



Press Release - For Immediate Release

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METRAC and Jane Doe announce new sexual violence/rape warning system

Toronto, ON, July 14, 11:00 AM – Sexual violence affects millions of Torontonians every year, and people are eager to do something to stop it. On Tuesday July 14 at 11:00 AM at Scadding Court Community Centre’s Market 707 (707 Dundas Street West, corner of Bathurst and Dundas), a new “Safety Information System” (SIS) will be announced. It will be a revolutionary way for people in the city of Toronto to share information about sexual violence with each other, including rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment. SIS is a city-building project of METRAC, funded by the City of Toronto, supported by Toronto Police Services and developed and coordinated by sexual assault activist Jane Doe. Jane Doe was the centre of the landmark 1998 case *Jane Doe v Toronto Police Force*, in which she successfully sued for their failure to warn women about a serial rapist in her neighbourhood.

Through social media, email, phone and other methods, SIS will notify Torontonians about sexual assault occurrences and provide inspiring information to promote a culture of consent. While the notification system is currently in development, interested users can visit www.metrac.org/sisto to learn more and sign up as “early adopters”. The system will be functional in fall 2015.

SIS also includes a creative arts-based street presence in the form of poster art. The Scadding Court Community Centre Market 707 announcement event will feature SIS’s participatory poster art gallery and display over 100 unique, creative and sassy warning messages developed by community members that counter and disrupt rape mythology and highlight gaps in our systems to deal with sexual violence. “Rape warnings often work to regulate and control women’s movements and lives instead of placing accountability and responsibility on the perpetrators of the crime and its systemic nature,” says Jane Doe. “SIS brings us full circle. The project will allow community members to access critical information and has allowed them to craft their own warnings and messages of awareness and education through art.” The gallery will be open to the public 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM from July 13 to July 20.

About METRAC: METRAC works with individuals, communities and institutions to change ideas, actions and policies with the goal of ending violence against women and youth. Delivering relevant and boundary-breaking services and programs, we focus on education and prevention and use innovative tools to build safety, justice and equity.

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