPRO and introduce the people that work in that office. They discussed what to expect when reaching out to the SVPRO, how you can help a friend that has experienced sexual violence and gave a brief overview of the Sexual Violence and Fair Treatment Policies.
- “Interrupting Harm” presentations that focused on how to identify Gender-Based Violence (GBV) that can lead to sexualized violence and taught how to safely intervene if you see GBV or sexualized violence occurring. They allowed participants to contemplate various scenarios, work out how they might interrupt harm, consider the safety of everyone involved, and empower those witnessing GBV to act.
- “When Someone Discloses” training that was attended by students, faculty, and staff and included customized training for managers and Residence Life Advisors. This presentation aided students, staff and faculty in recognizing that acts of sexual violence are a spectrum of behaviors that impact survivors in many ways and discussed how to be a supportive person when someone discloses that they have experienced sexual



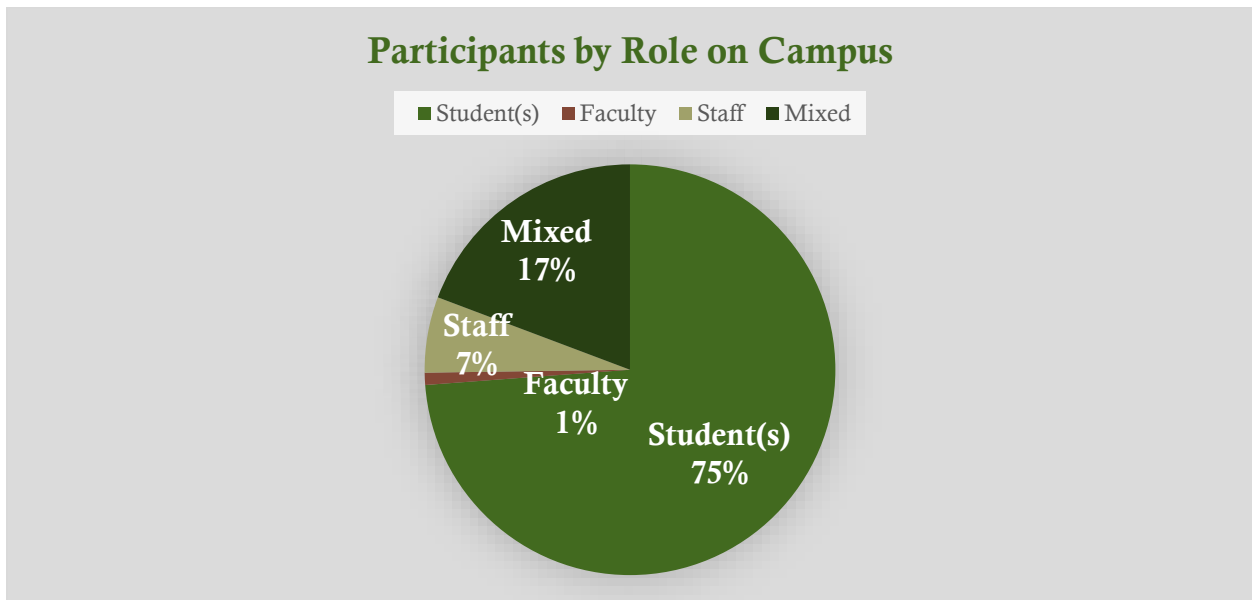
New SVPRO washroom signage



violence. Participants also learned how and when to refer to the Sexual Violence Policy and the SVPRO.

- Events hosted or co-hosted by SVPRO in partnership with community organizations including Women’s Network PEI and the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, internal partners such as Student Affairs and the Student Union, as well as guest speakers from such places as the University of Windsor.

The chart below describes the type of participants that attend SVPRO educational sessions, events, presentations and booths.



