Saint Mary's University

Sexual Violence Support Centre

Annual Report

May 2025 – April 2026

Sexual Violence Support Centre Annual Report 2025-2026

Introduction 2

Case Management and Institutional Response 2

Prevention Education and Campus Engagement 3

- Welcome Weeks & Consent Awareness (September 2025) 3
- 16 Days of Activism (November–December 2025) 4
- January 2026 Engagement 4

Athletics Ambassadors Program (AAP) 4

SCORE (Sports: Changing Our Role in Education) 5

Capacity Building and Institutional Development 6

Introduction

The May 2025–April 2026 reporting period reflects sustained case management demand, full support of athletics-based prevention programming, significant advancement of the Sexual Violence and Harassment Policy revision process, and the formal research launch of SCORE (Sports: Changing Our Role in Education).

During this period, the Sexual Violence Support Centre (SVSC) continued to provide trauma-informed support to students, staff, and faculty while strengthening institutional systems, advancing provincial collaborations, and expanding prevention education across campus and into the broader community.

This report highlights outcomes from May 2025 through April 2026.

Case Management and Institutional Response

Sustained Volume and Procedural Complexity

Case management remained consistent across the reporting period, with increasing complexity in both survivor and respondent support.

Across reporting months:

- Monthly new cases ranged from 3 to 10, with January 2026 reflecting the highest intake (10 new cases).
- Active caseloads remained steady between 22–26 concurrent files.
- Ongoing caseload previously reported at 192 files in May 2025.
- November 2025 reflected significant respondent engagement (7 respondent sessions; 9 respondent check-ins).
- January 2026 included two full days of court accompaniment.

Support provided included:

- Information and options counselling
- Academic accommodations
- Referrals (internal and external)
- Safety planning
- Respondent sessions and follow-up
- Court accompaniment

Collaboration remained central to effective response, including regular coordination with Student Affairs, Security, Counselling, Accessibility, Athletics, Legal Counsel, and senior leadership.

Prevention Education and Campus Engagement

Welcome Weeks & Consent Awareness (September 2025)

September 2025 marked one of the strongest outreach months of the year.

Key programming included:

- Graduate Student Orientation (102 participants)
- Safe & Respectful SMU (89 participants)
- Consent is Sweet (60 participants)
- Healthy Relationships workshop (26 participants)
- Sex Ed Trivia in partnership with SMUSA and Venus Envy (102 participants)

Additional outreach included pop-ups, societies expos, and the SMUSA Sunshine Bash.

16 Days of Activism (November–December 2025)

The 16 Days of Activism campaign was robust and collaborative.

Highlights included:

- National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women (90 participants)
- Rethinking Masculinity and Mental Health panel (34 participants)
- Trans Day of Remembrance memorial (12 participants)
- Bake Sale in support of Shelter Movers ($172 raised)
- Paws for Wellness Therapy Dog event (42 participants)

January 2026 Engagement

Programming continued into Winter 2026 with:

- Welcome Weeks Pop-Up (47 participants)
- Societies Expo participation (34 participants)
- Basic Bystander Waves of Change (12 participants)
- Launch of Residence Competition and Societies Contest

Prevention programming remains visible, collaborative, and student-driven.

Athletics Ambassadors Program (AAP)

The 2025–2026 period marked full institutional integration of the Athletics Ambassador Program.

By September 2025:

- 27 student-athletes representing all 12 varsity teams were formally enrolled in AAP.

- For the first time, every varsity team received prevention training.

Programming highlights included:

- Right From the Start training across multiple varsity teams
- Football training camp (102 participants)
- Athletics Ambassador Facilitator Training (7 participants)
- Homecoming outreach table (104 participants)
- Presentation of AAP to University of Waterloo

The Athletics Ambassador Program is now fully embedded in varsity sport culture and positioned for continued growth.

SCORE (Sports: Changing Our Role in Education)

This reporting period marked the formal research launch of SCORE.

Key milestones:

- All four Research Ethics Boards approved the project.
- Focus groups scheduled for March 2026.
- Cross-institutional collaboration with St. FX and Acadia SCORE teams.
- SCORE and AAP presented at external conferences (AACUSS, SEMM).

SCORE has transitioned from program concept to approved research initiative with provincial collaboration in place.

Sexual Violence and Harassment Policy Revision

The policy renewal process advanced substantially during this period.

Key developments included:

- Student feedback session (September 2025)
- Employee feedback session (October 2025)
- Campus feedback survey launched
- Athletics Ambassador consultation (May 2025)
- First round of draft edits completed and shared with senior leadership (December 2025–January 2026)

A revised policy report template was also developed to strengthen clarity and procedural transparency.

The policy is now positioned for final revisions and institutional approval processes.

Capacity Building and Institutional Development

Structural advancements during this period included:

- Annual onboarding and expanded training for Peer Educators
- Launch of the SAAS Social Justice Book Club
- Completion of Train-the-Trainer certification: Neighbours, Friends, Families
- Provincial trauma-informed investigator training (36 participants from 11 NS institutions)

These initiatives enhance institutional capacity, sustainability, and cross-sector leadership.

Conclusion and Next Steps

The May 2025–January 2026 reporting period reflects:

- Sustained and complex case management

- Full institutional integration of athletics-based prevention education
- Formal launch and research approval of SCORE
- Substantial advancement of Sexual Violence and Harassment Policy revisions
- Continued provincial and inter-institutional leadership

Immediate priorities moving forward include:

- Finalizing and advancing the Sexual Violence and Harassment Policy revisions
- Supporting SCORE focus groups and research implementation
- Sustaining Athletics Ambassador engagement across competitive seasons
- Continuing trauma-informed, procedurally fair case management

The systems, partnerships, and student leadership structures developed during this period provide a strong foundation for continued prevention, response, and culture change work at Saint Mary's.



Saint Mary's University
Sexual Violence Support Centre
923 Robie St, Halifax, NS B3H 3C3
www.smu.ca.svsc