

## **UNIVERSITY TRIBUNAL INFORMATION SHEET FOR WITNESSES**

*I'm a witness at a University Tribunal, what information do I need to know?*

### **What is the University Tribunal?**

The University Tribunal is an adjudication process designed to handle alleged violations of the *Student Code of Conduct* ([www.yorku.ca/oscr](http://www.yorku.ca/oscr)). Tribunal Hearings provide an opportunity for a balanced airing of facts. The Hearings are held in private. The goal of the Hearing is to determine whether there has been a breach of the Code based on a "balance of probabilities," meaning that the Tribunal must find that it is more probable than not that a contested allegation is established as fact, or not.

### **What is my role as a witness?**

The University Tribunal relies heavily upon the accounts of Witnesses to make its determinations about the responsibility of the Respondent (the accused party). As a Witness, you will be asked to provide information regarding the events in question. The Respondent, the Case Presenting Officer (CPO) and University Tribunal members will have an opportunity to question you in order to clear up any confusion in your testimony or to elicit additional information. You have the right to decline to answer questions, but you may not be less than truthful in any responses you do give.

### **How long will the Hearing take?**

Please arrive at the Hearing on time. Business casual attire is appropriate. During the hearing you will be asked to wait in the waiting room until the University Tribunal is ready to hear your testimony. After your testimony, you may be asked to wait outside the room until the University Tribunal question period resumes. Hearing duration varies depending on the nature and complexity of the case. Most Hearings last about two hours. The University Tribunal respects your time and will excuse you as soon as possible. You may wish to bring something to read while you wait.

### **For More Information...**

For more information about the University Tribunal proceedings or about the student judicial process, pick up a copy of the *Student Code of Conduct* or visit <http://www.yorku.ca/oscr>.