

## Stand Informed Legal Advice Services Media Kit

### Stand Informed Services

Stand Informed legal advice services ([Stand Informed](#)) is a free, confidential legal advice service available to anyone who has experienced sexual assault in BC and lives in BC.

Our lawyers advise clients on the law relating to sexual assault, including criminal, civil, and human rights law, and can also give advice on interrelated legal issues such as immigration, and family law. We also assist clients to connect with support services understanding that a client needs more than legal advice.

Stand Informed is operated by [Community Legal Assistance Society](#) (CLAS), a non-profit legal aid organization providing free legal assistance to disadvantaged people, specializing in human rights, housing, income security, worker's rights, mental health law, workplace sexual harassment, and sexual assault.

### Topics

Stand Informed continuously monitors the latest legal and policy developments related to sexual assault. We can provide comments to media on the following topics as they relate to sexual assault:

- General legal information about sexual assault (e.g., what it is, who can be involved, where it can happen, and legal and non-legal options to address it);
- Stories relating to sexual assault;
- Legal proceedings and court/tribunal decisions;
- Law and policy reform and legislative changes; and
- Non-disclosure agreements in settlements.

### Who We Are



**Jennifer Khor** is the Supervising Lawyer and Project Manager for CLAS's Stand Informed legal advice services, as well as CLAS's SHARP Workplaces Legal Advice Clinic which assists people who have experienced workplace sexual harassment. She established Stand Informed in 2023, and has been running SHARP Workplaces since 2020. Jennifer provides legal advice to clients in addition to developing and delivering education and training on sexual assault and workplace sexual harassment.

Jennifer has over 20 years of experience in gender equality, human rights, law reform, justice system reform, and access to justice and legal aid initiatives. She has worked internationally leading projects to improve access to justice and human rights in Africa and Asia. Prior to joining CLAS, she worked for Legal Aid BC developing and implementing legal aid initiatives across the province.

To Contact Us: Email [standinformed@clasbc.net](mailto:standinformed@clasbc.net)

## Media Backgrounder

Sexual assault is when someone touches, or threatens to touch another person sexually, without consent. Sexual assault is a criminal offense. Many types of touching without consent, may be considered sexual assault. An attempted act is considered sexual assault.

The following are some key findings from recent studies about sexual assault in BC and Canada.

### Demographics:

- In a 2018 survey, around 6 million Canadians reported having experienced sexual assault at least once since the age of 15 (Cotter & Savage, 2019). While anyone can be sexually assaulted, the majority of these incidents of sexual assault were experienced by women (Cotter & Savage, 2019; Cotter, 2021). In BC, 37% of women had experienced sexual assault at least once since the age of 15 (Cotter & Savage, 2019).
- Young people (aged 15 – 34) and Indigenous people are at a higher risk of sexual assault than other age demographics (Cotter, 2021; Conroy & Cotter, 2017). A 2014 study found that over 1 in 5 young Indigenous women had been sexually assaulted (Conroy & Cotter, 2017).
- People who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or 2S+ are more likely to suffer sexual assault (Jaffray, 2020).

### Considerations around sexual assault:

- The majority of sexual assault incidents (6% in a 2019 study) are not reported to the police (Cotter, 2021). The decision not to contact police is often due to fear of being blamed or doubted, a lack of faith that the system will deliver justice, and a reluctance to go through a process that could be re-traumatizing. These reasons are more significant for marginalized women, who are often at higher risk of experiencing sexual assault in the first place (Prochuk, 2018).
- In a 2018 survey, only 9% of women who had been sexually assaulted accessed a victim services program (Cotter & Savage, 2019).

### References

- Conroy, S., & Cotter, A. (2017). Self-reported sexual assault in Canada, 2014. *Juristat*, 1-34. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2017001/article/14842-eng.htm>
- Cotter, A. (2021). Criminal victimization in Canada, 2019. *Juristat*, 1-37. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2021001/article/00014-eng.htm>
- Cotter, A., & Savage, L. (2019). Gender-based violence and unwanted sexual behaviour in Canada, 2018: Initial findings from the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces. *Juristat*, 1-49. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2019001/article/00017-eng.htm>
- Prochuck, A. (2018). We are here: Women's Experiences of the Barriers to Reporting Sexual Assault. West Coast Leaf. <https://westcoastleaf.org/work/we-are-here-womens-experiences-of-the-barriers-to-reporting-sexual-assault/>
- Jaffray, B. (2020). Experiences of violent victimization and unwanted sexual behaviours among gay, lesbian, bisexual and other sexual minority people, and the transgender population, in Canada, 2018. *Juristat*, 1-27. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2020001/article/00009-eng.htm>