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## QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY RESIDENCES

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Appendix A of the Report to Senate by the Senate Residence Committee for the period September 2008 to April 2009. (See Senate Agenda Appendix H, Page 37 for Senate Residence Committee Annual Report)

# Summary of Actions Judicial Report & Statistics 2008-2009

## Introduction

In accordance with the *Guidelines for Handling Non-Academic Discipline at Queen's* (2003), a summary of actions from the Discipline Working Group (DWG) of the Senate Residence Committee (SRC) is submitted annually to the Senate. This report adheres to this requirement.

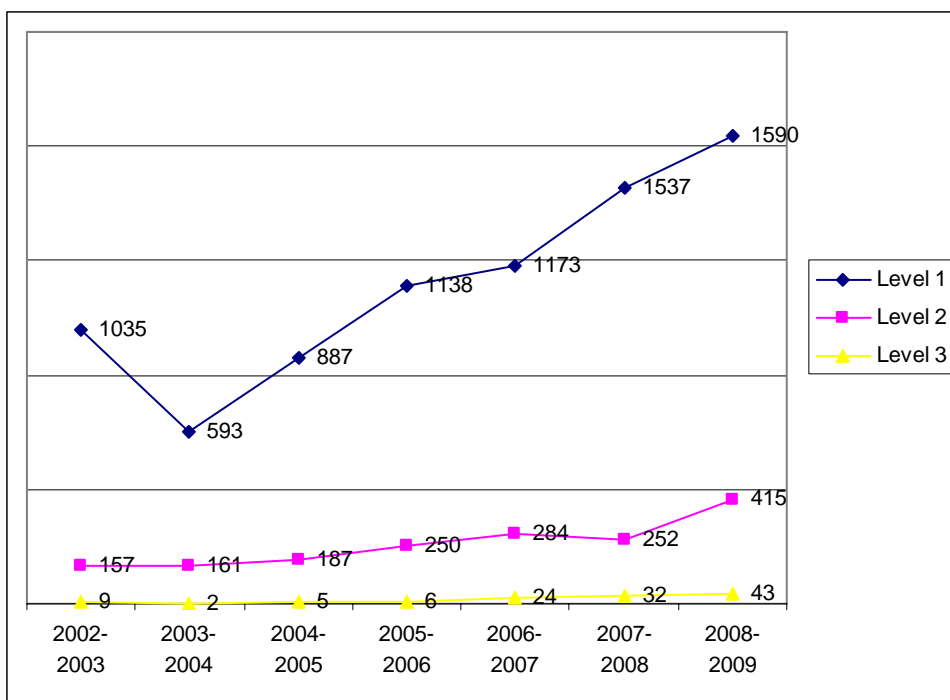
Queen's University Residences recognizes the importance of promoting and supporting students in making positive choices that do not conflict with other residents' pursuits of academic endeavours. It is for this reason that the Residence Discipline Process has implemented 'Community Standards' which are guidelines and behavioural expectations that residence students live by to ensure the safety and security of the residence community. Breaches of community standards are classified into three different levels, Level One, Level Two, and Level Three.

Level One incidents are actions by an individual or individuals that interfere with another resident's peaceful use and enjoyment of his or her space in residence. Level Two incidents are actions by an individual or individuals that have a significant negative impact on another resident; actions that endanger the safety and security of the perpetrator or others in residence; actions that undermine the dignity of another individual; or actions which result in damage to University property. Level Three incidents include offences of a serious nature that are not expressly Level One or Level Two offences, or complex behaviour.

Level One incidents are handled by Discipline Facilitators in conjunction with Residence Life Coordinators; Level Two incidents are dealt with by the Peer Judicial Board, while Level Three incidents are resolved by the Director of Residence Life, with other campus departments or organizations as necessary.

