

HOW WE ADDRESS TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CANADA

CURRENT TRENDS IN SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL CURRICULA, POLICIES, AND LEGISLATION

What is TFSV?

Technology-facilitated sexual violence (TFSV) refers to harassing behaviours of a sexual nature that occur through people's use of technologies. This can include:

- ➔ Online sexual harassment
- ➔ Image-based sexual abuse
- ➔ Sexual aggression and/or coercion
- ➔ Gender and sexuality-based harassment

Who is affected by TFSV?

High rates of TFSV are consistently reported among young people in Canada and internationally.


People of historically marginalized races, ethnicities, genders, and sexual orientations (e.g., BIPOC/racialized youth, 2SLGBTQIA+ youth, young women) are significantly more likely to experience TFSV.




How is TFSV addressed in educational curricula, policies, and legislation across Canada?


9 provinces/territories (AB, BC, MB, NB, NWT, ON, PEI, QC, YK) teach about concepts related to TFSV throughout secondary curricula. But only **3 provinces/territories** (BC, ON, YK) recognize that sexual violence can occur online and include content on TFSV-specific online behaviours.


No provinces/territories comprehensively address TFSV-related behaviours within the context of intersectionality and power imbalances in their educational curricula and policies:

 **4 provinces/territories** (BC, MB, NB, QC) consider intersectionality in supplemental or optional resources, not in core curricular documents.

 **4 provinces/territories** (MB, NB, NL, PEI) recognize how power and control are related to violence, abuse, bullying, harassment, and relationships, but do not directly link gender and sexual orientation to online (sexual) behaviours.

All provinces/territories except Nunavut have bullying legislation in place (which often includes cyber, electronic, or written bullying), but **only 3 provinces/territories** (NB, NS, NL) have legislation penalizing TFSV-related behaviours.

 Using (cyber)bullying as an umbrella term to refer to TFSV-related behaviours may diminish or dismiss the harms experienced by young people.

 Categorizing TFSV as bullying or cyberbullying may make it hard for young people to access certain resources, for example, legal or policy supports related to sexual violence.

TFSV is inconsistently addressed in secondary schools across Canada

We need a greater focus on TFSV in educational curricula, policy, and legislation in order to facilitate students' understanding of TFSV and their ability to access relevant resources.

Download the full report **here!**



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