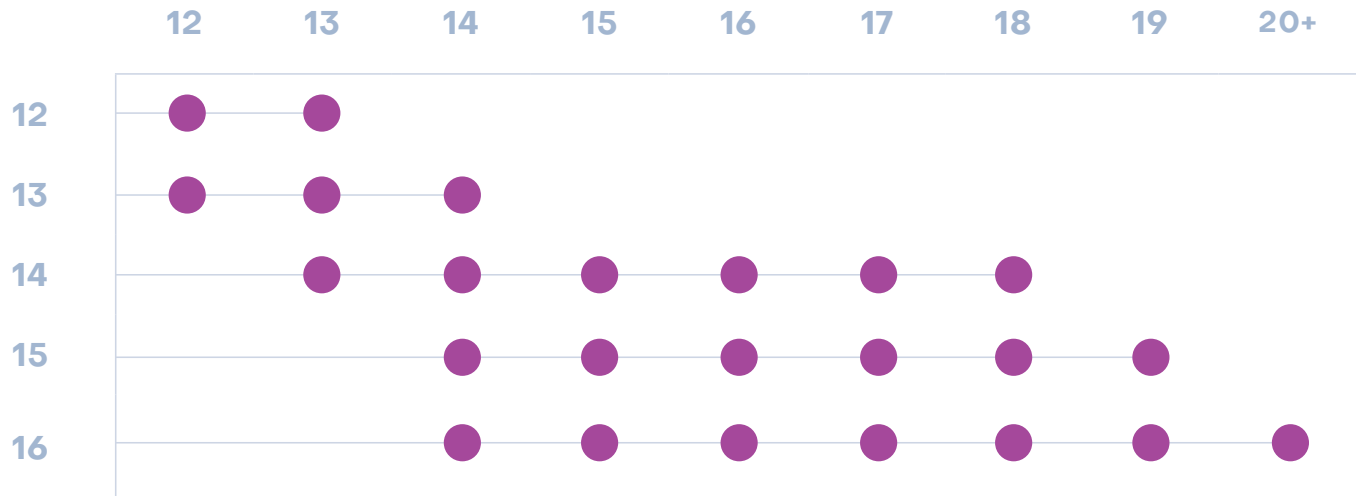


Age of Consent in Canada



Age of Consent is 16

When someone is 16 years old they are able to consent to sexual activity with a person who is 14 or older. The only exception would be when the older person is in a position of power, trust, or authority (see Sexual Exploitation Laws for detail).

Close-In-Age Exemption

Applies only to people who are 14 & 15 years old. When someone is 14 or 15 they are able to consent to sexual activity with a person who is LESS than 5 years older than them.

14-years-old

- Can consent to sexual activity with someone up to the age of 18.

15-years-old

- Can consent to sexual activity with someone up to the age of 19.

Peer Experimentation Exemption

Applies only to people who are 12 & 13 years old. When someone is 12 or 13 they are able to consent to sexual activity with a person who is LESS than 2 years older than them.

12-years-old

- Can consent to sexual activity with someone up to the age of 13.

13-years-old

- Can consent to sexual activity with someone up to the age of 14.

Sexual Exploitation Laws

- Sexual contact involving persons under 18 may only happen between individuals with whom there is no relationship of power, trust, authority or dependency.
- Sexual contact involving persons under 18 must be in relationships that are non-exploitative. “Exploitation” depends on how the relationship developed, how the partner may have controlled or influenced the young person, or if it involved luring over the internet, prostitution or pornography.

Sources: Criminal Code of Canada, Section 150.1 “Frequently Asked Questions: Age of Consent to Sexual Activity” (Justice Canada).

Available at www.justice.gc.ca/eng/dept-min/clp/faq.html



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