## Trends in the Residence Judicial System

### Incidents by Level 2008-2009

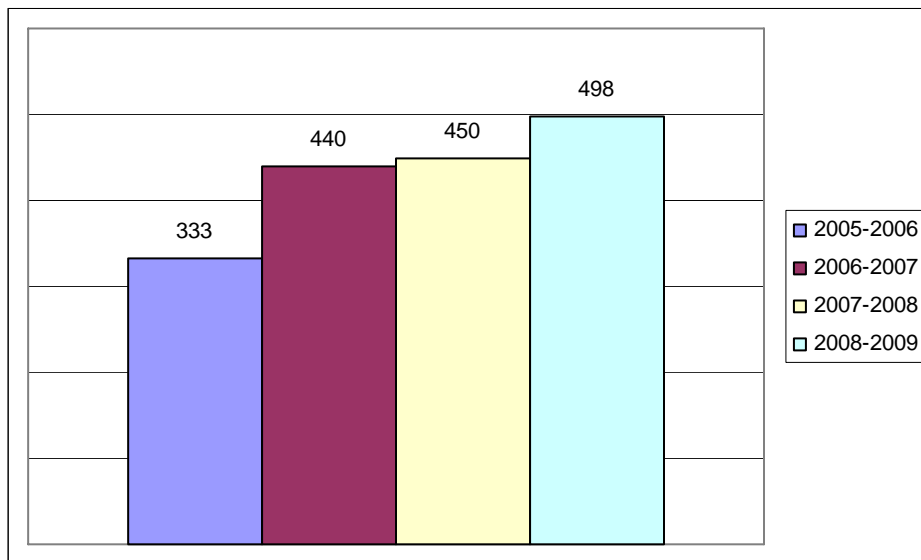


In general, the total number of incidents in residence has remained fairly consistent over the past few years. For the 2008-2009 academic year, the total number of incidents for Level One, Two and Three was 2048 incidents.

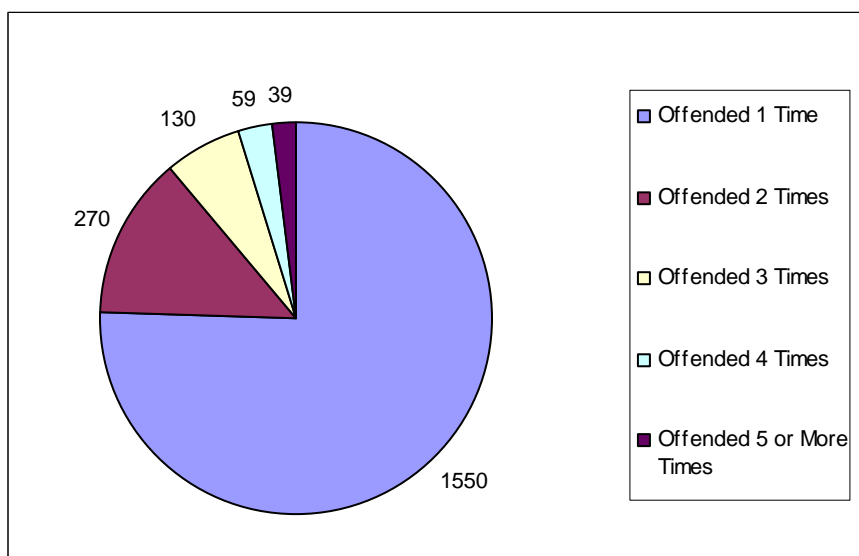
Please note that of the forty-three (43) Level Three offences that occurred during the 2008-2009 academic year, eleven (11) incidents were actual Level Three incidents. The remaining thirty-two (32) incidents were referred to the Level Three process as a result of the progression of offences.

**Rates of Recidivism**

**Repeat Offenders Per Year – Offended more than once.**



**Repeat Offenders – Number of Offences 2008-2009**



The 2008-2009 statistics were analyzed to measure the number of repeat offenders:

- 75.7% (1550 incidents) of our students involved with the judicial system offended only once;
- 24.3% (498 incidents) of students involved with the judicial system offended more than once; and,

- 4.11% (98 incidents) of students involved with the judicial system were classified as high-end offender cases because they accumulated four (4) or more offences.

