

Canada FASD Conference

2025

CALL FOR  
SUBMISSIONS  
ACADEMIC  
ABSTRACTS



# CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

---

The Canada FASD Conference is coming to **Toronto, Ontario on October 21-23, 2025**. This national conference on FASD brings together different people from across the country and internationally who hold valuable perspectives on FASD and prevention of FASD. With over 500 attendees expected, this three-day event brings together healthcare professionals, social workers, justice and legal professionals, educators, counsellors, researchers, policy makers, and those with direct or indirect lived or living experience to connect and collaborate. This conference provides a secure and open environment to share diverse perspectives, valuable experiences, new research, and best and promising practices. We encourage you to be part of it!

We are pleased to announce the call for abstract submissions for the 2025 Canada FASD Conference. Our conference acknowledges the principle that all voices should have a platform to share knowledge and experience. With this in mind, we welcome submissions for **research, policy, or practice (Academic Abstracts)** and submissions based on **personal experience (Personal Experience Abstracts)**.

Submissions are due no later than Monday, March 31, 2025 at 23:59 EDT. For more information about the conference, visit the **Canada FASD Conference webpage at <https://canfasd.ca/canada-fasd-conference/>**

See this section for more information on **Academic Abstract Submissions**

See this section for more information on **Personal Experience Abstract Submissions**



# Conference Theme

The theme for Canada FASD Conference 2025 conference is **Shaping the Future of FASD: From Evidence to Action.**

FASD is a complex, far reaching and consequential. It takes a wide range of perspectives and collective efforts to drive the needed change to shape a brighter future for people with FASD, their families and communities. Focusing on the innovation, past experiences, and connections will help us to visualize a positive future for people with FASD and a safe space to address prevention of prenatal alcohol use. Using the evidence to initiate the action will empower all of us. Focusing on the subthemes will improve pregnancy outcomes, the lives of individuals with FASD, their families, and communities will help to meet the challenges of an ever-changing environment.

There is immense opportunity for innovation through science, technology, and personal connection in prevention and serving those with FASD. We must work together to inspire each other.

By focusing on the evidence that will lead to action, we can create a healthier Canadian society where evidence transforms approaches to better serve individuals with FASD,



**“Best conference I’ve ever been to, and I mean that! The inclusive and supportive environment was second to none.”**

*2023 Conference Attendee*

# Guidelines for Academic Abstracts

Individuals and teams are encouraged to submit abstracts that stimulate ideas and discussion, promote learning of knowledge and skills, and energize attendees to participate in debate. We are seeking presentations, posters and workshops on policies, programs and frameworks that include evidence-informed practices, emerging research and innovative knowledge exchange strategies.

Abstracts are welcome on all topics that reflect the theme of this conference. The conference is also looking to provide more depth to discussions in the following subthemes:

- Current trends and new issues
- Wellness including resiliency, physical health, healthy approaches
- Mental health and comorbidities
- Therapeutic approaches
- Truth and reconciliation and Indigenous approaches
- At-risk or priority populations (e.g., youth, incarcerated persons, older adults, people who are homeless, new Canadians, LGBTQ2+, etc.)
- Stigma and discrimination
- Innovative and novel approaches to delivering care/supports/services
- The continuum of care: promoting health and services across the lifespan
- Building capacity
- Prevention
- Women's health
- Alcohol policy
- Basic science and biomarkers research

Presenters will need to clearly establish the applicable use of their work for a mixed audience of academics, professionals, service providers, policy makers, and those with lived experience.

We require presenters to consider sex, gender and diversity as part of their work to help create more useful and specific evidence, guidance and perspectives for different groups of Canadians. Additionally, if your study focused on a specific population (e.g., Indigenous peoples, people with lived or living experience, youth, etc.), we ask you to describe your engagement with this population. As part of the abstract submission, please provide (1) a brief summary (100 words or less) about how your project has considered or could consider in the future sex, gender or diversity (e.g., ethnicity, race, socio-economic status, religion, etc.) and, (2) if applicable, how your study engaged or could engage in the future specific populations (100 words or less).

## THINGS TO CONSIDER

The conference audience will be researchers, caregivers and individuals with FASD, frontline service providers, professionals in social work, justice, health, education and policy makers. Presenters should ensure their presentations are relevant and accessible to the audience.

Translation services will be minimal due to the costs associated with this service.

# Presentation Formats

Applicants must submit abstracts by 23:59 EDT on March 31, 2025. Abstracts should be 250 words or less in English or French and be for one of the formats described below. Please note that the word limit does not include the 100-word summaries on sex, gender and diversity considerations or on engagement with specific groups. These summaries are to be provided separately when the abstract is submitted. If you have any questions, please contact [conference@canfasd.ca](mailto:conference@canfasd.ca).

