



EAST PRESTON FAMILY RESOURCE
CENTRE

SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

March Issue: Consent

“When it comes to sexual activity and sex, you have the right to decide when you do it, where you do it, and how you do it.”

- teentalk.ca-



When someone says no to a sexual act, the other person(s) must respect that no, otherwise it is sexual violence.

When "Yes" doesn't mean "Yes"

Consent is also about working to address power imbalances and creating space for someone to say no, verbal or otherwise. Not being able to say no can lead someone to say yes when they don't want to. They may

say yes:

If they have been coerced (i.e. convinced, pressured, or threatened).



If there is a power imbalance amongst the people involved (i.e. a coach, teacher, support person, boss, etc).



**To take the online training, please visit
www.breakthesilencens.ca/training**



When "Yes" doesn't mean "Yes"



If they are fearful that they may be physically harmed or otherwise punished, bullied or shamed if they say no.

If they are under the influence of alcohol or drugs.



To avoid an argument or violent outburst.



To get out of a dangerous situation.

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Legal Age of Consent

16 is the legal age of consent

-it cannot be "a relationship of trust, dependency or authority" (ex: coach, teacher, doctor)

14 or 15 can consent to sexual activity with someone who is less than 5 years older

-it cannot be a "relationship of trust, authority, or dependency" or where there is "exploitation"

12 or 13 can consent to sexual activity with someone who is less than 2 years older

-it cannot be a "relationship of trust, authority, or dependency" or where there is "exploitation"

Under 12 cannot legally consent under any circumstance.

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CONSENT IS:



Everyone involved must be clear on what they are consenting to.



CLEAR



**FREELY
GIVEN**

Consent is not present if they were pressured into engaging in that sexual activity.



Consenting to sexual activity on one occasion doesn't mean that person is consenting to sexual activity in the future. Consent must be present each and every time someone engages in sexual activity.



CURRENT



ONGOING

Consent must be given for each and every sexual act. Just because consent is present for one sexual act doesn't mean it is present for another. People's desires and feelings of comfort and safety can shift throughout a sexual encounter.



All parties must be able to stop the sexual activity at any point. This means checking in with the person(s) throughout the sexual activity, getting a clear answer and then respecting that answer.



CHANGEABLE