



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MOUNT ALLISON STUDENTS' UNION RECEIVES FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY PROJECT

Sackville, NB – In April 2012, the Mount Allison Students' Union received an \$89,000 grant from Status of Women Canada. Based around the theme of “engaging young people to prevent violence against women on post-secondary campuses,” the grant was awarded to fund a 2-year project aimed at engaging young people to actively prevent gender-based violence at Mount Allison University.

On November 14th, 2012, Senator Carolyn Stewart Olsen arrived at Mount Allison University to announce the federal funding on behalf of the Government of Canada. Attendees of the event included members of Mount Allison University's faculty and staff, members of the Mount Allison Students' Union, as well as students at large.

“The Government of Canada takes the issue of violence against women very seriously and recognizes the unique challenges they face on campuses,” says Senator Carolyn Stewart Olsen. “As a Senator for New Brunswick, I am proud that our government will continue to support projects across Canada that yield real results for women and girls, and I will continue to work with my colleagues and with community members to break the cycle of violence.”

“The safety and security of all students on our campus is of the utmost importance and something we are ever mindful of at Mount Allison,” says Dr. Karen Grant, Provost & Vice-President, Academic and Research of Mount Allison University. “This project is an excellent beginning, a made-at-Mount Allison solution that will address the particular needs of this campus. I can't think of a better place to begin to meet that challenge than a university campus. The young men and women who make up the student body at Mount Allison are some of the most engaged and energetic students in the country.”

“I am very excited to be a part of a process that engages young people in preventing violence against women at Mount Allison,” says Rachael Coon, Safety and Security Project Manager. “The knowledge and perspective students gain from this project will have a lasting impact on how they view gender-based violence in our culture and what they are willing to do about it.”

“The safety of our members is of the utmost concern for the Mount Allison Students' Union,” says Pat Joyce, President of the Mount Allison Students' Union. “I am proud that our organization is taking the

lead on safety and security on campus, and I am elated at the level of engagement that has been shown by our partners and supporters.”

Part of the grant has been designated towards a Campus Safety Audit conducted by the Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children (METRAC) during the 2012-13 academic year. Founded in 1984 in Toronto, Ontario, METRAC is a registered not-for-profit, community-based organization with a mandate to prevent and eliminate violence against diverse women and children. METRAC’s Safety Audit Process was declared a Best Practice and Strategic Direction for 2008-2013 by the United Nations Habitat’s Safer Cities Campaign.

Over the next two years, the Mount Allison Students’ Union will engage and establish working partnerships with women and men on campus as well as community stakeholders in order to create a strategic campus community plan and a gender-based analysis report, and to develop potential strategies for addressing gender-based violence.

Expected results of the project include the implementation of effective mechanisms, supports, strategies, and solutions as well as an increased ability for stakeholders and community members to identify factors contributing to gender-based violence.

The Mount Allison Students’ Union represents all full- and part-time undergraduate and graduate students at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick.

For further information on this issue, please contact the Mount Allison Students’ Union by e-mail at sac@mta.ca or by phone at (506) 364-2231.