## ORAL PRESENTATION (20 MINUTES)

Individual or team presentations of 20 minutes that allow for a brief overview of the major points or highlights of a particular program, policy or research project. All presentations will be followed by 10 minutes of moderated discussion and questions. Your presentation will be grouped in a 90-minute session with two additional presentations on a similar topic. Applicants must include the following information in the abstract using the headings provided:

1. Title
2. Learning objectives
3. Background
4. Objectives of your research or project
5. Methods
6. Results
7. Conclusions

## ORAL PRESENTATION (90 MINUTES)

Individual or a group presentation that provides in depth discussion of a specific topic, research, program or policy that is not a workshop. These sessions should include a large component of dialogue with participants such as 60 minute presentation and 30 minute discussion. Applicants must include the following in the abstract:

1. Title
2. Learning objectives
3. Background
4. Project description
5. Results/Conclusions
6. Indicate if persons with Lived Experience will be included as a presenter
7. How discussion areas will be included

## WORKSHOP (90 MINUTES)

Workshops are interactive learning opportunities to demonstrate the real-life application of techniques and skills. The abstracts for workshops must include a clear explanation of how participants will be engaged and actively participate in learning. Participation cannot be limited to simple questions-and-answers or group dialogue. Applicants must include the following information in the abstract using the headings provided:

1. Title
2. Learning objectives
3. Description
4. Interactive formats or processes

Presenters are responsible for providing handouts to be used for workshops and for ensuring that any interactive components can be completed in English and French.

## POSTERS

Posters allow for the presentation of key points or highlights of a particular research project. Posters must be provided in a format suitable for physical display. The author must be available to engage with conference participants about their submission during designated periods (to be determined prior to the conference). Applicants must include the following information in the abstract using the headings provided:

1. Title
2. Background
3. Objectives of your research or project
4. Methods
5. Results
6. Conclusions

Posters promoting a product or service will not be accepted.

# Submission Guidelines

Academic abstract Applicants must submit abstracts electronically by 23:59 on March 31, 2025. The Conference Program Committee reserves the right to limit the number of abstracts or submissions accepted for review, has final authority in selecting presenters and will inform the Primary Presenter in May 2025 as to whether their submission has been accepted.

For individuals with lived or living experience with FASD who are interested in submitting a presentation based on personal experience, please go to the section for **Personal Experience Submissions**.

## WHO SHOULD SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT?

Individuals and organizations from disciplines associated with FASD and FASD prevention, including public health, mental health, substance use, diagnosis, housing, justice, physical health, education, post-secondary, child welfare, social work, basic science and social services and others may apply. Policymakers, service planners, program managers, academic and clinical researchers, students, postdoctoral fellows, residents and private sector professionals are invited to submit abstracts for Canada FASD Conference 2025 that showcase their initiatives, research, programs or best practices.

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

A key intent of Canada FASD Conference 2025 is to stimulate discussion and the exchange of ideas by presenting new or emerging initiatives, policy analyses, knowledge exchange and research. To this end, work submitted for presentation should not have been presented at Canada FASD Conference 2023 unless new information is available. Presenters will need to clearly establish the applicable use of their work for a mixed audience of academics, professionals, service providers, policy makers, and those with lived experience.

The following evaluation criteria will each be given equal weight in the assessment of abstracts:

- Strength and appropriateness of evidence or knowledge base for the abstract content
- Potential to stimulate discussion and learning

- Significance and potential impact of findings or conclusions
- Consideration of sex, gender and diversity as part of the work
- Engagement with a relevant population if this was the focus of the work
- Overall quality and clarity of the abstract

## REQUIRED INFORMATION

Before completing the [online submission form](#), applicants should ensure that they can provide the following information:

- Description of how the work has considered or could consider in the future issues related to sex, gender and diversity
- If applicable, a description of how a specific population was engaged in the work
- Preferred presentation format
- Primary and alternate subtheme that best applies to the abstract (this information will only be used to assist in reviewing abstracts)
- Language of presentation (English or French)
- Full title, name, organizational affiliation and email addresses of the presenter and all presenting co-authors (up to a maximum of four), including primary presenter
- Indicate who will be doing the presentation
- If this research has been previously published, the publication name and year
- If this research has been presented at another conference, the title, location and year of the conference





Submit your  
Academic  
Abstract now!

## Upon Acceptance

CanFASD will email all communications about an abstract submission to the applicant (primary presenter), who is responsible for distributing information to other authors or co-authors.

If an applicant accepts an offer to present, but is later unable to attend, they must provide CanFASD with the name of the alternate speaker who is a co-author on the original abstract or the presentation will be withdrawn from the program.

Presenters will be required to disclose any real or potential conflicts of interest at the beginning of their presentation or workshop, or on their poster, as well as the funder of their work.

All presenters must register for the conference and pay their registration fee by Friday, August 4, 2025. Only the Primary Presenter is eligible to receive the speaker rate (\$749).



A large audience is seated in a conference hall, facing a stage. Several people on the stage are raising their hands, suggesting an interactive session or a Q&A period. The lighting is dim, with spotlights illuminating the stage and audience.

# SHAPING THE FUTURE OF FASD:

# FROM EVIDENCE TO ACTION

[canfasd.ca/canada-fasd-conference](http://canfasd.ca/canada-fasd-conference)