



Northlands College Policy Sexual Assault

This Policy applies to all members of the College community including: board members, management, instructors, staff, students, contractors, service providers, individuals who are directly connected to any College initiatives, volunteers and visitors.

POLICY STATEMENT

All members of the Northlands College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. This document sets out our policy and response protocol to sexual violence and ensures that those who experience sexual violence are treated with dignity and respect, and are listened to without judgement and with acceptance of the disclosure as true. This policy will also ensure that the College has the proper process of investigation that protects the rights of individuals and holds individuals who have committed an act of sexual violence accountable.

We are committed to reducing sexual violence and creating a safe space for anyone in our College community who has experienced sexual violence. The College is a safe and positive space where members of the College community feel able to work, learn and express themselves in an environment free from sexual violence.

All reported incidents of sexual violence will be investigated to the best of the administration's ability and in a manner that ensures due process. The College will make every effort to create an environment in which all individuals feel comfortable making a report, in good faith, about sexual violence that he or she has experienced or witnessed.

We recognize that sexual violence can occur between any individual regardless of sexual orientation, gender and gender identity or relationship status as articulated in the *Saskatchewan Human Rights Code*. We also recognize that individuals who have experienced sexual violence may experience emotional, academic or other difficulties.

We acknowledge and will be responsive to the intersecting forms of oppression based on gender, race, ethnicity, age, etc., that can increase the risk of sexual violence for some populations.

Senior management will review and update this policy annually to reflect changes to provincial and federal policies and legislations, and best practices in the prevention and response to sexual violence.

DEFINITIONS

Sexual assault: A criminal offence under the *Criminal Code* of Canada. Sexual assault is any type of unwanted sexual act done by one person to another that violates the sexual integrity of the victim. Sexual assault is characterized by a broad range of behaviours that involve the use of force, threats or control towards a person which makes that person feel uncomfortable, distressed, frightened, threatened or that is carried out in circumstances in which the person has not freely agreed, consented to or is incapable of consenting to.

Sexual violence: A broad term that describes any violence, physical or psychological, carried out through sexual means or by targeting sexuality. This violence takes different forms including sexual assault, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, stalking, indecent or sexualized exposure, degrading sexual



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imagery, voyeurism, cyber harassment, trafficking and sexual exploitation. Neither a formal criminal charge nor a human rights complaint is necessary for this definition to operate for the purposes of this policy.

Sexual Harassment: Is a form of discrimination that is against the law. It is unwarranted sexual conduct that interferes with rights guaranteed by the Saskatchewan Human Rights Code and this policy. Sexual harassment may be verbal, physical or visual. It may be one incident or a series of incidents. It is always unsolicited and unwelcome behavior and can take many forms, including, but not limited to:

- Sexual remarks
- Jokes with sexual overtones
- Sexual advance or invitation
- Displaying offensive pictures or photographs
- Threats
- Leering
- Physical touching such as touching, patting, pinching or brushing against
- Sexual and physical assault.

Substance-Facilitated Sexual Assault: Refers to the use of alcohol and/or drugs to intentionally sedate or incapacitate another individual for the purpose of committing a sexual assault.

Sexual Cyber Harassment/ Cyber Stalking: Often used interchangeably, cyber harassment and cyber stalking are defined as repeated, unsolicited, threatening behavior of a sexual nature by a person or group using some form of internet technology with the intent to bully, harass, and intimidate others. Such harassment can take place in any electronic environment where communication with others is possible, such as on social networking sites, message boards, chat rooms, and text messages.

Consent: The voluntary agreement to engage in the sexual activity in question. It is the act of willingly agreeing to engage in specific sexual behaviour and requires that a person is able to freely choose between two options: yes and no. This means that there must be an understandable exchange of affirmative words which indicates a willingness to participate in mutually agreed upon sexual activity. It is also imperative that everyone understands the following:

- Consent is never implied and cannot be assumed. The absence of “no” does not mean “yes”.
- Silence or non-communication must never be interpreted as consent and a person in a state of diminished judgment cannot consent.
- A person is incapable of giving consent if she/he is asleep, unconscious or otherwise unable to communicate.
- Consent cannot be given if a person is being coerced, pressured, threatened or bribed.
- A person who is drugged is unable to consent.



