

## **McGill University Students Announce Final Draft of Sexual Assault Policy**

For the past two years, a Working Group – comprised of current and former McGill University students – has worked to address the University’s lack of a sexual assault policy. Today, the Working Group has released its proposed Sexual Assault Policy, developed in consultation with numerous stakeholders across the University and in Montreal.

The Working Group first convened in 2013 after sexual assault charges against three R\*dmens football players highlighted the absence of a policy to deal with sexual assault at the University. A collaboration between representatives from groups committed to supporting survivors of sexual assault, the Working Group initially intended to demand University action on addressing sexual assault, and outline what this action would look like. However, the Working Group ultimately decided to draft their own Policy Proposal in order to ensure that their demands would be met.

The Policy Proposal aims to institutionalize both proactive and reactive mechanisms to effectively address sexual assault within the University community. It also intends to provide meaningful support for those who may seek to use it through a proactive, pro-survivor, anti-oppressive, and accessible framework. The Working Group is positioned to achieve these aims as many of its members have years of experience supporting survivors, and have thus applied the knowledge and compassion gained from these experiences to drafting the Policy Proposal. During the writing process, the Working Group consulted with numerous organizations that represent the interests of various marginalized groups, especially those who are disproportionately targeted by sexual violence.

This unprecedented move – university students uniting to write a policy that best represents the interests of all survivors of sexual assault – puts McGill in a unique situation. Positioned with a pro-survivor, intersectional approach to dealing with sexual assault on campus, McGill could become a national – even international – leader in this field.

The Working Group’s Sexual Assault Policy Proposal can be viewed in its entirety at [sexualassaultpolicyatmcgill.com](http://sexualassaultpolicyatmcgill.com). It is currently under review by the Dean of Students and the Associate Provost (Policies, Procedures & Equity), and the Working Group aims to bring a final version of the Policy to Senate later this semester. Moving forward, the Working Group is eager to collaborate further with the McGill Administration, and remains hopeful that their vision for the Policy will be preserved throughout this process.

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