The SVPRO prevention initiatives for 2024-2025 included:

Title	Participant Type	Number of Participants	Event/ Education Type	Date
<i>Panther Kickoff: SVPRO Intro</i>	Students	250	Presentation	3-Sep-2024
<i>NSO Scavenger Hunt</i>	Students	100	Event	3-Sep-2024
<i>Cross Country: Interrupting Harm</i>	Students	15	Presentation	4-Sep-2024
<i>Sexy Sexual Health Trivia with Samantha Bitty</i>	Students	130	Event	5-Sep-2024
<i>MBA Global Leadership: Interrupting Harm</i>	Students	33	Presentation	6-Sep-2024



<i>Women's Hockey: Interrupting Harm</i>	Students	30	Presentation	6-Sep-2024
<i>Consent Pizza with Student Union</i>	Students	200	Table	10-Sep-2024
<i>Interrupting Harm - Music Society</i>	Students	29	Presentation	4-Oct-2024
<i>Interrupting Harm - Track and Field</i>	Students	10	Presentation	29-Oct-2024
<i>Self-Care Wellness Fair</i>	Mixed	300	Table	20-Nov-2024
<i>Community Quilt (16 Days of Activism)</i>	Mixed	50	Event	27-Nov-2024
<i>Montreal Massacre Memorial</i>	Mixed	50	Table	6-Dec-2024
<i>SVPRO Overview</i>	Faculty	15	Presentation	11-Jan-2025
<i>Welcome Back Panthers</i>	Students	100	Table	16-Jan-2025
<i>Consent At Work AVC - Biomedical Sciences</i>	Staff and Faculty	9	Presentation	27-Jan-2025
<i>Interrupting Harm - FSDE Student Conference Leaders</i>	Students	10	Presentation	31-Jan-2025
<i>Community Quilt Display at Library</i>	Students	500	Event	10-Feb-2025
<i>Sex Toy Bingo</i>	Students	135	Event	11-Feb-2025
<i>Flowers & Cookies Event</i>	Students	50	Event	14-Feb-2025
<i>Advisory Council on the Status of Women – "Ducks" Reading Group</i>	Mixed	10	Event	26-Feb-2025
<i>When Someone Discloses: Experiential Learning</i>	Staff	16	Presentation	3-Mar-2025
<i>Planter Pot Painting Event</i>	Mixed	35	Event	19-Mar-2025
<i>Consent Collage Event</i>	Students	7	Event	25-Mar-2025
<i>Receiving a Disclosure</i>	Staff and Faculty	18	Presentation	24-Apr-2025
<i>SARE, University of Windsor</i>	Staff	10	Training	26-Apr-2025
<i>Gym Safety</i>	Staff	10	Presentation	24-Apr-2025
<i>Panther Wellness Prowl</i>	Staff	102	Event	28-May-2025
<i>The Art Of Thriving</i>	Public	50	Event	12-Jun-2025
<i>Receiving a Disclosure</i>	Faculty	14	Presentation	23-Jun-2025
<i>SVPRO and Study Abroad</i>	Students	9	Presentation	3-Jul-2025
<i>Interrupting Harm</i>	Students	23	Presentation	12-Aug-2025
<i>Interrupting Harm</i>	Students	24	Presentation	12-Aug-2025



<i>SVPRO Overview</i>	Faculty	11	Presentation	18-Aug-2025
<i>Interrupting Harm</i>	Students	31	Presentation	21-Aug-2025
<i>SVPRO Overview</i>	Students	75	Presentation	25-Aug-2025
<i>Receiving a Disclosure</i>	Students	28	Presentation	25-Aug-2025
<i>Interrupting Harm</i>	Students	43	Presentation	27-Aug-2025
<i>Interrupting Harm</i>	Students	14	Presentation	28-Aug-2025
<i>SVPRO Overview</i>	Students	70	Presentation	30-Aug-2025

Community Engagement

Developing supportive relationships with sexual violence prevention offices at other universities, as well as community organizations and their members, is an important part of a post-secondary institution’s sexual violence prevention strategy. The outcome of these relationships allows the SVPRO to:

