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## Expectations

In Grades 6 and 7 the students discussed the concept of consent. In Grade 7, the students learned that sexual exploitation occurs when someone engages in sexual activity without the other person's clear consent. The students learned that a clear YES, freely given, is the only way someone can give their consent. Saying nothing, being unclear in words or body language, or saying no at any time is NOT consent. This concept needs to be reviewed with students as the issue of sexual assault is discussed. Students need to understand that forcing another to engage in sexual activity without their consent is a crime. The students also need to know that consent that has been given initially can be withdrawn at any time, and the sexual activity must then stop. Finally, the students must also understand that being forced to say "yes" is not true consent.

### Important Words

- *consent*

Health and Physical Education  
expectation D2.3

The students will:

- analyze external and internal pressures on young adolescents to become involved at an early age in exclusive male-female relationships.
- recognize and appreciate the need to develop all aspects of their lives, including friendships with people of the opposite sex.

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### Note to the Teacher

In Topic 4, the students continue to reflect on the journey from childhood to adulthood, this time with a focus on relationships between males and females during early adolescence. There is a great deal of pressure on young people to become involved in exclusive male-female relationships and to engage in sexuality activity, a concern that is addressed in this topic.

▷ This topic also features an interest box about sexual abuse. It is important for the students to know that any sexual intimacy, not just intercourse, that is forced by one person on another is an abuse of sexuality and a crime. They should also be aware of the serious consequences of the sexual abuse of children or young people and the pressing need for victims to get help and contact the Children's Aid Society.

**Caution:** Your students are likely aware of media reports about high-profile cases of sexual abuse of children or young people, some involving clergy, and of other cases involving sexual crimes and may want to discuss them. A suggested response to this situation is to remind the students that all instances of sexual abuse are grave moral wrongs and criminal offences, but you will want to be careful not to be sidetracked into discussing specific cases.

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### Important Words

- *infatuation, sexual assault*

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### Materials/Preparation

- Before presenting this topic, assign two students to prepare the section on External Pressures (pages 85 – 87) and two students to prepare the section on Internal Pressures (pages 87 – 89). Ask them to read the material, discuss it, present it to the class, and prepare two discussion questions.
- For additional information, you may want to consult the unit on dating in the Supplementary Resources to support Grade 8 Family Life Education, available at [www.carfleo.org](http://www.carfleo.org).

## Understanding Consent

In addition to those questions suggested to follow the feature on sexual abuse in the Teacher's Guide (page 172), you might also ask:

- In Grade 7 you discussed sexual exploitation and *consent*. Do you remember what you learned? (A clear YES, freely given, is the only way someone can give their consent. Saying nothing, being unclear in words or body language, or saying no at any time is NOT consent.)
- There are some things we need to expand upon when we are discussing consent. If someone says yes, but they have been forced to do so, is that consent? (No. Consent must be freely given. If someone is forced to say yes, perhaps because of the use of a weapon, or because of blackmail, or because the other person is in a position of power over the victim, then that 'yes' is not true consent. If a mind altering substance has been given to the person that impairs their conscious and free decision-making, they cannot give consent [i.e. date rape drugs, person is severely intoxicated and passes out etc.]
- If someone says 'yes' at first but then changes his/her mind or wants to stop, can the other person ignore that request? (No. As soon as the person says no, it must be respected. All unwanted activity must stop.)
- It is very important to understand that it is not only adults that can be charged with sexual assault and sexual exploitation. For example, in the case of sexting, if someone under the age of 18 intentionally sends a sexually intimate picture of him or herself to someone else, is any crime being committed? (Yes, the crime of distribution (and possession) of child pornography. According to the law, a child is anyone under the age of 18 and it is therefore unlawful to knowingly possess or distribute sexually explicit images of a person under 18.)

## Health and Physical Education expectations D1.4, D2.3 and D3.3