**Sexualized Assault Prevention Month 2015 - FAQ**

*What’s the story with these posters? (Posters will be released on May 1st)*

* The goal of this campaign is to talk about the reality of sexualized assault, alcohol, and responsibility.
* Alcohol is often used deliberately by offenders in order to get someone wasted, so that they can commit sexualized assault.
* When someone is wasted, they cannot legally give consent.
* Drinking isn’t a crime, rape is.
* We also want to help everyone understand how, and when, they can legally get consent.

*Does sexualized assault happen here?*

* Yes. 1 in 4 women in Canada will be sexually assaulted during her life. [[1]](#footnote-1)
* Aboriginal women are 3 to 4 times more likely to be victims of violence than non-Aboriginal women. [[2]](#footnote-2)
* Yukon has rates of violence against women 3.5 times greater than the national average. [[3]](#footnote-3)
* More than half (58%) of sexualized assault victims are under 18. [[4]](#footnote-4)
* 97% of offenders of sexualized assaults are male.[[5]](#footnote-5)
* 92% of offenders of sexualized assaults were known to the victim.[[6]](#footnote-6)
* Alcohol is a factor in sexualized assaults more than we know. Victims may not report this fact because they don’t remember the details, or they fear being blamed.

*Is alcohol really a date rape drug?*

* Yes. Alcohol depresses the central nervous system. A large intake of alcohol over a very short period of time can result in a temporary coma or in alcohol poisoning. It is by far the most prevalent date rape drug because it is easy to use, readily available, legal, and socially acceptable.
* In some cases, an offender may actively encourage drunkenness by buying drinks, encouraging drinking, or by mixing drinks with more alcohol than requested.
* Sometimes an offender takes advantage of a woman who is drinking when her resistance is weakened.
* According to the stories we hear in our work, the practice of sexually assaulting a woman while she is wasted or passed out is a very common reality for women in Yukon.

*Can men be sexually assaulted?*

* Yes. But the majority of offenders – even offenders of sexualized assault against men - are still men.
* 92% of reported sexualized assaults victims were women.[[7]](#footnote-7)
* In nearly all incidents of sexualized violence against women (99%), the accused perpetrator was male.[[8]](#footnote-8)

*Why are we talking about responsibility?*

* When women drink, they are often blamed for what happens.
* When men drink, they often use alcohol as an excuse for their actions.
* This is an unfair double standard. We need to stop victim blaming.

*How does this affect reporting rates?*

* Only 1 in 10 sexualized assaults are reported to the police.[[9]](#footnote-9)
* However, most victims will disclose violence to someone they know: a friend, support worker, or supervisor, for example.
* We all have to responsibility to listen when someone discloses violence, to believe, and to ask how we can help.

*What do I need to know about consent?*

* It is the responsibility of the person initiating action to get consent.
* Under the Criminal Code, consent is deemed not to be obtained if:
* it is given by someone else
* the person is unconscious, drunk, stoned, or sleeping
* it is an abuse of power, trust, or authority
* the person does not say yes, says no, or through other words or behaviour implies no
* the person changes his or her mind
* Without consent, it is not sex. It’s rape.

*What can I do about it?*

* Get consent: ongoing, voluntary, and enthusiastic!
* If someone discloses abuse to you, believe her. Ask her how you can help. You don’t need to have all the answers.
* Support local women’s organizations that provide support and advocacy on violence against women.
* If you identify as a man, join White Ribbon Yukon. Your voice is very important; talk to your friends and family about how violence is not acceptable.
* If you see the media or the legal system using words that blame the victim, respond.

Make a phone call, send an email, or write a letter.

1. ######  Many studies have reported this statistic since the 1980, including  Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women “Changing the Landscape:  Ending Violence”, Achieving Equality, Ottawa, 1993.

 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Violence Against Aboriginal Women ,Government of Canada, Newfoundland Labrador, 2005. Available: <http://www.gov.nl.ca/VPI/facts/aboriginal_women_fact_sheet.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. “Measuring Violence against Women: Statistical Trends, 2013” Statistics Canada, <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2013001/article/11766-eng.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. “Sexual Assault in Canada, 2007” Statistics Canada, <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85f0033m/2010024/part-partie1-eng.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. “Gender Differences in Police-Reported Crime in Canada, 2007” Statistics Canada, <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85f0033m/2010024/part-partie1-eng.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Measuring Violence Against Women, 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. General Social Survey on Victimization, 2009 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. General Social Survey on Victimization, 2009 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. “Criminal Victimization in Canada, 2009” Statistics Canada <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2010002/article/11340-eng.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)