- Access up-to-date trends and training in the GBV sector
- Provide culturally appropriate & trauma-informed care to victims and survivors of sexual violence
- Share expertise
- Partner with organizations that may benefit the UPEI community
- Access alternative funding possibilities to enhance their work and
- Participate in cultural and national events, training sessions and conferences



Partnership event with PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women



The table below lists community events, partnerships and initiatives the SVPRO participated in for 2024-2025:

Organization	Type of Event	Number of Participants	Details	Date(s)
<i>PEI Rape & Sexual Assault Centre (PEIRSAC)</i>	Event	100	Take Back the Night March / Event	19-Sep-2024
<i>PEIRSAC</i>	Event	50	Online training - Responding to Disclosures	23-Sep-2024
<i>Interministerial Women's Secretariat (IWS)</i>	Meeting	10	Networking / collaboration with PEI Gov't	25-Sep-2024
<i>CARE UPEI</i>	Meeting	4	Discussions of collaboration with CARE UPEI	11-Oct-2024
<i>Women's Network PEI (WNPEI), Catalyst Research & Communications</i>	Event	15	<i>Pathways To Thrive-Building Better Communities</i> GBV organizations in community building	16-Oct-2024 17-Oct-2024
<i>Interministerial Women's Secretariat (IWS)</i>	Meeting	2	Discussions of collaboration with PEI Gov't on sexual violence prevention	22-Oct-2024
<i>Victim Services</i>	Meeting	2	Community building between client serving organizations	24-Oct-2024
<i>PRIDE PEI</i>	Meeting	3	Information sharing and collaboration	7-Nov-2024
<i>University of Windsor</i>	Meeting	2	Community building and information sharing	18-Nov-2024
<i>PEERS Alliance</i>	Event	25	Transgender Vigil, Day of Remembrance	20-Nov-2024
<i>Women's Network</i>	Meeting	3	<i>The Art Of Thriving</i> event planning	22-Nov-2024 7-May-2025
<i>Claire Burns (PRIDE PEI)</i>	Meeting	3	Consultation with PRIDE PEI facilitator on activities	16-Dec-2024



<i>Presentation to PEI Gov't Funder & groups</i>	Presentation	20	Presentation to Gov't and other stakeholders, updating on prevention efforts	17-Jan-2025
<i>BIPOC USHR</i>	Event	20	BIPOC USHR Open House; community building	23-Jan-2025
<i>Ripple Effect / Good Night Out Vancouver</i>	Presentation	7	Learning about best practices in Bystander Intervention Training	30-Jan-2025
<i>Holland College</i>	Interview	3	Information sharing	3-Feb-2025
<i>Advisory Council on the Status of Women (ASCW)</i>	Event	11	Discussion group about the graphic novel, "DUCKS: Two Years In the Oil Sands".	26-Feb-2025
<i>AccessAbility PEI</i>	Meeting	2	Information sharing, relationship building	4-Apr-2025
<i>Gender Affirming Care PEI</i>	Meeting	2	Information sharing, relationship building	10-Apr-2025
<i>PEIRSAC</i>	Conference	200	Conference on eradicating systemic racism in the GBV field	24-Apr-2025
<i>SARE Debrief</i>	Meeting	7	Debrief and next steps after SARE Training	9-May-2025 26-Jun-2025
<i>Women's Network PEI</i>	Training	18	WNPEI and the SVPRO hosted <i>The Art of Thriving</i> photovoice training sessions	13-May-2025 20-May-2025 27-May-2025 3-Jun-2025
<i>Family Violence Prevention Services</i>	Event	100	Walk in Silence for family violence prevention week	14-May-2025
<i>PEIRSAC & IWS</i>	Meeting	3	Met to discuss Sexual Assault Awareness Week and UPEI's involvement	22-May-2025
<i>Simon Fraser University</i>	Meeting	3	Simon Fraser SVPRO and UPEI SVPRO knowledge and information sharing, resource sharing and relationship building	9-Jun-2025