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- A person may be unable to give consent if she/he has a developmental disability.
- The fact that consent was given in the past to a sexual or dating relationship does not mean that consent is deemed to exist for all future sexual activity.
- A person can withdraw consent at any time during the course of a sexual encounter.

It is the responsibility of the initiator of sexual activity to obtain clear and affirmative responses at all stages of sexual engagement.

Coercion: In the context of sexual violence, coercion is unreasonable and persistent pressure for sexual activity. Coercion is the use of emotional manipulation, blackmail, threats to family or friends or the promise of rewards or special treatment, to persuade someone to do something they do not wish to do, such as being sexual or performing particular sexual acts.

Date Rape: Sexual contact that is forced, manipulated or coerced by a partner, friend or acquaintance.

Stalking: A form of criminal harassment prohibited by the Criminal Code of Canada. It involves behaviors that occur on more than one occasion and which collectively instill fear in the victim or threaten the victim/target's safety or mental health. Stalking can also include threats of harm to the target's friends and/or family. These behaviors include, but are not limited to: non-consensual communications; threatening or obscene gestures; surveillance; sending unsolicited gifts; "creeping" via social media/cyber stalking; and uttering threats.

Survivor: A survivor is anyone who has experienced sexual assault. Individuals might be more familiar with the term "victim". The term "survivor" is used because a person having experienced sexual assault means that they have survived something – not that they have been victimized by it.

Disclosure: For the purpose of this document, a disclosure involves a student/staff member choosing to tell anyone about their experience of sexual violence (different from a complaint).

Complaint: A formal report that is made to authorities, such as the President & CEO, Director, Human Resources Manager, or police thereby initiating a legal or quasi-legal investigation process.

GUIDELINES

We are committed to:

- Assisting those who have experienced sexual violence by providing detailed information and support, including provision of and/or referral to counselling and medical care and appropriate academic and other accommodation;
- Ensuring that those who disclose that they have been sexually assaulted are treated with dignity and respect, listened to without judgement and with acceptance of the disclosure as true, and that their right to dignity and respect is protected throughout the process of disclosure, investigation and institutional response;
- Treating individuals who disclose sexual violence with compassion recognizing that they are the final decision-makers about their own best interests;



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- Ensuring that on-campus investigation procedures are available in the case of sexual violence, even when the individual chooses not to make a report to the police;
- Engaging in appropriate procedures for investigation and adjudication of a complaint which are in accordance with College policies and standards, and that ensure fairness and due process;
- Increasing coordination and communication among the various departments who are most likely to be involved in the response to sexual violence on campus;
- Engaging in public education and prevention activities, and providing information to the College community about sexual violence on campus;
- Providing appropriate education and training to the College community about responding to the disclosure of sexual violence;
- Contributing to the creation of a campus atmosphere in which sexual violence is not tolerated; and,
- Monitoring and updating our policies and protocols to ensure that they remain effective and in line with current best practices.

PROCEDURES

Reporting and Responding to Sexual Violence

Persons in a position of authority, including persons directing the activities of others, shall take immediate action to respond to or to prevent sexual violence from occurring.

Where the College becomes aware of incidents of sexual violence by a community member or against a community member, which occur on or off College property and that pose a risk to the safety of community members on College property, the College shall take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of the College community.

