

# SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY

Date Effective January 1<sup>st</sup> 2022  
To be Reviewed Prior to April 2023

This Policy applies to all members of the British Canadian Institute of Technology (BCIoT) community including: all employees, governors, students, contractors, suppliers of services, individuals who are directly connected to any BCIoT initiatives, volunteers, and visitors. BCIoT Sexual Assault and Sexual Violence Policy has been informed by the guidance of the Private Career Colleges Act, 2005 and the Regulation 415/06.

## 1. DEFINITIONS

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### SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

#### SEXUAL ASSAULT:

A criminal offence under the Criminal Code of Canada. Sexual assault is any type of unwanted sexual act done by one person to another that violates the sexual integrity of the victim and involves a range of behaviours from any unwanted touching to penetration. Sexual assault is characterized by a broad range of behaviours that involve the use of force, threats, or control towards a person, which makes that person feel uncomfortable, distressed, frightened, threatened, or that is carried out in circumstances in which the person has not freely agreed, consented to, or is incapable of giving consent.

#### SEXUAL VIOLENCE:

Any sexual act or act targeting a person's sexuality, gender identity or gender expression, whether the act is physical or psychological in nature, that is committed, threatened or attempted against a person without the person's consent, and includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, indecent exposure, voyeurism, and sexual exploitation.

#### CONSENT:

The voluntary and explicit agreement to engage in the sexual activity in question. It is the act of willingly agreeing to engage in specific sexual behaviour and requires that a person is able to freely choose between two options: yes and no.

This means that there must be an understandable exchange of affirmative words, which indicates a willingness to participate in a mutually agreed upon sexual activity. It is also imperative that everyone understands the following:

1. silence or non-communication must never be interpreted as consent and a person in a state of diminished judgment cannot consent;
2. a person is incapable of giving consent if they are asleep, unconscious, or otherwise unable to communicate;
3. a person who has been threatened or coerced (i.e. is not agreeing voluntarily) into engaging in the sexual activity is not consenting to it;
4. a person who is drugged is unable to consent;
5. a person is unable to give consent when under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs;
6. a person may be unable to give consent if they have a mental disability preventing them from fully understanding the sexual acts;
7. the fact that consent was given in the past to a sexual or dating relationship does not mean that consent is deemed to exist for all future sexual activity;
8. a person can withdraw consent at any time during the course of a sexual encounter;
9. a person is incapable of giving consent to a person in a position of trust, power or authority, such as a faculty member initiating a relationship with a student who they teach, an administrator in a relationship with anyone who reports to that position;
10. consent cannot be given on behalf of another person.

It is the responsibility of the initiator of sexual activity to ensure clear and affirmative responses are communicated at all stages of sexual engagement. It is also the initiator's responsibility to know if the person they are engaging with sexually is a minor.

#### CONSENT:

The *Criminal Code of Canada* defines "consent" as "the voluntary agreement to engage in the sexual activity in question." No consent is obtained where:

1. the agreement is expressed by the words or conduct of a person other than the complainant;
2. the complainant is incapable of consenting to the activity;
3. the accused induces the complainant to engage in the activity by abusing a position of trust, power or authority;
4. the complainant expresses, by words or conduct, a lack of agreement to engage in the activity; or
5. the complainant, having consented to engage in sexual activity, expresses, by words or conduct, a lack of agreement to continue to engage in the activity.

## ACQUAINTANCE SEXUAL ASSAULT:

Sexual contact that is forced, manipulated, or coerced by a partner, friend or acquaintance.

## AGE OF CONSENT FOR SEXUAL ACTIVITY:

The age at which a person can legally consent to sexual activity. In Canada, children under 12 can never legally consent to sexual acts. Sixteen is the legal age of consent for sexual acts. There are variations on the age of consent for adolescents who are close in age between the ages of 12 and 16. Twelve and 13 year-olds can consent to have sex with other youth who are less than 2 years older than themselves. Youth who are 14 and 15 years old may consent to sexual involvement that is mutual with a person who is less than 5 years older. Youths 16 and 17 years old may legally consent to sexual acts with someone who is not in a position of trust or authority.

