

# UNDERSTANDING CONSENT

## Youth Focused



### What is consent?

- Consent is an ongoing process of discussing boundaries and what one is comfortable with.
- Consent is an active, affirmative, conscious, direct, unimpaired, and voluntary agreement to engage and continue to engage in sexual activity.
- Consent is ongoing and can be revoked at any time.

### Consent is **NOT**:

- Able to be given by those who are underage, intoxicated or incapacitated by drugs or alcohol, or asleep or unconscious.
- Agreement under pressure of intimidation or threat, because it was not given freely.
- Engaging in sexual activity with an employee or student, as that is an unequal power dynamic.



### Consent Is:

- Informed
- Freely-given
- Coherent
- Ongoing
- Sober
- Enthusiastic
- Clear
- Specific
- Essential
- Comfortable
- Active
- Reversible/Changeable
- Based on equal power
- Breaking away from gender "rules." Any partner might want to take it slow. And, it's not one partner's job to initiate the action all the time.



### Consent Is NOT:

- Flirting
- Silence
- Dressing sexy
- The absence of "no"
- Being in a relationship
- Accepting a ride or a drink, etc.
- If you have to convince them
- Having had sex with the individual before
- Saying yes (or saying nothing) while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Saying yes or giving in to something because you feel too pressured or too afraid to say no.
- Consent is not a free pass. Saying yes to one act doesn't mean you have to consent to other acts. Each requires its own consent.



## AGE OF CONSENT IN CANADA

**16 years old.** That means that a 16 year old can legally engage in sexually activity as long as CONSENT is in place. (ie: It isn't with a person in a position of power or authority over them, they weren't coerced and they aren't under the influence or unconscious.)

However, there is a "close-in-age" exception in Canada which states that those 12 & 13 years old can consent to sexual activity with someone **LESS** than 2 years older and those 14 & 15 years old can consent to sexual activity with someone **LESS** than 5 years older.

AGE	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20+
12	YES	YES							
13	YES	YES	YES						
14		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES		
15			YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	
16			YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