Victims/survivors have the following disclosure and reporting options, and may choose any of these options, or any combination of the available options:

- a) No police report. A victim/survivor may wish to disclose sexual violence (i.e., tell someone) in order to seek emotional support but may not want to report to police or other campus authorities. Subject to certain limited exceptions (as outlined in the confidentiality sections of this policy), this decision should be respected, and the victim/survivor should still be offered/referred to support services including emotional support, counselling, medical treatment, emergency housing, and financial aid.
- b) Report to police. A victim/survivor may wish to report a sexual assault to police. In these cases, victims/survivors should immediately be offered the support of a campus-based sexual assault response worker (where they exist) or a community-based sexual assault victim support worker and accompany the victim/survivor, and assist with emotional preparation – critical components of an



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empowering and trauma-informed response. A person with a disability may also want an advocate from disability services that they use to accompany them for support.

- c) Report to the College (President & CEO, Director, Human Resources Manager). A victim/survivor may wish to inform the College about what happened so that they are aware that a sexual assault perpetrator may be on campus or amongst the campus community. The victim/survivor may or may not then decide to make a formal report to the College or police, and should be offered connection to a sexual assault response worker or advocate for support and accompaniment to do this.
- d) Third party report to police via community victim service agency. A victim/survivor may wish to make an anonymous Third Party Report (TPR) through a campus sexual assault response worker (where they exist) or community-based victim support worker. Third Party Reports are sent to police departments by an intermediary agency; the report provides detailed information about the crime and the perpetrator, but does not include the name or contact information of the victim/survivor. The intermediary agency workers must be knowledgeable about, and able to provide support through, the criminal justice system. A Third Party Report is not in and of itself a police investigation; it is an option of last resort for victims who would not otherwise provide information to the police but who may want to access support and let the police know of a sexual predator in order to protect others (Community Coordination for Women's Safety, Ending Violence Association of BC, 2014; 2015). Third Party Reporting is not a substitute for a call to 911.
- e) Medical Assistance/ Forensic Medical Exam. It is advisable for anyone who has experienced a sexual assault to seek medical attention because of the possibility of physical injury, pregnancy and/or sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. Victims/survivors should be referred to the nearest hospital and should be connected with a sexual assault response worker or advocate who can provide support and accompaniment to the hospital. The victim/survivor should be informed that medical staff can conduct a forensic medical exam and collect forensic samples, ideally within 72 hours, but forensic samples can be collected up to 1 week after a sexual assault. This forensic medical exam is commonly referred to as a 'rape kit'. In some provinces, if the victim/survivor is unsure about reporting to police at the time of the exam, forensic samples can be collected and stored for up to 1 year while the victim/survivor decides whether or not to speak with the police. If possible, advise the sexual assault victim/survivor to not shower, eat or drink, brush teeth, or change clothing before the forensic exam, as that may destroy some potential forensic evidence (although forensic samples can still be taken). Sexual assault response workers should be knowledgeable about which local hospitals offer forensic medical exams, and should share this information with victims/survivors in addition to offering them accompaniment to the hospital. If the victim/survivor does not wish to go to a hospital or seek medical attention, respect that decision unless you are aware of injuries that need to be addressed.
- f) Formal Complaint to the College. The victim/survivor may wish to make a formal report to the College, and precipitate a student misconduct process (if the perpetrator is a student). Students who have been accused of sexual violence should have transparent processes available to them, and student discipline is only one of several remedial options. The rights of both victims/survivors (e.g., to safety, privacy) and the individual(s) identified as the perpetrator(s) (e.g., to procedural fairness) should be clearly articulated in the campus sexual violence protocol. A formal complaint may also be



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made to Human Resources or other relevant administrative department if the perpetrator is staff of faculty. Victims/survivors should be offered support through a sexual assault response worker or advocate.

- g) **Civil Claim.** The victim/survivor may wish to contact a civil lawyer with expertise in suing a perpetrator civilly to inquire about taking the perpetrator to court for damages suffered. This option may be pursued instead of, or in addition to, all or any of the above options.

Complaint Process and Investigations

A complaint of sexual assault or any other kind of sexual violence can be filed under this Policy by any member of the College community.

