

***Getting tested is part of safe sex as incidence of STIs climbs across Canada***

**Ottawa – February 26, 2018** - The risk of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) may be an awkward icebreaker on a first date or hook-up, but a new campaign advises that if you are sexually active, you should also be getting tested regularly.

"There is a misinformed stigma associated with STIs, even though they are very common and can be managed and treated," says Dr. Jennifer Blake, CEO, SOGC. "We've seen a 50-70% jump in the incidence of gonorrhea and chlamydia over the past 15 years - most common in young people under 25. These rates can be dramatically reduced."

The Canadian campaign follows on the success of the "Yes Means Test" campaign in the United States, sponsored by The American Sexual Health Association.

STIs are most often transmitted through unprotected vaginal, oral, and anal sex. Often an infected partner will not have any obvious signs or symptoms and may not be aware they are infected.

To help raise awareness, normalize testing, and let Canadians know where they can be tested, the SOGC is promoting a new Canadian website ([www.yesmeanstest.ca](http://www.yesmeanstest.ca)), specifically targeting Canadians under 25, in collaboration with prominent Canadian YouTube personalities, YouTwoTV. The campaign contains important information on STIs and prevention, and includes an online clinic locator to help Canadians find where to go if they don't have access to their family physician.

So yes or no, sex is our choice. But, the facts are clear. YES to sex? #YESmeansTEST.

"The SOGC is pleased to endorse this important message," adds Dr. Blake.

**For more information or to arrange a media interview please contact:**

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**About The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada**

The SOGC is one of Canada's oldest national specialty organizations. Established in 1944, the Society's mission is to promote excellence in the practice of obstetrics and gynaecology and to advance the health of women through leadership, advocacy, collaboration and education. The SOGC represents obstetricians/gynaecologists, family physicians, nurses, midwives and allied health professionals working in the field of sexual reproductive health. For more information, please visit [www.sogc.org](http://www.sogc.org)