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In the context of sexual violence, coercion is unreasonable and persistent pressure for sexual activity. Coercion is the use of emotional manipulation, blackmail, threats to family or friends, or the promise of rewards or special treatment to persuade someone to do something they do not wish to do, such as being sexual or performing particular sexual acts.

## DRUG-FACILITATED SEXUAL ASSAULT:

The use of alcohol and/or drugs (prescription or non- prescription) by a perpetrator to control, overpower, or subdue a victim for purposes of sexual assault.

## INDECENT EXPOSURE:

The exposure of the private or intimate parts of the body in a lewd manner, when the perpetrator may be readily observed.

## STALKING:

A form of criminal harassment prohibited by the Criminal Code of Canada. It involves behaviours that occur on more than one occasion and which collectively instil fear in the victim/target or threaten the victim/target's safety or mental health. Stalking can also include threats of harm to the victim/target's friends and/or family. These behaviours include, but are not limited to, non-consensual communications (face to face, phone, email, social media); threatening or obscene gestures; surveillance; sending unsolicited gifts; 'creeping' via social media/cyber-stalking; and uttering threats.

## SEXUAL HARASSMENT:

Engaging in a course of conduct of a gender-related or sexual nature that is known or might reasonably be known to be unwelcome/unwanted, offensive, intimidating, hostile, or inappropriate. Depending on its severity, one action may constitute sexual harassment.

This may include, but is not limited to: demeaning gestures, remarks and jokes; slurs, taunting, innuendo based on gender or sexual orientation; unwanted physical contact; leering; inappropriate comments about clothing, physical characteristics or activities; unwanted questions or comments about one's private life, sexual orientation, marital or family status; the display of sexually offensive material; solicitation; unwanted attention; implied or expressed promise of reward or benefit in return for sexual favours; implied or expressed threat or act of reprisal if sexual favours are not given; or sexual assault (Criminal Code offense).

## SEXUAL EXPLOITATION:

Occurs when a perpetrator takes non-consensual or abusive sexual advantage of another for their own advantage or benefit, or to benefit or advantage anyone other than the one being exploited.

## SURVIVOR:

Some who have experienced sexual violence may choose to identify as a survivor. Individuals might be more familiar with the term 'victim'. We use the term survivor throughout this policy where relevant because some who have experienced sexual assault believe they have overcome the violent experience and do not wish to identify with the victimization. It is the prerogative of the person who has experienced these circumstances to determine how they wish to identify.

## VOYEURISM:

Observing a person, including by mechanical or electronic means, or making a visual recording of a person who is in circumstances that give rise to a reasonable expectation of privacy.

## 2. PURPOSE AND INTENT OF THE POLICY

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All members of the BCIoT community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. This Policy sets out the way in which we address sexual violence. It ensures that those who are affected by sexual violence are believed and appropriately accommodated and ensures that BCIoT protects the rights of individuals and holds individuals who have committed an act of sexual violence accountable.

## 3. POLICY STATEMENT

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BCIoT is committed to being a safe and positive space where members of the BCIL community feel able to work, learn, and express themselves in an environment free from sexual violence. We endeavour to

reduce sexual violence in our College community and create a safe space for survivors and those who are affected by sexual violence.

All reported incidents of sexual violence will be investigated. It is the intention of BCIL that individuals feel comfortable about making a report in good faith about sexual violence that they have experienced or witnessed.

BCIoT recognizes that sexual violence can occur between individuals regardless of sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or relationship status as articulated in the Ontario Human Rights Code. We also recognize that individuals who have experienced sexual violence may experience emotional, academic, financial, or other challenges.

