

NEWS RELEASE

Experts on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) travel to Edmonton to discuss Canada-wide initiatives

(February 4, 2020) The Canada Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Research Network (CanFASD) Board of Directors and select staff are meeting in Edmonton, Alberta at the beginning of February to discuss nation-wide Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) strategic priorities.

FASD is a lifelong disability that affects the brain and body of people who were exposed to alcohol during fetal development. CanFASD is Canada's first comprehensive national research network focuses on addressing the complexities of FASD.

A key component to CanFASD's success is the partnerships they've developed with individuals and organizations across Canada and around the world. Their trip to Edmonton will allow them to further develop these partnerships within organizations and communities in Alberta.

Community members within Edmonton will have the opportunity to interact with experts in the field of FASD at a meet and greet on February 4, 2020. Members of local school boards, individuals from FASD organizations, government ministers, and university students have already RSVP'd for the event.

In addition to this event, members of the CanFASD Board of Directors will be meeting with staff to develop to review of CanFASD's current initiatives in the areas of FASD prevention, intervention, and diagnosis. A major product of these meetings will be the finalization of CanFASD's new Strategic Plan, which outlines the path the organization has to follow to remain a national leader in FASD research.

CanFASD staff and board members will also be meeting with local organizations to learn more about the current supports and services available to individuals with FASD. The discussions will revolve around programs servicing youth with FASD, research opportunities with First Nation communities, new intervention models, and the Alberta FASD Strategy.

Quotes:

“We are very excited for the opportunity to connect with such incredible individuals and programs in Edmonton that are working to address FASD. We hope to take some of the lessons we learn through these connections and apply them to nation-wide FASD initiatives”

Audrey McFarlane, CanFASD Executive Director

“It is always inspiring to have meetings in Alberta and hear about the work that is being done here. Alberta was one of the first provinces in Canada to develop and implement a provincial FASD strategy and CanFASD, as well as our other member jurisdictions, benefit from their vision and leadership in the field.”

Kathy Unsworth, CanFASD Managing Director

About CanFASD:

CanFASD is Canada’s first national Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) research network. CanFASD works collaboratively with researchers and partners across the nation to address complexities of FASD. Our mission is to produce and maintain national, collaborative research for all Canadians, leading to prevention strategies and improved support services for people affected by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

To speak with a CanFASD expert regarding the scheduled CanFASD events in Edmonton please contact:

Audrey McFarlane

1 (780) 815-0406

audrey.mcfarlane@canfasd.ca

For more information on CanFASD, please visit:

<http://www.canfasd.ca/>