

Commitments

Whitehorse Sexualized Assault Response Team (SART)

December 2022

SART Commitments

This table lists the 27 commitments made by SART agencies. They are organized as follows:

- Inter-agency cooperation;
- Contexts of sexualized violence;
- Access, inclusion and cultural responsiveness;
- Consent, confidentiality and privacy;
- Informed consent and the criminal justice system; and
- Children and youth under 19 years of age.

Inter-agency cooperation	
1	Recognizing that multiple service providers may be called on at the same time and place to provide assistance to victims, it is important for communication between service providers to occur in an honest and respectful way. In consideration of the victim, this collaboration needs to take place in a space that is private and allows for open discussions. Whitehorse SART agencies commit to making best efforts to find a suitable place on site for these types of discussions and making everyone aware of where the space is located. This will be particularly necessary at Whitehorse General Hospital and the RCMP detachment.
2	Whitehorse SART agencies will ensure that frontline service providers have access to contact information. SART will strive to provide agency contacts in a range of formats.
3	Whitehorse SART agencies will ensure that when working with victims of sexualized assault, frontline workers will review SART contact information as much as possible, in order to make referrals and give information to victims. Each agency will develop in its procedures a signature line or checkbox to ensure that appropriate resources and referrals have been explained and given to the victim. This will allow supervisors, colleagues and evaluators who review the file to determine which resources and referrals were discussed with the victim.
4	Whitehorse SART agencies will commit to inter-agency training of frontline workers so that everyone understands the roles of each agency, why they make referrals and for what specific purpose.
Contexts of sexualized violence	
5	Whitehorse SART agencies will be aware of the context in which the offence occurred and consider it when discussing resources and referrals with victims.
6	Whitehorse SART agencies will commit to training to understand the complexities of the various contexts in which sexualized assaults can occur.
7	Whitehorse SART agencies will consider prioritizing specific training and public education sessions based on trends they note in providing services to victims of sexualized assault.
8	Situations that are complex may require more collaboration and coordination for victims throughout the entire process. Privacy, release of information and informed consent will always be the most important considerations.
9	The Public Prosecution Service of Canada (PPSC) will consider the use of experts such as toxicologists and trauma-informed specialists in trials and court applications, where appropriate, to increase the knowledge base of participants in the justice system. PPSC will provide training to all Whitehorse SART agencies on evolving areas of sexualized assault prosecutions.

Access, inclusion and cultural responsiveness	
Access	
10	Whitehorse SART agencies will work to find safe and reliable transportation alternatives for victims.
11	When possible, Whitehorse SART agencies will meet the victim where they are, and try to provide services at the victim's preferred location.
Inclusion	
12	Whitehorse SART agencies, whenever possible and necessary, will provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • options for language translation using Victim Link; • choice of gender in service provider; • accessible office space with ramps and elevators; • choice of location for meetings and interviews; • gender-inclusive reading material; and • plain-language documents.
13	Service providers will be inclusive of all sexual orientations and gender identities, and will affirm victims' right to self-identification.
14	Whitehorse SART agencies commit to collaborating with community organizations and individuals who work directly with victims in the following ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to bring them into discussions about services and support for their clients, and whenever possible, to include them as supports during interviews and meetings; • to educate and train community organizations about what SART can offer their clients and who they can contact when victims come to them; • to receive training and education from these groups on how to better serve their clients; and • to support community groups whenever possible with resources for responding to sexualized assault.
Cultural responsiveness	
15	Whitehorse SART agencies commit to providing their staff with resources for a basic understanding of Yukon First Nations' history and cultural context, including the impact of colonialism and the residential school system.
16	Whitehorse SART agencies will, whenever possible, offer and incorporate Indigenous cultural options for victims of sexualized assault who identify as Indigenous. Cultural options include offering First Nations Health Programs, Elder support, land-based healing, Indigenous service providers, and traditional practices.
17	Whitehorse SART agencies commit to attending anti-racist and anti-oppression training, including bias training, and training in appropriate ways to support newcomers, immigrants, refugees and Indigenous victims of sexualized assault.

Consent, confidentiality and privacy	
18	Whitehorse SART agencies commit to explaining the procedures and options available to victims as clearly as possible in order to obtain informed consent, while following the requirements of their agencies.
19	Whitehorse SART agencies commit to respecting the privacy of victims and maintaining confidentiality, while fulfilling the mandates and policies of their agencies and staying within the boundaries of the law.
20	Whitehorse SART agencies commit to, whenever possible, using practices that maintain the confidentiality of victims of sexualized assault. This includes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using private entrances at agencies; • creating documentation for victims that is discreet and maintained in secure locations; • making specific private rooms available for victims; • not sharing information between Whitehorse SART agencies in public spaces where others can overhear; and • limiting the waiting time in public areas.
Informed consent and the criminal justice system	
21	Whitehorse SART agencies commit to understanding and using the legal protections cited in the <i>Criminal Code</i> and to educating the public when relevant and applicable.
22	Whitehorse SART agencies commit to understanding the laws and rules of privacy and confidentiality of each agency and how they might affect the sharing of information. This includes training in relevant legislation, such as the federal <i>Privacy Act</i> , and the Yukon's <i>Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act</i> (ATIPPA) and <i>Health Information, Privacy and Management Act</i> (HIPMA).
Children and youth under 19 years of age	
23	Whitehorse SART agencies commit to taking the necessary time to explore the concerns and ideas of children and youth and then provide options based on this. Whitehorse SART agencies will provide options and choices to children and youth and their families while being open with them about any limitations on these choices based on duty to report and other legal requirements.
24	Whitehorse SART agencies commit to engaging with and building strong working relationships with service providers and partner agencies whose mandates include child and youth victims of crime. These include Family and Children's Services, Kwanlin Dün First Nation Child and Family Liaison Office, Skookum Jim Friendship Centre, Council of Yukon First Nations Family Preservation Services, and the Yukon Child and Youth Advocate Office.
25	Whitehorse SART agencies commit to increasing effectiveness when responding to disclosures from children and youth by following some general suggestions.
26	Whitehorse SART agencies will explain the limits of confidentiality and their legal duty to report to children and youth and their parents or guardians.
27	Whitehorse SART agencies will continue to work collaboratively and with other stakeholder agencies to support children, youth and families when duty to report is triggered.

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