#### BRITISH CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY IS COMMITTED TO:

1. participating with internal in the creation of a campus atmosphere in which sexual violence is not tolerated;
2. treating individuals who disclose sexual violence with compassion and recognizing them as a decision maker regarding their interests;
3. assisting those who have been affected by sexual violence by providing choices, including detailed information and support, which may include a provision of and/or referral to counselling and medical care, information about legal options;
4. ensuring that those who disclose that they have been sexually assaulted have their experiences validated, and that their right to dignity and respect is protected throughout the process of disclosure, investigation, and institutional response;
5. engaging in public education and prevention activities, which would include appropriate training of the BCIoT community about responding to the disclosure of sexual violence; and
6. providing information that may affect the BCIoT community about sexual violence on campus.

## **4. REPORTING AND RESPONDING TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

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1. Any member of the BCIoT community who has been subject to sexual violence is encouraged to immediately report such an incident.
2. Any member of the BCIoT community who has witnessed, or who has knowledge of, an incident of sexual violence perpetrated against another member of the BCIoT community is encouraged to immediately report such an incident.
3. Persons in a position of authority at BCIoT, including but not limited to, all those who supervise others, shall take immediate action to respond to or to prevent sexual violence from occurring.
4. Where BCIoT has become aware of an incident of sexual violence, or a threat of sexual violence, BCIoT

will take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of the BCloT community. Where an incident of sexual violence or a threat of sexual violence poses a risk to the safety of a member or members of the BCloT community, precautions may include the provision or disclosure of relevant information to an employee, to employees, and/or to others at risk.

## **5. COMPLAINT PROCESS AND INVESTIGATIONS**

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A complaint of sexual assault or any other kind of sexual violence can be filed under this Policy by any member of the BCloT community. BCloT will seek to achieve procedural fairness in dealing with all complaints. As such, no sanction and/or disciplinary action will be taken against a person or group without their knowledge where there is an alleged breach of this Policy. Respondents will be given reasonable notice, with full detail of the allegations, and provided with an opportunity to answer to the allegations made against them.

### **5.1 RIGHT TO WITHDRAW A COMPLAINT**

A complainant has the right to withdraw a complaint at any stage of the process. However, BCloT may continue to act on the issue identified in the complaint in order to comply with its obligation under this Policy and/or its legal obligations. BCloT may also continue to act when there is a threat to the safety of the BCloT community.

### **5.2 PROTECTION FROM REPRISALS, RETALIATION OR THREATS**

It is contrary to this Policy for anyone to retaliate, engage in reprisals, or threaten to retaliate against a complainant or other individual for:

1. having pursued rights under this Policy or the Ontario Human Rights Code;
2. having participated or co-operated in an investigation under this Policy or the Ontario Human Rights Code; or
3. having been associated with someone who has pursued rights under this Policy or the Ontario Human Rights Code.

BCloT takes reasonable steps to protect persons from reprisals, retaliation, and threats. This may entail, for example, advising individuals in writing of their duty to refrain from committing a reprisal and sanctioning individuals for a breach of this duty. BCloT may also address the potential for reprisals by providing an accommodation appropriate in the circumstances.

### **5.3 UNSUBSTANTIATED OR VEXATIOUS COMPLAINTS**

If a person, in good faith, discloses or files a sexual violence complaint that is not supported by evidence gathered during an investigation, that complaint will be dismissed. Disclosures or complaints that are found, following investigation, to be frivolous, vexatious or bad faith complaints, that is, made to purposely annoy, embarrass or harm the respondent, may result in sanctions and/or discipline against the complainant.

## 6. CONFIDENTIALITY

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Confidentiality is particularly important to those who have disclosed sexual violence. The confidentiality of all persons involved in a report of sexual violence must be strictly observed, and BCloT does its best to respect the confidentiality of all persons, including the complainant, respondent, and witnesses by restricting routine access to information to individuals with a need for such access providing education and training to those who are regularly involved in the administration of reports and complaints.

However, confidentiality cannot be assured in the following circumstances:

1. an individual is at imminent risk of self-harm;
2. an individual is at imminent risk of harming another; and/or
3. there are reasonable grounds to believe that others in the BCloT or wider community may be at risk of harm.

In such circumstances, information would only be shared with necessary services to prevent harm, and the name of the survivor would not be released to the public.

