

# POLICY STATEMENT

## SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY

The Culinary Arts School of Ontario o/a Chef School is committed to providing its students with an educational environment free from sexual violence and treating its students who report incidents of sexual violence with dignity and respect. The Chef School has adopted this Sexual Violence Policy, which:

- (a) defines sexual violence and outlines its training, reporting, investigative and disciplinary responses to complaints of sexual violence made by its students that have occurred on its campus, or at one of its events and involve its students.
- (b) The person accused of engaging in sexual violence will be referred to as the “Respondent” and the person making the allegation as the “Complainant”.

### Definition of Sexual Violence

Sexual violence means 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.

### Training, Reporting and Responding to Sexual Violence

- (a) Chef School shall include a copy of the Sexual Violence Policy in every contract made between it and its students, and provide a copy of the Sexual Violence Policy to career college management (corporate directors, controlling shareholders, owners, partners, other persons who manage or direct Chef School’s affairs, and their agents), instructors, staff, other employees and contractors and train them about the policy and its processes of reporting, investigating and responding to complaints of sexual violence involving its students. \*Any company participating in offering student internships or W.O.R.K placements on their premises must adhere to all relevant Chef School policies such as Sexual Violence & Harassment policy, including the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Occupational Health and Safety Act and will provide students access to those policies should they encounter issues relating to sexual violence in the workplace.
- (b) This Chef School Sexual Violence Policy is published on the Chef School’s website at [www.chefschool.ca/policy](http://www.chefschool.ca/policy)
- (c) Chef School management, instructors, staff, other employees and contractors of Chef School will report incidents of or complaints of sexual violence to the Campus Director upon becoming aware of them.
- (d) Students who have been affected by sexual violence or who need information about support services should contact the Campus Director.
- (e) Subject to Section 4 below, to the extent it is possible, Chef School will attempt to keep all personal information of persons involved in the investigation confidential except in those circumstances where it believes an individual is at imminent risk of self-harm, or of harming another, or there are reasonable grounds to believe that others on its campus or the broader community are at risk. This will be done by:
  - (i) ensuring that all complaints/reports and information gathered as a result of the complaint/reports will be only available to those who need to know for purposes of investigation, implementing safety measures and other circumstances that arise from any given case; and
  - (ii) ensuring that the documentation is kept in a separate file from that of the Complainant/student or the Respondent.
- (f) Chef School recognizes the right of the Complainant not to report an incident of or make a complaint about sexual violence or not request an investigation and not to participate in any investigation that may occur.
- (g) Notwithstanding (f), in certain circumstances, Chef School may be required by law or its internal policies to initiate an internal investigation and/or inform police without the complainant’s consent if it believes the safety of members of its campus or the broader community is at risk.
- (h) In all cases, including (f) above, Chef School will appropriately accommodate the needs of its students who are affected by sexual violence. Students seeking accommodation should contact the Campus Director.

In this regard, Chef School will assist students who have experienced sexual violence in obtaining counselling and medical care, and provide them with information about sexual violence supports and services available in the community as set out in this Policy. Students are not required to file a formal complaint in order to access supports and services.

### Investigating Reports of Sexual Violence

- (a) Under this Sexual Violence Policy, any student of Chef School may file a report of an incident or a complaint to the Campus Director in writing.
- (b) Upon receipt of a report of an incident or a complaint of alleged sexual violence being made, the Campus Director will respond promptly and:
  - (i) determine whether an investigation should proceed and if the Complainant wishes to participate in an investigation;
  - (ii) determine who should conduct the investigation having regard to the seriousness of the allegation and the parties involved and determine what other officials, offices or departments involved in the investigation;
  - (iii) determine whether the incident should be referred immediately to the police;

In such cases or where civil proceedings are commenced in respect of allegations of sexual violence, Chef School may conduct its own independent investigation and make its own determination in accordance with its own policies and procedures; and

- (iv) determine what interim measures ought to be put in place pending the investigation process such as removal of the Respondent or seeking alternate methods of providing necessary course studies.
- (c) Once an investigation is initiated, the following will occur:
  - (i) the Complainant and the Respondent will be advised that they may ask another person to be present throughout the investigation;
  - (ii) interviewing the Complainant to ensure a complete understanding of the allegation and gathering additional information that may not have been included in the written complaint such as the date and time of the incident, the persons involved, the names of any person who witnessed the incident and a complete description of what occurred;
  - (iii) informing and interviewing the Respondent of the complaint, providing details of the allegations and giving the Respondent an opportunity to respond to those allegations and to provide any witnesses the Respondent feels are essential to the investigation;
  - (iv) interviewing any person involved or who has, or may have, knowledge of the incident and any identified witnesses;
  - (v) providing reasonable updates to the Complainant and the Respondent about the status of the investigation; and
  - (vi) following the investigation, the Campus Director will:
    - A. review all the evidence collected during the investigation;
    - B. determine whether sexual violence occurred; and if so
    - C. determine what disciplinary action, if any, should be taken as set out in Section 4 below.