The College will seek to achieve procedural fairness in dealing with all complaints. As such, no action will be taken against a person or group without their knowledge where there is an alleged breach of this Policy. It is intended that accused individuals be given reasonable notice, with full detail of the allegations and provided with an opportunity to answer to the allegations made against them.

Right to Withdraw a Complaint

A complainant has the right to withdraw a complaint at any stage of the process. However, the College may continue to act on the issue identified in the complaint in order to comply with its obligation under this Policy and/or its legal obligations.

Protection from Reprisals, Retaliation or Threats:

It is contrary to this Policy for anyone to retaliate, engage in reprisals, or threaten to retaliate against a complainant or other individual for:

- having pursued rights under this Policy or the *Saskatchewan Human Rights Code*;
- having participated or co-operated in an investigation under this Policy or the *Saskatchewan Human Rights Code* or
- having been associated with someone who has pursued rights under this Policy or the *Saskatchewan Human Rights Code*.

Anyone engaged in such conduct may be subject to sanctions and discipline.

Unsubstantiated Complaints

If a person, in good faith, discloses or files a sexual violence complaint that is not supported by evidence gathered during an investigation, that complaint will be dismissed and no record of it will be placed on file. However, disclosures or complaints that are made to purposely aggravate, embarrass, or harm the respondent are considered frivolous, vexatious or bad faith complaints and may result in sanctions against the complainant and/or discipline.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality is extremely important to those who have disclosed sexual violence. The confidentiality of all persons involved in a report of sexual violence must be strictly observed, and the College will do its best to respect the confidentiality of all persons.



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Privacy Principles:

- Every effort will be made to respect the wishes of the victim/survivor and protect the privacy of the victim/survivor's personal information, including identity, if the individual does not wish this information to be shared.
- Every effort will be made to protect the privacy and anonymity of any person who discloses an incident of sexual violence.
- Subject to certain limited exceptions, before disclosing any information reported related to incidents of sexual violence, the express consent of the person making the report is required. Ensure that the person fully understands the meaning of consent.
- The limits to confidentiality will be outlined to the victim/survivor or the person making the report upon disclosure or as soon as possible after disclosure.
- Before disclosing any information reported related to incidents of sexual violence, potential immediate safety concerns will be canvassed with the person making the initial report, and every effort will be made to address these safety concerns.

Privacy rights are not absolute and the College may be required to take immediate action.

Confidentiality cannot be assured in the following circumstances:

- an individual is at imminent risk of self-harm;
- an individual is at imminent risk of harming another;
- there are reasonable grounds to believe that others in the College or wider community may be at risk of harm;
- there is a requirement to report to child welfare, where a child (someone under 19 years) is in need of protection; or
- there is a requirement to comply with a court order for release of information.

If there is a requirement by the College to release the information without consent based on the above information, it shall only be released by the President & CEO. In such circumstances, information would only be shared with necessary services to prevent harm, and the name of the victim would not be released to the public.

Where the College becomes aware of an allegation of sexual violence against a member of the College community by another member of the College community, the College may also have an obligation to take steps to ensure that the matter is dealt with in order to comply with the College's legal obligation and/or its policies to investigate such allegations. In such cases, certain College administrators will be informed about the reported incident on a "need to know" and confidential basis, but the identities of the persons involved will not necessarily be shared.

If the survivor/victim makes a disclosure about the perpetrator, consent from the perpetrator is required before the information can be disclosed further by the person receiving the disclosure or report. However, laws allow such information to be shared without consent in the following circumstances:



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- If there is compelling circumstances that affect anyone's health or safety.
- To assist in an investigation or in making a decision to start an investigation.
- If the disclosure is for the purposes for which the information was originally collected and the disclosure is necessary for those purposes.

SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE PROTOCOL

If you have experienced sexual violence

If you have experienced sexual violence, please call the Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan (SASS) at any of the 24-hour crisis lines:

Battlefords	1-866-567-0055	Moose Jaw	1-800-217-7083
Estevan/Weyburn	1-800-214-7083	Prince Albert	1-306-764-1011
Kindersley/West Central	1-306-463-1860	Regina	1-306-352-0434
La Ronge	1-306-425-4090	Saskatoon	1-306-244-2224
Lloydminster	1-306-825-8255	Swift Current/Southwest	1-306-778-3833
Melfort/Northeast	1-800-611-6349		

The staff and volunteers on each line are trained in sexual assault response and can help you through your questions and concerns. They will assist you by providing all the resources and support you need. It is often difficult to disclose and report incidents of sexual violence. It is entirely up to you if you choose to report the incident; however, we strongly encourage you to do so.

Anyone who has experienced sexual violence has the right to:

- be treated with dignity and respect;
- be listened to without judgement and with acceptance of the disclosure as true;
- be informed about on and off-campus services and resources;
- decide whether or not to access available services and to choose those services they feel will be most beneficial;
- decide whether to report to Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan and/or local police;
- have an on-site investigation with the College's full cooperation;
- have a safety plan and



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- have reasonable and necessary actions taken to prevent further unwanted contact with the alleged perpetrator(s).

If you would like to file a formal complaint

Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan listed above can also assist you with filing a complaint. If the alleged perpetrator is another member of the College community, you may file a complaint under this Policy.

Individuals who have experienced sexual violence may also wish to press charges under the *Criminal Code*. The Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan can also assist you with contacting the local Police.

What to do if you witness sexual violence

If you witness sexual violence, please call the Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan at any of the 24-hour crisis lines as outlined above. They will assist you by providing all the resources and necessary support.

If a member of the instructional or administrative staff of the College becomes aware of an allegation of sexual violence against another member of the College community, they are required to report the alleged incident to the President & CEO immediately.

What to do if someone discloses allegations of sexual violence

A person may choose to confide in someone about an act of sexual violence, such as a student, instructor, teaching assistant, student advisor or an administrative staff member. An individual who has experienced sexual violence may also disclose to an instructor or administrative staff member when seeking support regarding another matter. A supportive response involves:

- listening without judgement and accepting the disclosure as true;
- communicating that sexual violence is never the responsibility of the victim;
- helping the individual identify and/or access available on or off-campus services, including emergency medical care and counselling;
- respecting the individual's right to choose the services they feel are most appropriate and to decide whether to report to the police or Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan at the numbers listed above.
- recognizing that disclosing can be traumatic and an individual's ability to recall the events may be limited;
- respecting the individual's choices as to what and how much they disclose about their experience and
- making every effort to respect confidentiality and anonymity.

If disclosure is made to an instructor or an administrative staff member by a student seeking support or academic accommodation, they should refer the student to a Student Advisor and work with the



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Student Advisor to ensure that the student receives all necessary academic and other accommodations if necessary.

As indicated above, if an instructor or administrative staff member of the College becomes aware of an allegation of sexual violence against another member of the College community, the instructor or administrative staff member is required to report the alleged incident to the President & CEO immediately.

Communicating with individuals who have experienced sexual violence

Sensitive and timely communication with individuals who have experienced sexual violence and their family members (when an individual consents to this communication) is a central part of the College's first response to sexual violence. To facilitate communication, the College will:

- ensure that designated staff members in the Student Services/Human Resources department (depending whether it is a student or staff member) who are knowledgeable about sexual violence, are responsible for advocacy on campus on behalf of staff, students or any other member of the College community who has experienced sexual violence;
- ensure designated staff members respond in a prompt, compassionate and personalized fashion and
- ensure that the victim is provided with reasonable updates about the status of the College's investigation of the incident when such investigations are undertaken.

Roles and responsibilities of the College Community

While everyone on campus has a role to play in responding to incidents of sexual violence, some campus members will have specific responsibilities which might include:

- student support services to provide psychological and emotional support, assist with safety planning and make referrals to other services, including medical services;
- instructors, staff and administrators to facilitate academic accommodations and other academic needs of those who have experienced sexual violence and
- Human Resources to assist with any incidents relating to staff.

