



ABOUT OHL ONSIDE:

OHL ONSIDE is a leading edge initiative between the Ontario Hockey League (OHL) and the Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres (OCRCC). The development of this toolkit was informed and supported by the OHL, the Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre (KSAC) and the Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region (SASC). The OHL ONSIDE program is aimed at increasing the understanding and awareness of the player's responsibility to demonstrate respect for women through their actions and words. This project has been developed as a two hour workshop with opportunity for personal development and ongoing leadership as young men in the Ontario Hockey League. This initiative will see the Ontario Hockey League as leaders in promoting the importance of respectful relationships between young men and women in their communities.

BACKGROUND:

The OHL is one of the three major junior hockey leagues that comprise the Canadian Hockey League (CHL), which is the world's largest developmental hockey league. Across the CHL, there are sixty teams in nine Canadian provinces and four American states. Formed in 1933, there are currently twenty OHL teams: seventeen are based in Ontario, two are based in Michigan, and one is based in Pennsylvania.

In 2014, the Peterborough Petes asked KSAC to provide a training for their players that would help them to understand the importance of respecting women. Due to the success of this training, KSAC was asked by the OHL to design a similar training for all their teams. In 2015, SASC was brought on to help KSAC develop OHL ONSIDE because of their expertise in engaging men through their Male Allies program.

OHL ONSIDE OBJECTIVES:

- Promote an understanding amongst OHL players of the dominant narrative of masculinity.
- Provide OHL players with healthy counter narratives of masculinity.
- Encourage OHL players to consider how their words and actions can demonstrate respect for women.



WHY ENGAGE MEN?

In 2005, the White Ribbon Campaign conducted a survey with men across Canada to better understand perceptions and attitudes towards gender-based violence. 75% felt that it is very important to speak out about issues of gender based violence; while 66% felt that they could personally be doing more. In this context, most men appear to be caught between knowing the importance of speaking out against gender-based violence and feeling unsure of how to help. The OHL ONSIDE toolkit takes a strengths-based approach to sexual violence prevention; and thus, works to approach OHL players as potential leaders.

Respecting women involves more than simply not committing sexual assault. By connecting everyday attitudes and behaviours that devalue women to incidents of sexual assault, program exercises are designed to help OHL players consider the importance of standing up and speaking out as proactive leaders in promoting respect for women.

ABOUT THE COLLABORATING CENTRES:

Founded by Trent University, the **Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre** provides support and counselling to individuals over 16 who have been harmed by sexual violence in their lifetime. We also advocate for social change within our community by raising public awareness around the conditions and attitudes that contribute to sexual violence and ongoing cycles of harm. We engage the community through public education and community development through conferences, classroom workshops, in-Centre and offsite training, social media, and special events. Our vision is to be a community leader in building an inclusive, healing and equity-based region.

Sonya Vellenga, *Executive Director*

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The **Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region** is a community-based, social profit organization. We provide services and support to people, and their families, who have experienced sexual violence. Our public education program educates for social change by providing workshops and resource materials to schools, professionals, and the broader community. To better engage men and boys in this work, SASC created the Male Allies program. Since 2008, the Male Allies program has invited men and boys to be allies alongside women in the movement to end gender-based violence. A central focus of the Male Allies program is engaging male athletes throughout the Waterloo Region; including male student-athletes at both Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Waterloo.

Joan Tuchlinsky, *Public Education Manager*

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