

HELP IS AVAILABLE!

Avalon Centre:	(902) 422-4240
Halifax Sexual Health Centre:	(902) 455-9656
Halifax Regional Police:	(902) 490-5016
Halifax Police Regional Victim Services:	(902) 490-5300
RCMP Victim Assistance:	(902) 865-6649
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Youth Project:	(902) 429-5429
Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team:	(902) 429-8167
Metropolitan Immigrant Settlement Association (MISA):	(902) 423-3607
Halifax Refugee Clinic:	(902) 422-6736
Public Prosecution Services	(902) 424-8734
Family Services Association	(902) 420-1980
Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission	(902) 424-4111

If you or someone you know needs support, please call



About Avalon Sexual Assault Centre: Who We Are

Established in 1983, Avalon Centre is the only sexual assault centre in the Halifax Regional Municipality. We are a registered, not-for-profit, community based, charitable organization. We gratefully received funding from The NS Department of Community Services, The NS Department of Health, The Law Foundation of Nova Scotia, and from special projects and private donations.

Vision Statement:

The Avalon Sexual Assault Centre is a feminist organization working to eliminate sexual assault/abuse, and to change the current socio-political culture that fosters sexism, social injustice and other forms of oppression.

Mission Statement:

To provide services for those affected by sexual violence, with primary emphasis on support, education, counselling and leadership/advocacy services for women.

Avalon Sexual Assault Centre
1526 Dresden Row, 4th Floor
Halifax, NS
B3J 3K3

Business Line: (902) 422-4240
Fax Line: (902) 422- 4628
After Hours Response Line: (902) 425-0122
SANE Business Line: (902) 422-6503
SANE Fax Line: (902) 422- 4962
Email: avaloncentre@eastlink.ca
avalonsane@eastlink.ca
www.avaloncentre.ca

YOUTH GUIDE TO CONSENT

**Consent +
Sensuality =
Consentuality!**



The Criminal Code of Canada defines consent as a voluntary agreement between two people to engage in a specific sexual activity at a specific time.

- Consent that is obtained through pressure, fear, force or threats of force (either to yourself or to someone else), is NOT voluntary consent. Agreeing to have sex because of guilt, pressure, sense of obligation or just to “fit in” is not true consent
- Saying “yes” to one sexual activity does not mean yes to every sexual activity. You also have the right to change your mind and withdraw consent at any time after you have said “yes”
- If a person is a child, is drunk, drugged, passed out, asleep or dependent on the abuser, they are unable to give consent
- Silence, passivity or ambiguous conduct does not imply consent– the person must give an overt indication of consent (saying “yes” for example). There is no such thing as implied consent

**Consent Can NEVER be
assumed or chemically
induced**



Age of Consent under the Criminal Code of Canada

The Age of Consent, or Age of Protection in Canada is designed to help protect youth from adult sexual predators, and not to regulate consensual teenage activity. As such, the legislation is as follows:

The Age of Consent for non-exploitative sexual activity (sexual activity which does not involve prostitution or pornography and where there is no relationship of trust, authority or dependency between the persons involved) is now 16 years

However, the following exceptions apply:

- Youth aged 12 or 13 can consent to non-exploitative sexual activity with persons who are no more than 2 years older
- Youth aged 14 or 15 can consent to non-exploitative sexual activity with persons who are no more than 5 years older
- To engage in anal sex, both people must be 18 years of age or older, or married

Children younger than 12 can never consent to sexual activity with anyone, of any age, regardless of whether or not they say they do

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!

- Approximately 80% of sexual assault perpetrators were known to their victims before the assault occurred
- Most sexual assaults occur in cars and homes, not in dark streets and alleyways
- Most sexual assault victims do not suffer visible physical injuries– just because you do not have cuts and bruises does not mean that you were not sexually assaulted
- Sexual assault is not committed by “sexually starved men”. It is a crime of violence committed by ordinary men; even men you know
- 85% of sexual assault victims in Canada are female and 91% of abusers of both males and females are men
- Men can be sexually assaulted too; approximately 10% of reported sexual assault cases are of males being assaulted, with the perpetrator also being male

**No one deserves to be sexually assaulted–
ever. The victim is never to blame. The per-
petrator is always 100% at fault.**

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