

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT**

**Everyone in Canada has the right to choose when or if they engage in sexual activity. Sexual activity without consent is sexual assault, and is a crime.**

**Sexual assault includes any unwanted sexual act forced by one person on another. It includes a wide range of behaviours, from unwanted touching to forced sexual intercourse.**

- **Most sexual assaults are committed by friends, family members and acquaintances of the victim**
- **Sexual assault can happen to people of any age, gender, social class or sexual orientations**
- **Most cases of sexual assault go unreported.**

## **WHAT IS CONSENT?**

**You give consent when you agree to take part in sexual activity. No consent is given if:**

- **A third party consents for you**
- **You are not capable of giving consent (ie. you are unconscious or passed out or unaware of what was happening to you; you have a mental or physical disability that prevents you from giving consent)**
- **You communicate, in words or actions, a lack of consent to take part in or continue with the sexual activity**
- **The other person is in a position of trust, power or authority over you**
- **There are specific laws concerning the age when you are considered able to give consent. In Canada, persons under the age of 16 are not considered mature enough to give consent. There are exceptions for teens who are close in age.**