How will the College respond to a report of sexual violence?

Where a complaint of sexual violence has been reported to the College, the College will exercise care to protect and respect the rights of both the complainant and the respondent. The College understands that individuals who have been the victims of sexual violence may wish to control whether and how their experience will be dealt with by the police and/or the College. In most circumstances, the person will retain this control. However, in certain circumstances, the College may be required to initiate an internal investigation and/or inform the police of the need for a criminal investigation, even without the person's consent, if the College believes that the safety of other members of the College community is at risk.



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Instances where the respondent is a student

Sexual violence is a violation of Northlands College's Sexual Assault Policy. It is considered a serious offence and will be addressed in a manner that is consistent with other serious offences. Please see Northlands College Policy 404, Student Conduct, for more details on each disciplinary process.

Instances where the respondent is an employee

Sexual violence is a violation of Northlands College's Sexual Assault Policy. Allegations against employees will be addressed in accordance with the procedures set out in this Policy, and in any applicable collective agreement, and/or other College policies. If the complaint is sustained following an investigation, Human Resources will decide on the appropriate disciplinary actions consistent with any applicable collective agreement and/or policies regarding discipline.

Instances where the respondent is a third party

Contractors, suppliers, volunteers or visitors who attend on campus will be subject to complaints if they engage in prohibited conduct. All contractual relationships entered into by the College will be governed by a standard contract compliance clause stating that contractors must comply with this Policy and the *Saskatchewan Human Rights Code*, including co-operating in investigations. Breach of the clause may result in penalties, cancellation, or other sanctions.

Any allegation of sexual violence on campus where the complainant is unrelated to the College will be referred to the local Police.

Multiple proceedings

Where there is an ongoing criminal investigation, the College will work cooperatively with the local police in conducting its investigation.

Media Release

As per Northlands College policy 212, only the President & CEO and Board Chairperson are able to speak on behalf of the College.

Other Resources and Supports Available

- Abused Women Information Line 1-888-338-0880
- Partners Family Services 1-306-682-5135
- Addiction Services 1-306-682-3249
- Avenue Community Centre (for LGBT2SQ and others) 1-800-358-1883
- Food Bank
 - La Ronge 306-420-9448 or 306-425-9244
 - La Loche 306-822-2606
 - Prince Albert 306-763-5040
 - Flin Flon 204-687-7262
- Public Health 1-306-682-2626
- RCMP 1-306-682-2535



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- Suicide Crisis Line 1-306-9363-6077
- Health Line 811
- Kids Help Phone 1-800-668-6868

Dispelling the Myths and Misconceptions about Sexual Assault

Myth	Fact
Sexual assault can't happen to me or anyone I know.	Sexual assault can and does happen to anyone. People of all socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds are victims of sexual assault. Young women, Aboriginal women and women with disabilities are at greater risk of experiencing sexual assault.
Sexual assault is most often committed by strangers.	Someone known to the victim, including acquaintances, dating partners, and common-law or married partners, commit approximately 86% of sexual assaults.
Sexual assault is most likely to happen outside in dark, dangerous places.	The majority of sexual assaults happen in private spaces like a residence or private home.
If an individual doesn't report to the police, it wasn't sexual assault.	Just because a victim doesn't report the assault doesn't mean it didn't happen. Fewer than one in ten victims report the crime to the police.
It is not a big deal to have sex with someone while she/he is drunk, stoned, or passed out.	If a person is unconscious or incapable of consenting due to the use of alcohol or drugs, she/he cannot legally give consent. Without consent, it is sexual assault.
If the person chose to drink or use drugs, then it is not considered sexual assault.	This is a prominent misconception about sexual assault. No one can consent while drunk. Some people drink to lose their inhibitions. If you are going to be drinking, consider discussing physical boundaries ahead of time, but know that consent cannot be truly given in advance.
If the victim didn't scream or fight back, it	When an individual is sexually assaulted she/he may become paralyzed with fear and be