<i>National Indigenous Peoples Day</i>	Event	30	Learning and sharing event for National Indigenous Peoples Day	20-Jun-2025
<i>MUN-SVPRO Medical School Meeting</i>	Meeting	12	Meeting to collaborate for Medical School supports (policy)	24-Jun-2025
<i>Interministerial Women's Secretariat</i>	Meeting	2	Meeting to discuss funding/ project plans	27-Jun-2025
<i>UBC SVPRO Okanagan</i>	Meeting	2	Meeting to discuss best practices, etc.	27-Jun-2025
<i>Mount Allison Sexual Violence Coordinator</i>	Meeting	3	Information sharing, relationship building	19-Aug-2025

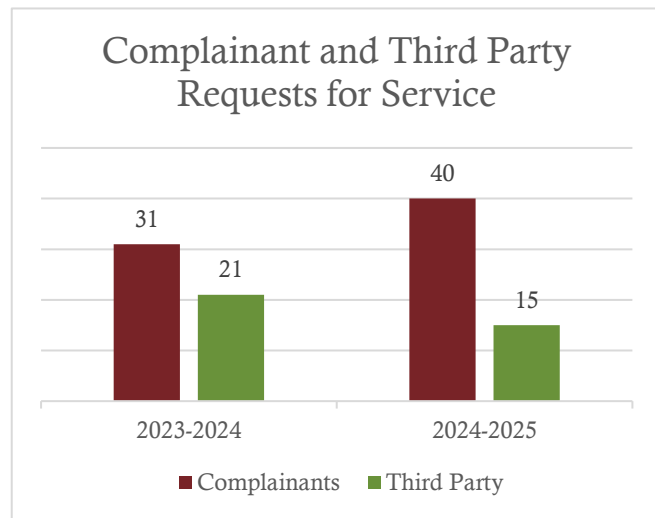
Additionally, SVPRO staff serve on a range of external committees and Boards of Directors that inform and enhance their work by strengthening relationships with justice partners, non-profit organizations, government, and service providers. Participation in these bodies deepens staff knowledge of provincial and national initiatives, influences response work and trauma-informed practices, and contributes to the Office’s ongoing plans and goals. Human Rights Counsel, Patti Wheatley, volunteers as a Board Member of **PEI Family Violence Prevention Services**, supporting strong alignment between SVPRO and provincial initiatives addressing intimate partner violence. Candice Perry, SVPRO Navigator, is a member of the **RCMP Sexual Assault Internal Review Committee**, which provides valuable insight into the experiences of survivors who report to police and enhances understanding of police and judicial processes. Pam Atkinson, SVPRO Coordinator, serves on the **Sexual Assault Prevention Action Group (SAPAG)**, a subcommittee of the Premier’s Action Committee, and on Women’s Network PEI **Pathways To Thrive Advisory Committee**. SAPAG supports the planning and implementation of Sexual Assault Awareness Week activities and identifies opportunities for collaboration, partnerships, and shared funding. The Pathways to Thrive Advisory committee allows Pam to build and maintain relationships with organizations providing support to survivors in BIPOC and 2SLGBTQ+ communities and gain awareness of healing opportunities and resources for survivors of gender-based violence.



Response

In 2024–2025, the SVPRO Navigator responded to inquiries from individuals seeking services available through SVPRO or information about the Sexual Violence Policy, provided trauma-informed support to members of the campus community who experienced sexual violence, and empowered clients to lead the process with self-determination. The client always has a choice of seeking support from the SVPRO Navigator, initiating an investigation by making a formal complaint, reporting to the Police, and should they change their mind, they are always able to withdraw from the process.

The Navigator also offered guidance to members of our campus community who were supporting survivors including peers, colleagues, students, staff or faculty. It is common for survivors to tell two or three people who are close to them about their experience of sexual violence before ever accessing professional support, if at all. The following chart suggests that campus community members may be more comfortable coming to the SVPRO themselves. In the 2023-2024 academic year, approximately 60% of files opened were survivors themselves and that number increased to 74% in 2024-2025. In 2023-2024, 40% of files were “Third Party” disclosures and that number decreased in 2024-2025, to 26% looking for support and information to help a friend, colleague or student. This data suggests that survivors are more often coming forward themselves, which is important to note.



