



Background Information for Prospective Board Members

Vision of CanFASD

- To support Canada's leadership in addressing the extraordinary complexities of FASD

Purpose

- To produce and maintain national, collaborative research designed for sharing with all Canadians, leading to prevention strategies and improved support services for people affected by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Guiding Principles

- To do and/or facilitate research that is meaningful to families, governments, and stakeholders
- To work collaboratively with partners
- To use appropriate language when communicating about FASD, recognizing the sensitivities and complexities of FASD

Goals

- To develop and foster relationships, research programs, and initiatives across the spectrum of FASD activity
- To facilitate and enhance productive linkages across jurisdictions, communities, and disciplines related to FASD
- To answer high-priority questions that are meaningful about the prevention, diagnosis and intervention of FASD
- To disseminate empirically validated knowledge about the prevention, surveillance, diagnosis and intervention of FASD
- To inform policy, practice and decision making
- To become a centre of expertise on FASD in Canada
- To build a sustainable research network
- To build research capacity and knowledge across and within all communities

History of CanFASD

CanFASD was established as a not-for-profit society in 2012. CanFASD grew out of the Canada Northwest FASD Research Network, which was established in March of 2005 through the support of the Canada Northwest FASD Partnership (CNFASDP). The CNFASDP is comprised of the four western provinces and three territories wanted to build evidence and research capacity in Canada to inform policy around FASD.

In 2013, the province of New Brunswick also joined CanFASD and in 2017 Ontario joined but did not renew in 2019.

Research work has focused on areas that will impact policy and service delivery. A large part of the work of CanFASD has been in resource development for policymakers, service provider, professionals and families. Having a strong lived experience involved in all aspects of the research process with an established Family Advisory Committee and an Adult with FASD Collaboration team.

Presently

Moving forward, the CanFASD is expanding nationally, and plans to work with all existing Canadian researchers, programs, organizations, families and professionals, including existing grassroots organizations that want to collaborate on research on the complex issues surrounding FASD.

Research focuses on prevention, diagnosis/assessment, interventions, justice and child welfare. Interconnected projects across these domains has become the norm.

Our annual reports provide information regarding our current funding partners, activities and budget: <http://canfasd.ca/media/annual-reports/>

The Board of Directors

The CanFASD is a not-for-profit charity governed by a volunteer board of directors. This governance board is responsible for strategic direction, financial and human resources matters of the organization. This board does not set the research direction but does have input on areas of importance.

Scope

The Board of Directors works collectively with the Executive Director to assess needs, set priorities and strategic direction, plan and allocate resources and oversee the Board's operations. Members of the Board of Directors must be available to attend meetings, actively participate in Board discussions, and be responsible for the decisions of the Board. The Board of Directors may be expected to participate on standing or special committees to address issues faced by the Board, Executive Director, or Senior Research Lead. The term of the appointment will be for the period of three years.

Typical Abilities, Experience and Knowledge Directors bring to the Network

Typically, elected members of the Board of Directors have:

- Diverse skill sets in areas such as marketing, finance, administration, media relations, law, fundraising, business, research, governance, policy development
- Work experience in a team setting and are team players
- FASD knowledge and expertise or lived experience
- Demonstrated ability to devote time to attend meetings and review all information prior to
- Commitment/interest/passion on FASD issue

- Familiarity with issues faced by diverse cultural groups in Canada, including those faced by Indigenous Peoples of Canada
- Alcohol/substance/addictions expertise
- Diverse background and/or work area in the health system, social services system, legal system, justice system, education system, research and ethics
- Previous board experience with other community organizations

Responsibilities:

- Review and Maintain Operating Policies
- Develop Board Policies
- Develop Strategic/Business/Operational Planning
- Annual Budgeting and Financial Management
- Human Resource Management
- Performance Management
- Communications
- Board Committees

Work Environment

- Travel outside of the home community to regular Board meetings will be required
- Attendance at a majority of meetings is expected
- Completion of the required readings and preparation is expected prior to meetings of the Board of Directors
- Provision of “expert advice” if the topic under discussion is in the Board member’s area of expertise may be requested

Meetings

- Meetings are held in person and zoom
- Regular board meetings are held three times per year
- Zoom committee meetings are held a few times a year
- There is an annual general meeting (AGM)