

IT IS NEVER OKAY TO OFFER SOMEONE TEA, BUT THEN SLIP IN SOME ALCOHOL OR DRUGS TO MAKE IT A “SPECIAL” TEA. *Putting alcohol or drugs in someone’s drink without their knowledge is considered assault and is against the law. In addition, when a person has had alcohol or drugs, they are no longer legally able to give consent.*

WHAT IF YOU HAD TEA TOGETHER LAST SATURDAY? *That does not mean they want tea all the time, or even one more time. They do not want you saying, “but you had tea with me before.” They do not want you forcing tea down their throats. Consent to drinking tea, like all consent, is a continuous, affirmative “yes, yes, yes.”*

Of course you wouldn’t force feed someone to drink tea because they said “yes” to a cup last week.

Of course you wouldn’t pour tea down the throat of an unconscious person because they said “yes” to tea five minutes ago when they were conscious.

Whether Tea or Sex, Consent is Everything.

Contact us with your questions about consent, and our services and support for survivors of sexual violence.

Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre, 411 Water Street, Suite 102, Peterborough, Ontario K9H 3L9

**Crisis Line: 705-741-0260 Toll Free: 1-866-298-7778
Office Tel: 705-748-5901**

**Visit us online at: www.kawarthasexualassaultcentre.com
Facebook and Twitter @ksacstaff**

*Adapted from Rockstar Dinosaur Pirate Princess © 2015
<http://rockstardinosaurpirateprincess.com/2015/03/02/consent-not-actually-that-complicated/>*

Consent and A Cup of Tea

**A guide for parents and guardians
when talking to teens and young adults
about sexual consent**



With thanks to:



Status of Women
Canada

Condition féminine
Canada



A Steaming Hot Topic!

Explaining sexual consent to the young people in your life can be uncomfortable and embarrassing. It has been a very prominent topic on the news, social media and between friends, so chances are, young people are hearing various sides of the consent story. This is a topic filled with stigma, shame and myths. When you talk about consent, it is important to be clear and accurate with your message. We have adapted an interesting analogy to help you simplify the conversation about consent over a cup of tea.

Below you will find several statements and questions that relate sexual consent to drinking tea. These statements and questions will help you support young people in building critical thinking skills about situations they may encounter.

“Would you like a cup of tea?”

We can always offer someone a cup of tea, and they have the option to accept it or refuse it. Here is what they might say ...

“Absolutely, yes I would love a cup of tea!”
You definitely know they want a cup of tea.

“Um ... ah ... I’m not sure.”
You can make them a cup of tea, or not, but be aware they might not drink it.

If they don’t drink it then – and this is the *important* part – don’t *make* them drink it. You can’t blame someone if you have made a cup of tea on the off-chance they may drink the tea, but decide not to. Just because you made it, doesn’t mean you have the right to watch them drink it.

“No thank you. I do not want a cup of tea.”
Then don’t make the tea, don’t make them drink the tea and don’t get annoyed that they don’t want any tea.

“Yes please, that’s kind of you.” (But then they change their mind while you are steeping the tea and adding milk.)
It may feel kind of annoying because you’ve gone to the effort of making tea, but they are under no obligation to drink the tea. It is always okay for people to change their minds. You are not entitled to watch them drink it because you made it. Making them drink would be assault.

IF THEY ARE UNCONSCIOUS, DON’T MAKE THEM DRINK TEA. *Unconscious people do not want to drink tea. They definitely can’t answer the question, “Would you like a cup of tea.” Unconscious people can never give consent.*

WHAT IF THEY WERE CONSCIOUS WHEN YOU ASKED?
Put the tea down. Make sure they are safe now. Don’t make them drink the tea! If you make them drink the tea, that is assault.

WHAT IF THEY SAID ‘YES’ AND THEN BECAME UNCONSCIOUS WHILE DRINKING THE TEA?
Don’t keep pouring it down their throat. Take the tea away. Make sure they are safe. Even if they said ‘yes’ earlier, an unconscious person cannot give consent.