Although the number of Third-Party clients has decreased in the last year, this does not diminish the importance of SVPRO’s efforts to train faculty, staff, and other campus community members to receive disclosures in a trauma-informed manner and to ensure they are aware of how and where to refer individuals to the SVPRO for appropriate support.

The SVPRO Navigator always strives to tailor responses to the specific needs of individuals seeking support and works diligently to deliver services in a manner that prioritizes the safety and well-being of each client. Each person who seeks assistance or information has a unique situation, often with multiple forms of sexual violence, oppression and/or socio-economic challenges occurring simultaneously, which results in a combination of responses that may include, but are not limited to:



The following table outlines response activities for students in alignment with the requirements of the PEI *Post-Secondary Institutions Sexual Violence Prevention Policies Act* regulations and response activities for faculty, staff and other community members as an additional transparency measure.

Response for September 2024- August 2025		
SVPRO requests for services <i>(student)</i>	Supports, services, accommodations, obtained by <i>students</i>	Forms of violence reported by <i>students</i>
46	46 Information and support 26 Students received referrals (on and off campus) 3 Accommodations 3 Formal complaints 24 Students received other services	14 Sexual Assaults 28 Sexual Harassment 3 Intimate Partner Violence 6 Other Sexual Violence
SVPRO requests for services <i>(faculty /staff)</i>	Supports, services, accommodations, obtained by <i>faculty/staff</i>	Forms of violence reported by <i>faculty/staff</i>
8	8 Information and support 1 Staff/Faculty received referrals (on and off campus) 0 Accommodations 0 Formal complaints 3 Faculty/Staff received other services	1 Sexual Assault 5 Sexual Harassment 1 Intimate Partner Violence 1 Other Sexual Violence



All other requests for service	Supports, services, accommodations, obtained by "other" clients	Forms of violence reported by "other" clients
3	3 Information and support 2 People who received referrals (on and off campus) 0 Accommodations 0 Formal complaints 3 People who received other services	0 Sexual Assaults 2 Sexual Harassment 1 Intimate Partner Violence 0 Other Sexual Violence

By examining this data on students, faculty, staff, and other community members, we gain valuable insight into the types of sexual violence cases the SVPRO responds to, the clients served, and the range of services provided.

Other Activities

In addition to its ongoing work in prevention, education, community engagement, and response, the SVPRO continues to proceed with other key initiatives including numerous activities as set out in the *UPEI Action Plan: Building a Culture of Trust, Safety, and Inclusion Implementation Plans - Year 0 - 1*. The office submitted evidence to the audit process for 29 complete implementation activities. The SVPRO also allocated provincial and federal project funding to support its sexual violence prevention efforts, engage survivors of gender-based violence in community healing, and establish a student consultation committee for the upcoming year. This committee, made up of 10 students from diverse areas of study and backgrounds, will provide a platform to share their perspectives and help inform SVPRO's initiatives and guide strategies for engagement and response.

Throughout the year, the SVPRO planned and hosted numerous events and activities, while also expanding its social media presence and engagement with students. The SVPRO's social media has become a more effective platform for informing, educating, and engaging young adults. Over the past year, the SVPRO strengthened its visibility among students, staff, faculty, and community partners. The SVPRO's social media initiatives





included promoting programs and events, introducing new team members, sharing consent-focused education, and highlighting healthy communication and relationship practices. Content also addressed student-identified themes and concerns, celebrated student involvement in GBV prevention activities, and raised awareness of GBV issues disproportionately affecting 2SLGBTQ+ and BIPOC communities as well as those with disabilities.

Available metrics for our social media indicate notable growth in activity, views, and followers. The partnership between SVPRO and fourth-year nursing students who did their Population Health work placement at the SVPRO, has helped us greatly in making social media more engaging for students. The Nursing students also contributed to the office's work through the creation of posters bringing awareness to inappropriate behavior they were noticing at the gym and the development of the *Red Flag*, *Green Flag* initiative on campus. The students made red flags, indicating concerning characteristics in relationships, and green flags, indicating healthy characteristics in relationships, and hung them up all over campus during the *16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence*. This created a stunning visual effect and, based on positive feedback and engagement, the office intends to continue this important activity.

