New policy aims to eliminate Sexual Violence on campus

Edmonton—The Board of Governors at MacEwan University is pleased to announce the approval of a new policy that aims to eliminate sexual violence on our university campuses.

In early 2015 a task force was established with representatives from across the university that included students, staff and faculty to develop the framework for the new policy. The group recognized that a policy wasn’t going to be enough and began developing procedures to inform and educate the MacEwan community on how to respond to complaints about sexual violence. An awareness plan was developed that included posters, social media, a website, a video, and in-class presentations.

“We really wanted to send a clear message to our community that we’re going to take a stand against sexual violence and take steps to prevent sexual violence on campus,” said Michelle Plouffe, the university’s vice-president, general counsel and compliance officer.

Statistics from across North America show that sexual violence is underreported, and post-secondary institutions are in various stages of addressing the issue. “The university is working hard to encourage the reporting of incidents of sexual violence and to prevent sexual violence on campus” says Plouffe. “We want to empower our community to take steps aimed at preventing sexual violence and to appropriately respond to survivors of sexual violence.”

Now that the policy and procedures have been approved, the university will continue with its ongoing program of education, training and awareness for students and employees. “I’m proud of the amount of energy and dedication that has been shown by our faculty, staff and student leaders to this program because we have all come together with the goal of promoting a healthy and safe campus environment and a positive student experience,” said Plouffe.

To read the policy and check out the ‘Ending Sexual Violence’ campaign, please go to: MacEwan.ca/SexualViolence.