<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Myth</th>
<th>Fact</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women provoke sexual assault by how they dress or act. They’re inviting sexual violence and are increasing their chances of being sexually assaulted</td>
<td>The offender alone makes the choice to commit sexual assault. No one is ever “asking” for sexual violence, regardless of clothing, flirtation, or attitude. Women have the right to pursue and engage in consensual sexual activity. How she acts or dresses is not an invitation for sexual activity against her will.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some victims of dating violence or sexual assault provoke violence committed by their dates by making them jealous, acting mean, or teasing them into thinking they want to have sex</td>
<td>Violence is NEVER the victim’s fault. There is no such thing as victim precipitated violence. Victims are not responsible for the thoughts or actions of their attackers. Only people who use violence are responsible for their actions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Only strangers can commit rape. They attack in dark alleys and in parks</td>
<td>The majority of sexual assaults are committed by someone the victim knows (a date, acquaintance, partner, friends, co-worker, spouses). Victims are often assaulted in private residences. This myth implies that sexual assault can be prevented by avoiding certain places.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teen girls are as abusive as boys</td>
<td>Research shows that teen girls are not as likely to be as abusive as teen boys. Teen boys are far more likely to initiate violence and teen girls are more likely to be violent in a case of self-defense.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People who drink or use drugs are “asking” to be sexually assaulted</td>
<td>Many perpetrators use alcohol and drugs to make their victims more compliant. A person cannot consent if they are drugged, intoxicated, or unconscious. Being vulnerable isn’t the same as giving consent. The perpetrator alone is responsible for their actions. Believing this myth blames the victim and excuses the perpetrator for taking responsibility for sexual assault.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sexual assault is a crime of passion</td>
<td>This assumes that sexual violence is about uncontrollable lust, when it is about power, control, aggression and humiliation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women cry rape when they regret having sex or want revenge or attention. They lie about rape</td>
<td>Statistics show approximately two percent or less of sexual assaults are false reports. In fact, sexual assault is largely unreported because victims feel like they will not be believed. This stereotype assumes women are unable to enjoy casual sex, are vindictive, manipulative, and/or generally untrustworthy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>If the victim didn’t say something immediately, it wasn’t sexual assault</td>
<td>Trauma, shame, and guilt inhibits a victim from immediately reporting sexual assault. Victims can also be deterred by the adversarial nature of the justice system and the invasive process of police investigations and court trials. This stereotype discourages people from seeking help when they’re ready.</td>
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<tr>
<td>If the victim didn’t scream, fight back, or</td>
<td>This assumes that there is a correct (and incorrect) way to react from an</td>
</tr>
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| get injured, it wasn’t sexual assault | attack, and blames the victim for the assault. It also assumes that there is always physical violence during sexual assault. 

Victims face a real fear of injury or being killed if they fight back. They may not fight back because of a personal connection to their attacker. Some victims experience tonic immobility, which is a fear response that paralyzes them. 

Assuming that the victim should fight back puts the onus on the victim to prevent the actions of their attacker, rather than the attacker being responsible for their actions, which leads to more victim blaming. |
| --- | --- |
| If the assault really happened, the victim would be able to remember the details in chronological order | The brain shuts down in times of trauma, which affects the ability to form memories. 

Shock, fear, and distress can impair memory function. It is difficult to remember if alcohol or drugs were involved. And many survivors actively attempt to forget or minimize the details of the assault to help them cope. |
| If the person has agreed to sex on a prior occasion, they have consented to sex for all time | Consent must be given for each and every sexual act. 

Consent can be revoked at any time. 

Regardless of the relationships, sexual activity cannot be expected in advance. |
| If two people are married, living together, dating, or on a date, consent is implied. Romantic partners cannot sexually assault one another. | Being in any kind of relationship does not give someone the right to force sex without consent. Sexual assault can occur in intimate partner relationships. 

Friendliness, flirtation, or paying for dinner are not invitations to sexual activity. Regardless of the relationship, sexual activity cannot be expected in advance. |
| Saying “no” or “stop” is the only way to express that you want sexual activity to stop | Non-verbal cues can indicate that someone is not consenting, such as silence, squirming, crying, shaking, and rigid or robotic movements. 

“I’m not into this,” “Maybe later,” “I’m not sure,” are all examples of NO. 

If a person is asleep or unconscious, they CANNOT give consent. 

The absence of NO does not mean yes! |
| Saying “no” means “maybe” or even “yes!” | If you are unsure, ASK! 

The responsibility for obtaining consent is on the person initiating sexual contact. Pleading ignorance or misunderstanding is not a permissible defense in a Canadian court of law. |
| If the attacker is drunk, they can’t be charged with sexual assault | Being drunk is not a reason or excuse to force someone into sexual activity. 

Canadian law is clear: being drunk is not a permissible legal defense in court. An attacker is responsible for their actions no matter how intoxicated they are at the time of the assault. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the sexual activity has already begin, the person has consented and they cannot change their mind</th>
<th>Consent can be withdrawn at any time during sexual activity.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canadian law is clear: once the person has indicated verbally or non-verbally that they want the activity to stop, their partner is legally obligated to stop.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Sources:
https://saskatoonsexualassaultcentre.com/learn/rape-myths/
http://www.betweenfriendschicago.org/teentalk_factmyth.html
https://www.tru.ca/sexual-violence/rape-myths.html
http://www.betweenfriendschicago.org/teentalk_factmyth.html