



The Dalhousie Student Union stands in solidarity with survivors of sexual assault and the We Believe Survivors group at Brandon University. This winter, news broke that a Brandon University student who reported an incident of sexual assault was made to sign a contract that would bar them from speaking to anyone about their assault but university counsellors. Breaking the contract could result in suspension and/or expulsion.

Universities have a duty to build safe campuses and honestly support survivors of violence. Our public institutions must never prioritize their perceived reputation over the safety and wellbeing of their students.

Since this story broke, Brandon University President, Gervan Feardon, has admitted that forcing survivors to sign gag orders was inappropriate and a mistake and has committed to end this shameful practice. We applaud students at Brandon University for holding their administration to account and stand with them in their effort to push for a safer campus.

University and college students are disproportionately affected by sexualized violence. Rape culture worsens through administrations' repeated practices of silencing survivors. This has most recently been illustrated by incidences at the University of Victoria, Brock University, and the Dalhousie University School of Dentistry.

We call on all provincial governments to hold our colleges and universities to account. Legislation like Bill 114 and Bill 164 in Nova Scotia and Bill 3 in Manitoba are necessary. Our governments must mandate that all colleges and universities develop quality, standalone sexual assault policies, enforce mandatory public reporting of reported sexual assaults at the end of each year, and provide supports for survivors of sexual assault. Provincial governments do not get to decide if student safety matters. It is unacceptable that these bills have been neglected by our respective provincial governments while students experience violence every day.

All students deserve safe campuses to learn and thrive. The Dalhousie Student Union is committed to continuing the fight against rape culture on our campus and to work in solidarity with students at Brandon University and across the country who aim to make our universities and colleges safe for all students. To all survivors, we believe you.

To show your solidarity with students at Brandon University you can contact:



Incoming Manitoba Premier – Brian Pallister

Twitter: @Brian\_Pallister

Phone: (204) 945-3714

Email: premier@leg.gov.mb.ca

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President of Brandon University Dr. Gervan Fearon

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To encourage the passing of Bill 114 and Bill 164 in Nova Scotia contact Minister of Labour and Advanced Education: Kelly Regan

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