



Statement from New College Acting Principal on ongoing acts of voyeurism

Feb. 21, 2024

In the past eight months, multiple acts of voyeurism have been perpetrated on members of our New College community in both publicly accessible washrooms and residence space that is only accessible to keyholders. We are profoundly disappointed to inform our community that despite [an arrest in early January](#), on Thursday, Feb. 15 an act of voyeurism was reported: an unknown individual held an iPhone over an occupied shower stall in a Wilson Hall Residence washroom (a key is required to access the residence). The person behind this incident may not be the same individual in [these photographs shared after the Feb. 7 voyeurism incident](#) that occurred in a publicly accessible women's washroom on the ground floor of Wilson Hall. Another incident occurred in Wilson Hall Residence on Jan. 9.

Voyeurism is sexual violence, and is treated with the utmost seriousness and urgency. Campus Safety and Toronto Police Service are conducting a joint investigation into these latest crimes. We hope that the individual(s) responsible for these criminal acts will be swiftly identified, apprehended and prosecuted to the fullest extent under the Criminal Code of Canada and, if student(s), face all relevant university repercussions under the Code of Student Conduct.

Due to the repeated, persistent nature of these incidents, we have taken a number of unprecedented steps to increase safety and security for our community.

Immediate safety measures include:

- Increased security patrols in locked residence and publicly accessible spaces
- To provide support to residents and increase safety, security guard presence on residence floors 24/7 and, as an added precaution, a security presence outside the Wilson Hall residence washroom where the most recent incidents occurred
- Immediate availability of a single-use, private washroom with shower on a sign-out basis
- Immediate retrofitting of at least one shower stall in each building with floor-to-ceiling eye-proofing
- Addition of shower curtains inside stalls that have a glass divider between the change and shower spaces
- Signage to alert our community to spots where voyeurism occurred
- Signage encouraging vigilance and discouraging cellphone use in washrooms
- Signage alerting people to the presence of security cameras
- Signage reminding people not to allow tailgating into the residence (allowing someone to enter residence behind you without using their own key)

This week:

- A pilot project to eye-proof shower stalls from floor to ceiling in Wilson Hall washroom 3071 and all third-floor washrooms in Wetmore Hall – due to be installed by Friday, Feb. 23 (barring supply)

chain delays). If successful, this project will be extended to all washroom shower stalls in all three buildings.

Longer-term:

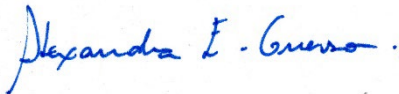
- Access-control (fob locks) have been ordered for installation on all residence floor washrooms on recommendation of the Residence Student Council and Campus Safety
- Additional security cameras are being assessed for installation at every New College perimeter door (along with signage to indicate public areas are being monitored)

These safety measures are being treated with the greatest urgency as Campus Safety and Toronto Police work to identify and apprehend those responsible for violating the privacy, safety and security of our community. We will provide progress updates to our community in this space.

In the meantime, we are informing our community about these crimes, available supports and measures to improve security through various means including: Campus Safety Community Alerts that are posted on washroom doors, distributed in person and slipped under bedroom doors; emails from the Office of Residence & Student Life; and now signage as well. We encourage members of our community to exercise vigilance and to contact Campus Safety at 416-978-2222 as quickly as possible if they observe suspicious behaviour on campus grounds.

Unfortunately, last month's arrest did not put an end to criminal behaviour targeting our community. Until those responsible for these acts of voyeurism are apprehended, we will continue to take all possible steps in our power to enhance the safety of our community. Crimes of this nature can be distressing. Please know that various supports are available to our students, staff, librarians and faculty, and we encourage them to access these resources as needed (see list at the bottom of this statement). We welcome your suggestions and feedback at nc.principal@utoronto.ca.

Sincerely,



Alexandra Guerson
Acting Principal, New College

Supports Available on Campus:

Students

- [Mental Health Portal](#)
- [Telus Health Student Support](#) (24/7 support via phone or chat)

Faculty, staff and librarians

- [Employee and Family Assistance Program](#) (available 24/7, 365 days a year) – 1-855-597-2110

U of T Campus Safety App

[Campus Safety App](#)

Sexual Violence Prevention and Support Centre

If you or someone you know has been affected by sexual violence or sexual harassment, the University's [Sexual Violence Prevention and Support Centre](#) can help you understand, access and navigate supports such as counselling, medical services, academic or workplace accommodations, financial aid and legal aid. This includes helping you understand your reporting options.

Hours: Mon-Fri from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Telephone: 416-978-2266

Email: sypscentre@utoronto.ca

Community Safety Office

The [Community Safety Office](#) offers short-term support and assistance to U of T community members who have experienced personal safety concerns. They can work with you to develop a personal safety plan to address your on-campus safety concerns and explore a variety of other support resources that may be appropriate in the community and on-campus.

Hours: Mon-Fri from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Telephone: 416-978-1485

Email: community.safety@utoronto.ca

TravelSafer

This is a 24/7 service available to the U of T community and is available to and from all U of T buildings or abutting TTC stations. This service can be arranged by calling 416-978-SAFE (7233) or by using the U of T Safety App to arrange an escort.

Virtual TravelSafer and Mobile Bluelight

These features are available through the U of T Safety App and can be used to trigger a distress beacon, in the event of an emergency, to send your location to a Campus Safety dispatcher and summon help.