

LEGAL AGES OF CONSENT

Youth's Age	Can Youth Consent?
Under 12	No; No person under 12 years of age is able to consent to sexual activity
12 or 13 years old	Sometimes; Only if the age difference is less than 2 years.* ¹
14 or 15 years old	Sometimes; Only if the age difference is less than 5 years.* ²
16 or 17 years old	Yes; *
18 years and older	Yes. No longer considered child sexual abuse. Unwanted sexual activity would now be sexual assault.

1 Peer Experimentation - 12 & 13 year olds may have sexual contact with other youth, provided the age difference is less than 2 years older:

12 years old - up to 14 years less a day; 13 years old - up to 15 years less a day

2 Close-In-Age Exemption - 14 & 15 year olds may have sexual contact with other youth or young adults, provided the age difference is less than 5 years older:

14 years old - up to 19 years less a day; 15 years old - up to 20 years less a day

* except where the other person is in a position of trust or authority over the child, the child is dependent on the other person or the relationship is exploitative.

Sources: Criminal Code of Canada, Section 150.1



The Dragonfly Centre offers free and confidential sexual violence service and support to individuals who have experienced sexual trauma, current or historical.

1-866-300-HEAL (4325)

www.thedragonflycentre.com