
Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan and Community-University Institute for Social Research Release In-Depth Report on the State of Sexual Violence in Saskatchewan

Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan (SASS), the University of Saskatchewan's Community-University Institute (CUISR) for Social Research and Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) are releasing an in-depth research report on the state of sexual violence in Saskatchewan on Wednesday, April 29 at 10.00 am.

Media are invited to attend the release, which will be held online via Zoom at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82412187399?pwd=eEhvdVpBZjZlVHdkV094amFKSnJBUT09>

The password to join is SASS.

The report, *Sexual Violence in Saskatchewan: Voices, Stories, Insights, and Actions from the Front Lines*, aims to garner a comprehensive understanding of sexual violence in Saskatchewan through an examination of sexual violence experiences and the existing strengths and gaps in service provision.

An executive summary of the report is attached.

"Our research team is grateful for the courage, candour, and clarity of survivors who shared their stories. Too often, researchers are asked to launch conversations that open up painful histories without being able to offer meaningful solutions," said Dr. Isobel Findlay, University Co-director at Community-University Institute for Social Research, University of Saskatchewan. "That is why this study is so important and why we are so invested in ensuring the report on findings and recommendations does not languish on a legislative shelf."

"When our paths crossed, the Saskatchewan First Nation Women's Commission wholeheartedly supported the research to uncover strategies to challenge sexual violence and change societal attitudes," said Vice Chief Heather Bear, Fourth Vice Chief of Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations. "We were extremely supportive of the research-lens that took into consideration the effects of historical and intergenerational trauma and the over-representation of Indigenous persons as targets of sexual violence. On behalf of the Women's Commission, we commend SASS and CUISR for all the hard work and dedication towards completing the report and sexual violence action plan."

Against the background of colonialist aggression, this report is designed to provide evidence that not only supports an effective sexual violence action plan for Saskatchewan, but one that can begin to redress the depths of ongoing institutional and structural violence. As well, the findings of this report informed the development of Saskatchewan's first Sexual Violence Action Plan, *Working Together - Your Voice, Your Story, Your Actions* that was released on May 2019.

"Our research team has been struck by the enormous energy women in particular, although not exclusively, spend navigating structural violence. Many study participants were supporting other community members, while facing harsh conditions in their careers and personal lives," said Dr. Marie Lovrod, Program Chair, Women's and Gender Studies, University of Saskatchewan. "Sexual assault is both a serious problem in our province, and, at the same time, reflects larger systems of social violence."

"This research shows us what SASS and our member agencies already know. Sexual violence is prevalent in Saskatchewan, and must be addressed," said Kerrie Isaac, executive director of SASS. "This report, and our

Action Plan can drive real change in our province. We must work together to make Saskatchewan a place where everyone is free from threat, fear, or experience of sexual violence.”

SASS is a provincial non-profit organization that works collectively with front-line agencies, community partners, and governments that provide support and advocacy for those affected by sexual violence in Saskatchewan.

The Community-University Institute for Social Research facilitates partnerships between the university and the larger community in order to engage in relevant social research that supports a deeper understanding of our communities and reveals opportunities for improving our quality of life.

The Federation of Sovereign Indian Nations represents 74 First Nations in Saskatchewan. The Federation is committed to honouring the spirit and intent of the Treaties, as well as the promotion, protection and implementation of the Treaty promises that were made more than a century ago.

-30-

Ashley Kilback
Communications Specialist
SASS
306.541.4655
comms.sass@sasktel.net
sassk.ca