September 24, 2018

Sexual Violence Awareness Week

Edmonton – October 1 through 5 is Sexual Violence Awareness Week at MacEwan University. Sexual violence includes sexual assault, intimate partner violence, street harassment, and sexual harassment. The university is committed to promoting and maintaining an educational and working environment free of all forms of sexual violence.

The week-long collection of activities includes exhibits, performances, information booths, workshops, panel discussions and keynote speaker, Karen B. K. Chan.

Chan is a sex and emotional literacy educator in Toronto for more than 20 years. She is known for her accessible style and playful humour. “I will be talking about rejection resilience as an important skill to have in order to practice good consent,” says Chan. “Every time you seek consent—ask a question, send an invite, share a desire—you’re opening yourself to all kinds of responses, including rejection. While at MacEwan, I will be talking about how to develop that resilience, in yourself and in your relationships.”

The university has developed a number of resources to support its students, faculty and staff. These include counsellors at Student Life, Peer Supporters, and Security Services. “These focus on maintaining a healthy learning environment which includes taking reports of sexual violence seriously, being supportive and respectful of victims of sexual assault, and taking necessary actions against offenders,” says Roxanne Runyan, sexual violence prevention and education coordinator, MacEwan University.

“Many choose to remain silent about sexual violence,” added Runyan. “The topic can be uncomfortable and too often victims are blamed for the violence they have experienced. We encourage students to ask for help if they need it, and to make use of the resources put in place to support them.”

For a full listing of the week’s activities and keynote speaker presentations, please go to: Sexual Violence Awareness Week website.
environment where creativity and innovation thrive. Located in Edmonton, Alberta Canada, MacEwan University offers a unique student experience that opens up diverse pathways for achievement and growth.

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