

## If you need help

John Howard Society Youth Outreach  
Worker: 250-218-0483

Hornby/Denman Island Youth  
Outreach: 250-218-6521

AVI Youth Outreach:  
250-218-0305

Community Based Victim Services:  
250-338-7575 ext. 224

Sexual Abuse Counselors:  
250-338-7575 ext. 222

Lilli House Women's Shelter (24hr):  
250-338-1227

Transitions Society/Girls Groups:  
250-897-0511

Vancouver Island Crisis Line:  
1-888-494-3888

Helpline for Children:  
310-1234

Kids Help Phone (24hr):  
1-888-668-6868

Victim Line: 1-800-563-0808

Options for Sexual Health:  
250-331-8572

STD Info-Line:  
1-888-488-7444

### Online Resources:

- [needhelpnow.ca/applen/dealing-with-others](http://needhelpnow.ca/applen/dealing-with-others)
- [www.yesmeansyes.com/learn](http://www.yesmeansyes.com/learn)



This pamphlet is provided by  
CASEY Comox Valley – Community  
Against Sexual Exploitation of  
Youth.

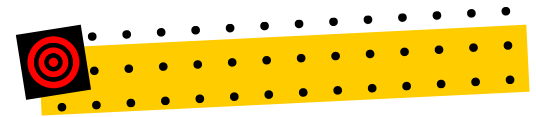
CASEY is a community action team  
focused on raising awareness about  
sexual exploitation and providing  
community education on the topic.



CASEYCOMOXVALLEY



caseycomoxvalley@gmail.com



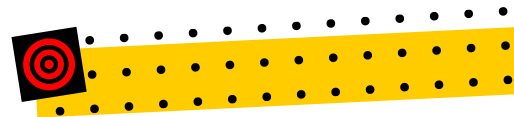
# Understanding

# Consent

to

# Sexual Activity

***Only Yes  
Means YES!***



## What is Consent?

- Voluntary agreement by individuals involved in sexual activity
- Happens enthusiastically—*without* manipulation, threats, or coercion
- Without consent—it is considered an offence

**PROTECT YOURSELF**— make sure you give, or get consent!

## How old do I have to be to give consent?

Canadian law says the age of consent for sexual activity is 16 years of age. There are some exceptions that make sure consensual sexual activity is not labeled an offence. It is not an offence if:

- A 14 or 15 year old consents to sexual activity with someone *less than 5 years older*
- A 12 or 13 year old consents to sexual activity with someone *less than 2 years older*
- *A person under 12 years old cannot give consent.*

**PROTECT YOURSELF**— even if your partner appears to be over the age of 16 make sure you ask. The law says adults must take all reasonable steps to determine the age of the younger person.

## What counts as Sexual Activity?

Age of consent laws apply to *all forms of sexual activity* including:

- ◇ Kissing
- ◇ Sexual touching
- ◇ Sexual intercourse

## What if I say no?

No means no. If you say no, push away, kick, scream, etc. and the person doesn't stop, *it is sexual assault*. Sexual assault is against the law, no matter what age you are.

## What if I agree to the sexual activity at first, and then change my mind?

Once you show that you no longer agree to the sexual activity, there is no longer consent. *You can take back your consent*. Also, consenting to one kind of sexual activity, does not mean you consent to another.

## What if I was drunk or passed out when it happened?

You actually have to be *able* to give consent—*awake, conscious and sober enough to make a clear decision*.

**PROTECT YOURSELF**—have a safety plan and a friend you can trust with you.

## What about sexting, photo sharing & online interactions?

Consent only goes so far in those areas— you decide what you want to share, but you can't control what someone else does with it.

**PROTECT YOURSELF**—all images and texts sent to cyberspace are there forever—even if they have been deleted, they can be retrieved. Also, you and the person you send the images to, could be charged with distribution/possession of child pornography! Be careful.

## What is Sexual Exploitation?

- This happens when someone takes advantage of a younger or more vulnerable person and involves the exchange of a sexual act for money, drugs, food, shelter, or anything else.

**PROTECT YOURSELF**—if someone is asking for a sexual act in exchange for anything it is sexual exploitation!

