OTTAWA (CUP)—Two sexual assaults in four days have generated a lot of concern on campus's security and increased focus on establishing more student, resident, and faculty involvement into security issues.

The first incident occurred just after midnight on 1 September at Carleton University, a 13-year-old female student was beaten unconscious and sexually assaulted inside the Analytical Chemistry Research Lab in the campus's Science Building. The victim was working alone in the third-floor lab when the incident took place.

She was beaten and had her hands tied behind her back, and suffered a broken jaw and a dislocated shoulder that required hospitalization. She is currently in stable condition.

The second incident occurred in the early hours of 2 September at the University of Ottawa, a 15-year-old female student was found unconscious and sexually assaulted in a remote area of the campus. The suspect was seen fleeing the scene on foot.

"I don't believe anyone has been identified as a suspect," Lemieux said.

The police haven't apprehended anyone in relation to either incident, but are following up on several leads from the public, as well as examining surveillance tapes from the area.

Only three days later, on 4 September, an 18-year-old student of Ottawa's Seniors' Accommodation was assaulted around 8:30 pm outside her residence, while examining surveillance tapes from the area.

"There is more [money] coming," he said. "But this was the immediate fix that was required." Fourth-year elementary education student Angela Bigstone, who lived in B&B House for about a year and a half, said that aboriginal-specific housing is an important component in helping students to be successful.

"A lot of aboriginal students come from really remote communities, so when they come into a student housing that's their side for aboriginal students, they at least have a sense of identity and somebody to have a sense of community with," she said.

"As a single student, I'm more mobile, and so I hope sometime in the future there is more housing available for families," she said.

She added that, while ARC doesn't retain responsibility for dealing with aboriginal housing on campus, the student group is still interested in getting involved and providing input.

"Nobody asks what the student needs are, it's interesting that even the news comes to us to ask us what we think, but the University in general doesn't ask what students need or want for student housing." Thunder added, "If the University wanted to do talks about improving aboriginal issues on campus, they need to listen to the students first."

As far as future residence initiatives, as the 12th of a go, Executive Director of Auxiliary Services Doug Dawson explained that the University has recently commissioned a study to examine all residence housing types and locations.

He said the study, entitled Residence Master Plan, is anticipated to be completed in November.

"Residence Master Plan, just like any long-range development plan, will begin to inform us how we develop residences in the future," he said.

Residences on campus only hours later, at approximately 7:30 am. The community has called the Police to alert the campus.

"There is no connection to the Carleton University sexual assault. And I think that was important for everyone at the University of Ottawa [to know]," Lemieux said. "We know those criminals can come very quickly, and we want to reassure people that this is not another attack from the same suspect."

At Carleton University, more than 40 posters with information about the assault and an eye-witness description of the assailant have been posted around campus. Carleton officials also discouraged students from going out alone.

Claude Giroux, the director of Protection Services at the University of Ottawa, said his team is currently using all available resources to protect the campus.

"We're being very vigilant at this point," he said.

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