Where BCloT becomes aware of an allegation of sexual violence by a member of the BCloT community against another member of the BCloT community, BCloT may also have an obligation to take steps to ensure that the matter is dealt with in order to comply with BCloT's legal obligation and/or its policies to investigate such allegations. In such cases, certain BCloT administrators will be informed about the reported incident on a 'need to know' and confidential basis, but not necessarily of the identities of the persons involved.

## 7. SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS ON CAMPUS

Name of Service/Department /Person	Supports Available	Contact Information
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Duty manager Security BCIoT.	Provides referrals to counselling and medical services; safety planning; assistance with academic and workplace accommodations; self-care resources; advocacy and help in navigating resources. BCIL will provide assistance in making informed decisions about next steps involving reports to the police.	<b>Hours:</b> E-mail or call to book an appt. <b>Phone:</b> +1-833-291-9362 <b>E-mail:</b> security@bci.institute
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## 8. SUPPORTS AND SERVICES AVAILABLE IN THE COMMUNITY

Name of Services	Supports Available	Contact Information
<b>Supports Available</b>		
London Police Reporting Service	General support on dealing with a sexual violence assault and to report and incident	<a href="https://www.londonpolice.ca/en/services/Make-a-Report.aspx">https://www.londonpolice.ca/en/services/Make-a-Report.aspx</a>
Sexual Assault Centre London	Safe environment to discuss and seek protection from sexual violence	Crisis: 519-438-2272 Office 519-439-0844 TTY: 519-439-0690 <a href="mailto:sacl@sacl.ca">sacl@sacl.ca</a> <a href="http://www.sacl.ca">www.sacl.ca</a>
London Abused Women's Centre	Refuge and guidance centre	Office: 519-432-2204 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:info@lawc.on.ca">info@lawc.on.ca</a> <a href="http://lawc.on.ca/">http://lawc.on.ca/</a>
Anova Future	For female and gender non-conforming advice and guidance	Call Us 519-642-3003 255 Horton St E 3rd Floor London, Ontario N6B 1L1 <a href="http://www.anovafuture.org/support/sexual-violence-counselling/">http://www.anovafuture.org/support/sexual-violence-counselling/</a>
Daya Counselling Centre	Counselling Services	333 Dufferin St London ON N6B 1Z3 Canada 519-434-0077 <a href="https://www.dayacounselling.on.ca/">https://www.dayacounselling.on.ca/</a>
Women's College Hospital Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Care Centre	For those assaulted within the past week, this support is available 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Women, men, and trans people who are survivors of sexual assault and/or domestic/intimate partner violence can access this support.  <a href="http://www.womenscollegehospital.ca/programs-and-services/sexual-assault-domestic-violence-care-centre/">http://www.womenscollegehospital.ca/programs-and-services/sexual-assault-domestic-violence-care-centre/</a>	<b>Hours:</b> Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. <b>Phone:</b> 416-323-6040 <b>Location:</b> 76 Grenville St. (Ground floor (in the AACU), Room 1305)
Victim Services Toronto	Assists people in crisis, 24-hours a day, seven days a week in the immediate aftermath of crime or tragedy.  <a href="http://victimservicestoronto.com/">http://victimservicestoronto.com/</a>	<b>Hours:</b> 24 hours a day <b>Phone:</b> 416-808-7066 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:info@victimservicestoronto.com">info@victimservicestoronto.com</a>
Sexual Assault/Rape Crisis Centre of Peel	Provides a 24/7 crisis line, online crisis chat, individual therapy, therapeutic groups and workshops. The online crisis chat can be located here: <a href="http://hope247.ca/">http://hope247.ca/</a>	<b>Hours:</b> 24 hours a day <b>Phone:</b> 1-800-810-0180m



