



This year's Take Back the Night activities had a few key elements that fed its success, Rachel Hurst reports. The MC, Robyn Bourgeois, led a large group of engaged students, faculty, staff, and community members in the annual exercise designed to acknowledge the presence of sexual violence and to combat it. Dr. Hurst was particularly pleased to see a bus filled with women from the Patqnekek Mi'kmaw Nation on campus for the event, and notes Annie Chau's excellent facilitation (as well as her tireless work on the Preventing Violence against Women project). The silence surrounding sexual violence has been deafening in years past; now Dr. Hurst notes that both student momentum and a broad institutional commitment to its reduction are reinvigorating those who have made considerable effort in this movement already. The large crowd at a September screening of "The Hunting Ground" indicates a centralization of a previously marginalized topic, and Dr. Hurst feels optimistic about the university's ability to effectively and transparently make systemic changes to reduce sexual violence in our community. This will be, she says, "a pivotal year," and will "set the tone for what's to come." The Hive for Feminist Research is buzzing, too: terms of reference for a standing committee have been approved by University Faculty to organize an annual lecture showcasing feminist research at StFX. The first lecture will take place in the new year.

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*The Extraordinary: A StFX News letter from the Office of the President, issue 1 (December 11, 2015): 3*