

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER

SUPPORT A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

WHAT IS A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK? (Bill S-253)

A National Framework is a **Canada-wide plan** to address FASD. It outlines the best **way to improve** FASD prevention, intervention, and diagnostic efforts across the country.

A National Framework should be created using **current evidence, best practices, and feedback** from key stakeholders.

WHY WE NEED A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK?

FASD is a **complex disability** that intersects with a number of other issues. Right now, the FASD community relies heavily on formal and informal supports. These **supports are inconsistent**; the quality and availability of supports depends on where you live.

A National FASD Framework will make sure all people with FASD, their families, couples who are pregnant or parenting, and those who support them have **full and equitable access** to the resources they need.

YOU CAN HELP!

Bill S-253 is currently making its way through the legislative process and has been referred to committee for further study. Contact committee members to advocate for the bill: <https://sencanada.ca/en/committees/soci/44-1>

KEY TALKING POINTS

- FASD is the **leading cause** of neurodevelopmental disability in Canada.
- FASD **can be prevented** when couples who are pregnant have the right support.
- People with FASD and their families across Canada are **struggling due to the lack of equitable support**.
- Canada is a **world leader in FASD research**, but that research isn't being put into practice at a national level.
- I'm asking you to **support a National FASD Framework** to improve the health and wellbeing of the members of your community who are impacted by this disability.

FASD STATISTICS

- An estimated **4% of Canadians** have FASD, more than 1.5 million people
- 90% of those with FASD will have **at least one mental health challenge**;
- In one study, 35% of teens with FASD reported suicidal ideation, with 13% reporting **at least one serious suicide attempt in the past year**;
- People with FASD are **20 times more likely** to face substance use challenges;
- The **cost per case of FASD** over a lifespan is estimated at **\$1.1 million**.

It's time for a
NATIONAL FASD FRAMEWORK

