



MEDIA RELEASE

New consensus on enacting the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Vancouver, June 1, 2017— Leading experts in FASD and Indigenous health and wellness from across Canada have built consensus on promising approaches to address and prevent Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder for Indigenous Peoples.

In its report two years ago, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released 94 *Calls to Action*. Call to Action #33 focuses on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). It reads:

"We call upon the federal, provincial and territorial governments to recognize as a high priority the need to address and prevent FASD, and to develop, in collaboration with Aboriginal people, FASD preventative programs that can be delivered in a culturally appropriate manner."

Recently, the Centre of Excellence for Women's Health, the Thunderbird Partnership Foundation and the Canada FASD Research Network co-organized a dialogue event where experts from across Canada met to discuss Call to Action #33 and how it could be met.

A Consensus Statement was developed which includes eight tenets for enacting Call to Action #33.

1. Centering prevention around Indigenous Knowledge and Wellness
2. Using a Social and Structural Determinants of Health Lens
3. Highlighting Relationships
4. Community Based, Community Driven
5. Provision of Wraparound Support and Holistic Services
6. Adopting a Life Course Approach
7. Models Supporting Resiliency for Women, Families, and Communities
8. Ensuring Long-Term Sustainable Funding and Research

The full text is included as an appendix to this release.

The convening organizations urge all orders of government across Canada to adopt the tenets outlined in the Consensus Statement as we move forward as a country toward Truth and Reconciliation.

Quotes:

Audrey McFarlane, CanFASD Executive Director: "Supporting First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples in implementing evidence-based, culturally appropriate and community-driven responses to FASD is a critical responsibility of Canadians."

Carol Hopkins, Thunderbird Partnership Foundation Executive Director: "These tenets and the group's Consensus Statement follow the principles of reconciliation – mutual respect, recognition, sharing, and an understanding that all people are equal honours the historic Truth and Reconciliation report."



Dr. Nancy Poole, Centre of Excellence for Women's Health Director: "We look forward to working with CanFASD, Thunderbird Partnership Foundation and other Indigenous organizations to share these tenets broadly as we develop and study programming on prevention of FASD."

About the Organizations:

The Thunderbird Partnership Foundation works with First Nations to further the capacity of communities to address substance use and mental health issues. The non-profit organization promotes a holistic approach to healing and wellness that values culture, respect, community, and compassion.

The mission of the Centre of Excellence for Women's Health (CEWH) is to improve the health of women by fostering collaboration on multidisciplinary and action-oriented research on girls' and women's health and to introduce gender into health research. The CEWH pays particular attention to research that will improve the health status of girls and women who face health inequities due to socioeconomic status, race, culture, age, sexual orientation, geography, disability and/or addiction.

The Canada FASD Research Network is a group of the leading experts on FASD in the country including academic researchers and front line care providers. Their mission is to produce and maintain national, collaborative research designed for sharing with all Canadians and leading to prevention strategies and improved support for people affected by FASD.

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Attached: Consensus Statement: Eight Tenets for Enacting the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #33

Experts are available to speak with the media about the consensus statement from any of the above organizations.

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