



# CITIZEN'S CRIME PREVENTION ASSOCIATION OF NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

## What is Sexual Harassment at School?

- Unwelcome sexual advances or behaviour which is severe or persistent enough to create an uncomfortable (even hostile) environment for a student or teacher
- Behaviour in school with sexual content which is demeaning, embarrassing or makes another person feel bad.
- Both males and females can be victims of sexual harassment. However, in the majority of cases the victim is female.

## What Forms can Sexual Harassment Take?

- Demeaning comments of a sexual nature
- Unwanted (persistent) sexual advances
- Staring gestures of a sexual nature
- Unwanted touching and grabbing
- Snapping bra straps
- Pulling clothing down
- Rating other students

## Isn't it Really Just Flirting?

There is a big difference between sexual harassment and flirting.

- Flirting is enjoyed by the recipient
- Sexual harassment is unwelcome and uncomfortable and demeaning.
- Flirting makes the recipient feel good
- Sexual harassment makes the person feel bad, upset or put down.
- Flirting is most often mutual
- Sexual harassment is often done to another person.
- Flirting is not an expression of power
- Sexual harassment is usually an expression of power.
- Flirting creates a comfortable, positive environment.
- Sexual harassment creates a tense environment.



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## What can be done to Stop This in Schools?

- Parents and Students need to ensure that their school board has a Sexual Harassment Policy
- Schools Codes of Conduct should name Sexual Harassment
- Schools Should implement gender equity and the elimination of sex-role stereotyping
- Schools should teach values and skills related to non-violence
- Schools can plan special awareness events focusing on Sexual harassment
- Students should be encouraged to report all incidents of sexual harassment
- Everyone should work together to make school a safe place where learning and growth can occur