



**UNIVERSITY  
OF ALBERTA**

**SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE  
SECURITY REPORT**

**AUGUST 2023 REPORT  
TO OUR COMMUNITY**

**MAKING OUR CAMPUSES  
SAFER TOGETHER**

# TRADITIONAL TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The University of Alberta respectfully acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples including the Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, Ojibway/ Sauteaux/ Anishinaabe, Inuit, and many others whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community.





# INTRODUCTION

This report highlights the university's focus on safety and security on our campuses, as well as our engagement and collaboration with external partners to help address transit and public safety concerns. It also lays out our action plan for the 2023-24 academic year to help students, faculty and staff feel safe on our campuses.

Inspired by a holistic approach to security and public safety, the University of Alberta Safety and Security Committee (UASSC) identifies priorities and emerging security issues on university campuses and proposes actions and solutions. The committee is composed of approximately 40 U of A leaders, subject matter experts, service partners, faculty and staff representatives and student leaders. Members act as representatives and ambassadors for varying perspectives across the U of A community.

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**Campus security refers to the public safety and security of students, faculty, staff, contractors and third-party users while on U of A campuses. It is achieved through the prevention, intervention and response to risks and emerging issues related to public safety and security. Dedicated public safety and campus security initiatives at the university are aligned with other safety, campus life and student and employee experience initiatives.**

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## HOW CAMPUS USERS PERCEIVE SAFETY

From late April to early May, the UASSC conducted a campus security survey among students to better understand their perceptions and experiences of physical security on U of A campuses. Survey results will help inform upcoming engagement and communications and marketing efforts related to campus security going forward. The UASSC expects to conduct a similar survey with faculty and staff in late 2023 or early 2024.

The Student Experience Action Plan (SEAP) engaged with students during 2023 on a variety of topics about student life. In that survey of students, 88% of respondents indicated that feeling safe on campus at all times of day or night is very important or essential to their student experience and that security was one of their highest ranking focus areas. It's important to note that safety and security does not look the same for everyone, and many different perspectives were shared.

## TRANSIT AND PUBLIC SECURITY

All transit area locations (light rail transit stations, bus stops, etc.) are the property of the City of Edmonton, and therefore, are under the jurisdiction of Edmonton Transit Service and Edmonton Police Service. For incidents that involve public transit close to U of A campuses, the University of Alberta Protective Services (UAPS) provides support when requested.

University leadership actively engaged with Edmonton's transit safety team as well as various groups, including the Downtown Recovery Coalition and City of Edmonton-led Downtown Pedway Safety Working Group, to address broader community safety issues.



## U OF A PROTECTIVE SERVICES PATROL TEAM

U of A Protective Services patrol team are the 24/7/365 members who proactively patrol university property and respond to calls. They are trained to provide an array of services ranging from responding to reports of criminal activity to providing first aid/assisting community members. The four UAPS patrol teams consist of a sergeant, four peace officers and one dispatcher.

### **UAPS employs different resources to address campus safety and security including:**

- a dedicated Community Assistance Team that assists in connecting and helping those in need;
- a community liaison officer who works primarily within U of A residences;
- a dedicated bike unit, some of who now patrol by bike year-round;
- an EPS liaison officer who supports UAPS and the community in providing real-time policing resources;
- investigators and certified threat assessment capabilities; and
- a security program for delivery of services not requiring sworn peace officers.

The University of Alberta acknowledges that people's experiences with law enforcement has not been universally positive. Recognizing the diversity of those who are present at U of A campuses, UAPS is committed to providing services in a way that respects the individual circumstance of every person.





## U OF A COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION

UAPS collaborates with a broad array of campus units in an effort to deliver safety and security to the community. Most acutely, this includes those charged with supporting student success and student life (including for students living in residence) and those with responsibilities for helping make the university an employer of choice.

## INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

Examples of interagency cooperation abound, with some new alliances having been established in 2022-23 and others dating back years. UAPS meets regularly with external stakeholders to discuss opportunities to improve outcomes for similar challenges faced by all. These include governments, health providers, policing agencies, and other post-secondary institutions. Connections have also been made to downtown vibrancy and safety committees to discuss ideas and successes surrounding safety and ensure alignment of initiatives.

# KEY ACTIONS FOR 2023-24

## MAKING OUR CAMPUSES SAFER TOGETHER INITIATIVE

### 01. ENGAGEMENT

The UASSC is re-engaging university leaders and other key responsible offices to share and reinforce personal and public safety and security measures that everyone can take to reduce personal and community risks within their campus spaces and in their daily lives. Key partners have been identified and an engagement plan is being developed, which will facilitate the sharing of information and resources and the reinforcement of key messages related to safety and security within the U of A community.

### 02. COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Campus security materials to support key partners and inform all community members are being developed and rolled out, including the introduction of a [new campus security webpage](#) and the sharing of personal safety information with students, faculty and staff through various communications channels. A 2023-24 communications plan will be developed with a focus on high-impact opportunities and community storytelling.

### 03. OUTREACH

As part of a holistic approach to security and public safety, the [Community Assistance Team's](#) capacity will be doubled. This will enhance the [U of A Protective Services](#) team's ability to respond to incidents and concerns by conducting outreach and providing assistance to people facing barriers that may have been disadvantaged by the system.

### 04. INFRASTRUCTURE

The U of A will continue to proactively make adjustments to its infrastructure to ensure public safety and security. These measures may range from the installation of bike cages and upgrading security infrastructure such as card reader technology, to the reduction of facility hours of operation and points of entry. Mindful adjustments to our buildings' operating hours will continue as a way to enhance safety and security for all campus community members and constituents.

## EVERYONE HAS A ROLE IN PUBLIC SAFETY

Faculty, staff, students and third-party users of our campuses have a vital role to play in keeping our campuses safe for learning and work. Even small actions can make a big difference. U of A leaders and public safety and security champions can help share resources and information, facilitate conversations and respond to questions and concerns about public safety and security. Faculty, staff and students should be aware of and exercise personal safety and security measures on a daily basis, and help inform their peers and colleagues when opportunities exist.

The University of Alberta's campuses, located in the thriving and vibrant cities of Edmonton and Camrose, are fundamentally safe and secure places to live, work and study. The university constantly strives to provide the safest environment possible for students, faculty, and staff, and efforts to maintain and improve campus safety and security are ongoing.

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### JAMES ALLEN

AVP Asset Management  
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Co-Chair UASSC

### JASON CAREY

Dean and Executive Officer,  
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Co-Chair UASSC





**UNIVERSITY  
OF ALBERTA**



**LEADING WITH PURPOSE.**