### **Disciplinary Measures**

- (a) If it is determined by Chef School that the Respondent did engage in sexual violence, immediate disciplinary or corrective action will be taken. This may include:
  - (i) disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment of instructors or staff; or
  - (ii) expulsion of a student; and/or
  - (iii) the placement of certain restrictions on the Respondent's ability to access certain premises or facilities; and/or
  - (iv) any other actions that may be appropriate in the circumstances.

### **Appeal**

- (a) Should the Complainant or the Respondent not agree with the decision resulting from the investigation, he or she may appeal the decision to the Chef School Campus Director within 5 days by submitting a letter addressed to the Campus Director advising of the person's intent to appeal the decision.

### **Making False Statements**

- (a) It is a violation of this Sexual Violence Policy for anyone to knowingly make a false complaint of sexual violence or to provide false information about a complaint.
- (b) Individuals who violate this Sexual Violence Policy are subject to disciplinary and/or corrective action up to and including termination of employment of instructors or staff or expulsion of a student.

### **Reprisal**

- (a) It is a violation of this Sexual Violence Policy to retaliate or threaten to retaliate against a complainant who has brought forward a complaint of sexual violence, provided information related to a complaint, or otherwise been involved in the complaint investigation process.
- (b) Where the College becomes aware, or should be reasonably aware, of incidents of sexual harassment and/or sexual violence by a College member or against a College member on or off College property, the College will take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of all College members.
- (c) If students, in good faith, report an incident of, or make a complaint about, sexual violence, they will not be subject to discipline or sanctions for violations of the College's policies relating to drug or alcohol use at the time the alleged sexual violence occurred.
- (d) The College recognizes the right of the complainant not to report an incident of or make a complaint about sexual harassment and/or sexual violence or not request an investigation and not to participate in any investigation that may occur.
- (e) Students who disclose their experience of sexual violence through reporting an incident of, making a complaint about, or accessing supports and services for sexual violence, will not be asked irrelevant questions during the investigation process by the College's staff or investigators, including irrelevant questions relating to the student's sexual expression or past sexual history.
- (f) Notwithstanding the above, where the College may be required by law or its internal policies to initiate an internal investigation and/or inform police without the complainant's consent if it believes the safety of members of its campus or the broader community is at risk.
- (g) Individuals who violate the Sexual Violence Policy are subject to disciplinary and/or corrective action, up to and including:
  - i) Disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment; or
  - ii) Expulsion of a student; and/or
  - iii) The placement of certain restrictions on the respondent's ability to access certain premises or facilities; and/or
  - iv) Any other actions that may be appropriate in the circumstances.

### **Review**

- (a) Subsequent to the initial implementation of this policy, Chef School shall ensure that student input is considered in the further development of its Sexual Violence Policy and every time it is reviewed or amended.
- (b) Chef School shall review its Sexual Violence Policy three years after it is first implemented and amend it where appropriate. This date is March 1, 2025.

### **Collection of Student Data**

- (a) Chef School shall collect and be prepared to provide upon request by the Superintendent of Private Career Colleges such data and information as required according to Subsections 32.1 (8), (9), (10) and (11) of Schedule 5 of the Private Career Colleges Act, 2005 as amended.

### **Community Resources**

It is often difficult for those who have directly experienced sexual violence to disclose and report the incident, and the Chef School is committed to the highest level of confidentiality. Additionally, we make several community resources available to our Chef School members, including:

<b>Region in Ontario</b>	<b>Sexual Assault Centre</b>	<b>Website</b>	<b>24-HR Crisis Line</b>	<b>Office Phone</b>
Peel (Mississauga & Brampton)	Hope 24/7: Sexual Assault Centre of Peel	<a href="http://hope247.ca/">http://hope247.ca/</a>	1-800-810-0180	905-792-0821
Halton (Oakville, Milton)	Sexual Assault & Violence Intervention Services of Halton	<a href="http://www.savisofhalton.org">www.savisofhalton.org</a>	905-875-1555	905-825-3622
Toronto	Multicultural Women Against/Toronto Rape Crisis Centre	<a href="mailto:info@trccmwar.ca">info@trccmwar.ca</a> <a href="mailto:crisis@trccmwar.ca">crisis@trccmwar.ca</a> <a href="http://www.trccmwar.ca">www.trccmwar.ca</a>	416-597-8808	416-597-1171
York (Vaughn, Woodbridge)	Women's Support Network of York Region	<a href="http://www.womenssupportnetwork.ca">www.womenssupportnetwork.ca</a>	1-800-263-6734; 905-895-7313	905-895-3646