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<p>probably wasn't sexual assault.</p> <p>If the victim does not fight back, the sexual assault is his/her fault.</p>	<p>unable to fight back. The person may be fearful that if she/he struggles, the perpetrator will become more violent. If the person is under the influence of alcohol or drugs, she/he may be incapacitated or unable to resist.</p>
<p>If you didn't say no, it must be your fault.</p>	<p>People who commit sexual assault/abuse are trying to gain power and control over their victim. They want to make it extremely difficult, if not impossible, for their victim to say "no". A person does not need to actually say the word "no" to make it clear that she/he did not want to participate.</p>
<p>If a man/woman isn't crying or visibly upset, it probably wasn't a serious sexual assault.</p>	<p>Every person responds to the trauma of sexual assault differently. She/he may be silent or very angry. His/her behavior is not an indicator of his/her experience. It is important not to judge a person by how she/he responds to the assault.</p>
<p>If someone does not have obvious physical injuries, like cuts or bruises, she/he was probably not sexually assaulted.</p>	<p>Lack of physical injury does not mean that a person wasn't sexually assaulted. An offender may use threats, weapons or other coercive actions that do not leave physical marks. The person may have been unconscious or been otherwise incapacitated.</p>
<p>If it really happened, the victim would be able to easily recount all the facts in the proper order.</p>	<p>Shock, fear, embarrassment and distress can all impair memory. Many survivors attempt to minimize or forget the details of the assault as a way of coping with trauma. Memory loss is common when alcohol and/or drugs are involved.</p>
<p>Individuals lie and make up stories about being sexually assaulted; and most reports of sexual assault turn out to be false.</p>	<p>According to Statistics Canada, fewer than 1 in 10 sexual assault victims report the crime to the police. Less than 2% of sexual assault reports are false, the same false reporting rate as for all other major crimes.</p> <p>The number of false reports for sexual assault is very low, consistent with the number of false reports for other crimes in Canada. Sexual</p>



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	assault carries such a stigma that many people prefer not to report.
It wasn't rape, so it wasn't sexual violence.	Any unwanted sexual contact is considered to be sexual violence. A survivor can be severely affected by all forms of sexual violence, including unwanted fondling, rubbing, kissing or other sexual acts. Many forms of sexual violence involve no physical contact, such as stalking or distributing intimate visual recordings. All of these acts are serious and can be damaging.
Persons with disabilities don't get sexually assaulted.	Individuals with disabilities are at a high risk of experiencing sexual violence or assault. Those who live with physical and mental limitations are over two times more likely to be victims of sexual assault than those who are able-bodied.
A spouse or significant other cannot sexually assault their partner.	Sexual assault can occur in a married or other intimate partner relationship. The truth is, sexual assault occurs any time there is not consent for sexual activity of any kind. Being in a relationship does not exclude the possibility of, or justify, sexual assault. A person has the right to say "no" at any point.
People who are sexually assaulted "ask for it" by their provocative behavior or dress.	Nobody deserves to be sexually assaulted. Someone has deliberately chosen to be violent toward someone else; to not get consent. Nobody ever asks to be assaulted. No mode of dress, no amount of alcohol or drugs ingested, no matter what the relationship is between the survivor and the perpetrator or what the survivor's occupation is, sexual assault is always wrong.
Rape only happens to women.	The majority of sexual assaults are committed against women by men, but people of all genders, from all backgrounds could experience sexual violence.
Sexual abuse of males is rare.	Estimates show that 1 in 8 men will experience some form of sexual violence during their lifetime. Sexual assault/abuse occurs in every



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	economic, ethnic, age and social group.
If you got aroused, got an erection or ejaculated you must have enjoyed it.	It is normal for your body to react to physical stimulation. Just because you become physically aroused does not mean that you liked it, wanted it or consented in any way. If you experienced physical pleasure, this does not exclude the fact that sexual abuse happened or the effects or feelings of abuse.

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