Toronto Police Services	If you are in immediate danger, call 911. For all other safety issues, please call the 416 number in the next column  <a href="https://www.torontopolice.on.ca/">https://www.torontopolice.on.ca/</a>	<b>Hours:</b> 24 hours a day <b>Phone:</b> 416-808-2222
Family Service Toronto	Provides professional, short-term, individual, couple and family counselling for people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer (LGBTQ)  <a href="https://familyservicetoronto.org/">https://familyservicetoronto.org/</a>	<b>Hours:</b> Monday to Friday 9am-5pm OR Wednesday Walk-in: 3:30-7:30pm <b>Phone:</b> 416-595-9618 <b>Location:</b> 202-128A Sterling Road, Toronto
Central Toronto Youth Services-Pride and Prejudice Program	Programs for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, Two-Spirit and questioning youth, ages 13-24. Includes "Yo- Yoga" which is an 8-week trauma sensitive yoga program.  <a href="http://www.ctys.org/category/programs/#pride-amp-prejudice">http://www.ctys.org/category/programs/#pride-amp-prejudice</a>	<b>Phone:</b> 416-924-2100
<b>If you self-identify as a woman</b>		
Assaulted Women's Helpline	24-hour telephone support and counselling available in several languages  <a href="http://www.awhl.org/">http://www.awhl.org/</a>	<b>Phone:</b> 416-863-0511
Barbara Schlifer Clinic	Provides counselling, legal information, interpreters and referral for women who have been physically or sexually abused.  <a href="http://schliferclinic.com/">http://schliferclinic.com/</a>	<b>Hours:</b> Monday to Friday 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. <b>Phone:</b> 416-323-9149 <b>E-mail:</b> intake@schliferclinic.com <b>Location:</b> 489 College St
Fred Victor Centre	24/7 Drop-in for women located in the Adelaide Resource Centre offers a warm, safe and welcoming space with access to health services on site.  <a href="http://www.fredvictor.org/womens_24/7_drop-in_program">http://www.fredvictor.org/womens_24/7_drop-in_program</a>	<b>Phone:</b> 416-392-9292
Toronto Rape Crisis Centre/Multicultural Woman Against Rape	Crisis intervention, counselling and referral for survivors of rape/sexual assault. Open 24 hours.  <a href="http://trccmwar.ca/">http://trccmwar.ca/</a>	<b>Hours:</b> 24 hours a day <b>Phone:</b> 416-597-8808 <b>E-mail:</b> crisis@trccmwar.ca
Women's Support Network of York Region	Provides free, confidential services for women who have experienced sexual violence  <a href="http://www.womenssupportnetwork.ca/">http://www.womenssupportnetwork.ca/</a>	<b>Hours:</b> 24 hours a day <b>Phone:</b> 905-895-7313 <b>E-mail:</b> generalinfo@womenssupportnetwork.ca
<b>If you self-identify as a man</b>		
Support Services for Male Survivors of sexual abuse	Provides help for male survivors of sexual abuse, both recent and historical. The program is the first of its kind in Canada and is delivered by agencies across the province. Survivors also have access to a 24-hour, multilingual, toll-free phone line for immediate crisis and federal services  <a href="https://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/ovss/male_support_services/">https://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/ovss/male_support_services/</a>	<b>Hours:</b> 24 hours a day <b>Phone:</b> 1-888-887-0015
<b>If you are, or faced abuse when you were under 18, or have children who have been abused</b>		
Sick Kids' Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) Program	Care, support and assessment to children and teenagers who may have been maltreated, and their families. The SCAN program provides a link between Sick Kids and community doctors and hospitals, Children's Aid Societies, police, schools and other community agencies.  <a href="http://www.sickkids.ca/scan/">http://www.sickkids.ca/scan/</a>	<b>Hours:</b> Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. <b>Phone:</b> 416-813-6275 <b>Location:</b> 555 University Ave (Room 6427, Black Wing)

The Gatehouse	Offers support groups for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse as well as partners. <a href="http://www.thegatehouse.org/">http://www.thegatehouse.org/</a>	<b>Hours:</b> Monday to Friday 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. <b>Phone:</b> 416-255-5900 <b>Location:</b> 3101 Lake Shore Blvd West
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