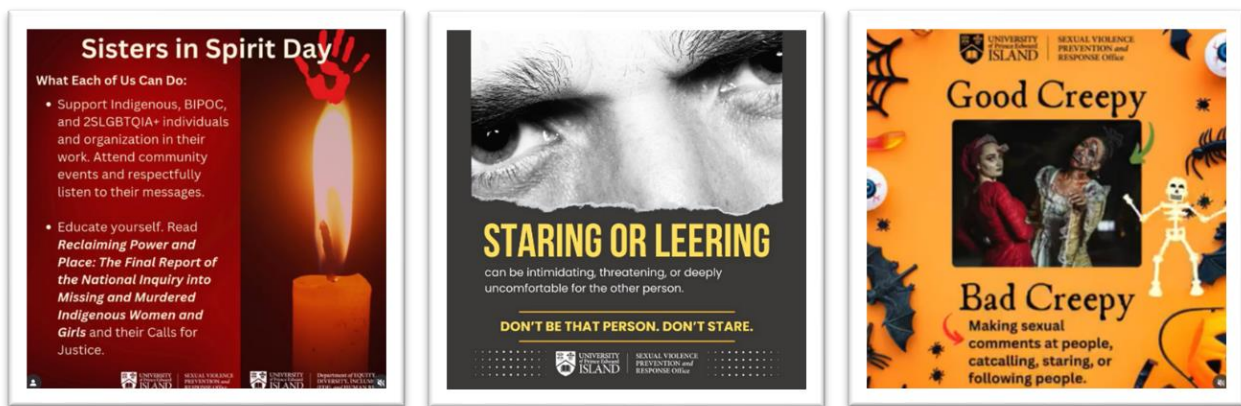


Another responsibility of the SVPRO Education Officer was to oversee and manage the *Preventing Sexual Violence at UPEI* course, which is a graduation requirement for students, and the SVPRO continues to collaborate closely with the Registrar's Office and the Teaching and Learning Centre to ensure students have access, can ask questions and report any issues. Together, they meet regularly to address emerging challenges and plan for their ongoing



enhancement. Between January and August 2025, 610 students successfully completed the course, and although statistics from September to December 2024 were lost, we can estimate that more than 900 students completed the course over the full academic year.

The SVPRO Education Officer also developed awareness campaigns and displays using a variety of mediums, and fostered relationships and partnerships with campus community members to build support for SVPRO initiatives and messaging.



This year, the SVPRO welcomed Samantha Bitty to UPEI for an evening of “Sexy Sexual Health Trivia”. This event involved fun facts about anatomy, consent, STIs, pleasure, and safe sex, using humor and games to teach vital information. Samantha Bitty, Canada’s premier sexual health and consent education drag queen, uses "edu-tainment" with prizes and activities to encourage positive, informed conversations.

Policy Effectiveness

Revisions to the UPEI Sexual Violence Policy are being advanced through the ongoing Sexual Violence Policy review process. This process has involved extensive consultation with UPEI community members, including a committee of campus stakeholders to develop the new policy. The review and completion of the new policy is still underway; however, the goals of the current policy continue to be:

- **Fostering a culture where attitudes and behaviors that perpetuate sexual violence are rejected:** In 2024-2025, SVPRO was attentive to themes from what was heard from students, staff and faculty. This feedback was used to inform training sessions, student engagement opportunities, and messaging on campus. Communication from this office focused on fostering changes in attitudes and behaviors that contribute to sexual violence.



During this period, the office also monitored the number of students, faculty and staff utilizing services. Furthermore, SVPRO connected with other post-secondary institutions to hear about their emerging concerns and learn about their effective messaging campaigns and successful events.

