

## **Myths and Realities**

### **Sexual Assault**

**Myth:** Women are at greatest risk of being sexually assaulted by strangers

**Reality:** Studies show that women are at a greater risk of being assaulted by men they know.

**Myth:** If a woman claims to be raped by someone she dates or is married to, she is lying.

**Reality:** Having sex with a person one time or being in a relationship does not mean consent to any future sexual acts.

**Myth:** She doesn't have any bruises or injuries so it was not sexual assault.

**Reality:** Many sexual assaults involve physical force. Others involve threats, manipulation, coercion or other non-physical violence. Any sexual act forced on another person without clear consent is sexual assault, whether or not physical violence is involved.

**Myth:** She didn't fight back, so it wasn't sexual assault.

**Reality:** Women respond in many different ways to sexual assault. Some women fight back verbally or physically, while others may "freeze" or remain quiet. Forced sex is sexual assault, whether the woman fights back or not.

## **Myths and Realities**

### **Sexual Assault**

**Myth:** Once a woman has said yes to sex, she is not allowed to change her mind.

**Reality:** Every person has the right to change their mind about having sex at any time.

**Myth:** Drugs and alcohol are often the reason that sexual assault occurs.

**Reality:** Drugs and alcohol are involved in many sexual assaults, but they are not the cause of sexual assault. These are just the excuses for it.

**Myth:** Women involved in the sex trade cannot be sexually assaulted.

**Reality:** Women who are prostitutes, exotic dancers, or who work in the pornography industry, along with all other women, are sexually assaulted when a sexual act is forced upon them.

**When a woman says NO she means NO**

**For more information contact 250-392-4118**

---