

## **Position Statement 1**

### ***Age of Consent***

#### **Position**

Generally, the law recognizes a parent's or guardian's right to make decisions, including health related decisions, for children until the child reaches the age of majority. The age of majority in Newfoundland and Labrador is 19 years.

The issue of consent is as much about the capacity to give informed consent as it is about actual age. For a client to give informed consent to treatment, he or she must be informed as to the nature and the risks and benefits of treatment, as well as the risks of not having treatment. There are often circumstances where a person under 19 years of age is able to make his or her own medical decisions.

Massage Therapists should exercise judgment in each case where a person under the age of 19 presents for massage therapy. Legal advice may be indicated in uncertain situations.