- **Survivors are supported:** With the concept of ‘feeling supported’ being subjective and varying greatly from person to person, along with individual expectations of service and interactions differing widely, the SVPRO has not tracked statistical data on the satisfaction of survivors. However, specific practices the SVPRO utilizes can help survivors of sexual violence feel supported and feedback is always welcomed. In addition, to ensure best practices are being observed, the SVPRO Navigator has regularly participated in up-to-date training, webinars, educational & community building sessions. She has integrated the knowledge obtained into her practice and formed partnerships for information sharing and referrals. The SVPRO always takes into consideration the unique needs and circumstances of each survivor, as well as their intersecting identities, and has been working to create a barrier-free and trauma-informed experience.
- **Those who commit sexual violence are held accountable:** For UPEI to hold an individual accountable for their actions, the respondent must be a member of the university community. While the current UPEI Sexual Violence Policy permits formal complaints to be filed at any time, the graduation of a respondent, or their departure from the institution for other reasons, can complicate the process.

In cases where the respondent is not a member of the university community, a formal complaint and investigation through the University is not possible. These factors, combined with generally low sexual violence reporting rates—consistent with trends in the broader population—underscore why many survivors who engage with the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office opt to address the impacts they have experienced through alternative avenues such as workplace or academic accommodations, safety planning, referrals to support services, or other informal processes tailored to the needs of the survivor. Nevertheless, 6% of complainants proceeded with a formal investigation under the Sexual Violence Policy, several complainants were not interested in filing a formal complaint but were willing to participate in a university-initiated complaint process, and some began the process but later chose to discontinue it for a variety of reasons. Several files remain under investigation, making it premature to report on the outcomes of the remaining formal complaints.

In 2024-2025, 35% of all service requests involved respondents who were unknown to the complainant or not members of the UPEI community.



Respondents are only notified of a complaint once a formal submission has been made. When a survivor chooses not to engage in an investigation, or when a third-party report is submitted and the affected individual declines support from the SVPRO, holding a respondent accountable remains challenging. The only exception occurs when a university-initiated Complaint is filed, which permits the University to act without the complainant submitting a complaint directly in certain conditions. In 2024–2025, the SVPRO did not identify any files appropriate for a university-initiated Complaint following the factors outlined under the Policy.

Although the SVPRO continues to support survivors of GBV across a range of contexts, privacy and confidentiality requirements do not allow the SVPRO to disclose information about sanctions imposed on respondents to the Complainant unless these sanctions directly impact the complainant’s safety. Therefore, it is difficult to accurately comment on the sanctions given to respondents in this report and may also leave complainants uncertain about what steps were taken or what consequences, if any, were applied to the respondent.

Moving Forward

Experiencing sexual assault or sexual harassment of any kind is traumatic and a significantly heavy emotional burden. The decision to reach out to a friend, parent, professor, colleague or service provider can be intimidating and daunting. The fear of stigma or judgement can be paralyzing. This is why the SVPRO is working to ensure students, staff and faculty understand what consent looks like and are learning tools to develop healthy communication and relationships. Through presentations, we aim to prepare individuals to interrupt harm when they see it, bear witness to someone’s experience and guide survivors to the SVPRO.

One goal is to make coming to this office as low barrier and as safe as possible. The SVPRO remains committed to finding ways to reduce anxiety associated with reporting and disclosure by employing a trauma-informed approach, increasing visibility within the campus community, facilitating student engagement and community-building initiatives, and fostering a safer and more supportive environment for all individuals affected by sexual violence. The SVPRO team will continue to ensure that survivors are fully informed of their available options and are provided with the knowledge and resources necessary to make empowered decisions. Through the work of the SVPRO Education Officer, the campus



community will benefit from updated and expanded training opportunities, enabling the office to engage students, staff, and faculty in meaningful and productive ways to create change, promote safer spaces, and support healthy communities. The SVPRO looks forward to another year of delivering support and services to survivors, partnering with the campus community and collaborating with the broader community to reduce sexual violence at UPEI.

Prepared by:

Pam Atkinson BACS, BSW

Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office Coordinator