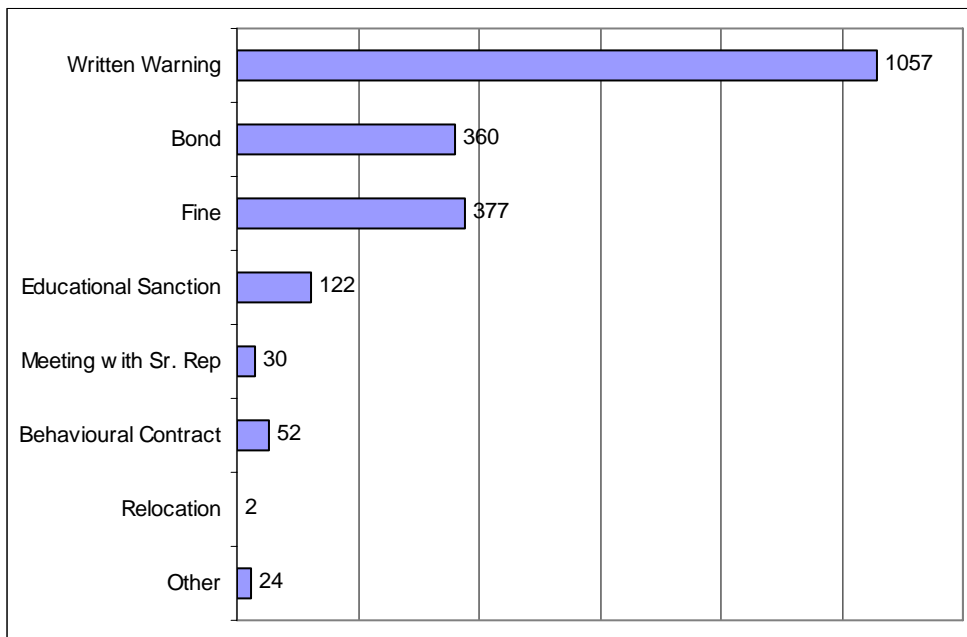
Therefore, for 2008-2009 we experienced a 24.3% recidivism rate. It should be noted that of 3,962 resident students, repeat offenders comprise 7.9% of the total resident population. In 2007-2008 Residences experienced a 24.7% recidivism rate. It should be noted that of 3,771 resident students, repeat offenders comprised 11.9% of the total resident population.

### Assigned Sanctions

Our sanctions are educational and remedial in nature. Bonds, behavioural contracts and educational sanctions are designed to educate students about their responsibilities and to assist students in making positive, self-directed choices in the future.

Some students are assigned more than one sanction on a given community standards violation. Therefore, the total number of sanctions does not correspond to the total number of offences for the 2008-2009 academic year.

Please note that the “Other” category refers to a number of sanctions, such as loss of privileges, restitution, and alcohol probation.



### Peer Judicial Board Activities

The Peer Judicial Board presides over cases involving Level Two incidents, repeat Level One incidents and appeals for Level One and Level Two cases. Please note that a second Level One offence is not considered a Level Two offence.

The Peer Judicial Board is composed of both volunteer Members-at-Large and paid Chairs who help to uphold Residence Community Standards. All Peer Judicial Board Members are students. Each week, members of the Peer Judicial Board convene for an informal peer judicial hearing to deliberate and render decisions on violations of community standards.

For the 2008-2009 year, there were 17 Members-at-Large and three (3) Chairs who presided over cases that came before the Peer Judicial Board. The Peer Judicial Board met 38 times and deliberated on 197 cases.

### **Appeals Committee**

Respondents have the right to appeal Level One Offences and Peer Judicial Board decisions to an Appeals Committee. The Appeals Committee (comprised of two Members-at-Large and the Appeals Coordinator) discussed 60 cases:

- There were 47 Level One appeals and 13 Level Two appeals;
- The Appeals Committee granted 10 Level One appeals and 4 Level Two appeals.

### **Issues Addressed this Past Year**

The Discipline Working Group (DWG) of the Senate Residence Committee met several times over the academic year and summer to review and modify our disciplinary process, with a view to improving its efficacy. In order to address the challenges of the existing system, the DWG reviewed the following proposed changes to the judicial system for the 2009-2010 academic year:

- Ratifications will be dealt with by the Chairs instead of the Peer Judicial Board;
- The malicious pulling of a fire alarm has been categorized as a Level Three offence instead of a Level Two offence;
- In order to appeal a Level One or a Level Two offence, students will have to fill out a Residence Community Standards Appeal Form and submit it within two (2) days from the date of a responsibility letter instead of seven (7) days; and
- Sanction must be submitted within five (5) business days instead of ten (10) business days.

The DWG agreed that these changes are in keeping with the direction set by Senate, and has recommended that they be implemented this fall.

### **Looking Ahead**

In keeping with their mandate, the Discipline Working Group has been asked to resume its annual review of the Residences' judicial procedures and sanctions, specifically;

- research the investigative procedures and sanctions regarding the use of illegal substances at other institutions;
- research rates of recidivism at other institutions;
- review statistics involving repeat offenders and the Level Three progression of offences and explore other approaches to reducing the rate of recidivism; and
- review the list of Level Two offences that involve the tampering of fire safety equipment in particular 2.5a, 2.5c and 2.5d.

It is anticipated that the tasks listed above will be undertaken in the upcoming fall months.

Respectfully submitted by:

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On behalf of the Discipline Working Group members:  
Harry Smith – Coordinator of Dispute Resolution Mechanisms  
Edward Schiavon – VP (Discipline), Main Campus Residents' Council  
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