Canada FASD Conference

2025 PROGRAM





CANADA FASD CONFERENCE

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

With over 600 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!

"This conference was just fantastic and made me feel so much less alone!"

2023 Conference Attendee

"This was truly career changing for me..."

2023 Conterence Attendee

"Best conference I've ever been to, and I mean that! The inclusive and supportive environment was second to none."

2023 Conference Attendee

About the Program

We are thrilled to present our lineup of incredible presentations for the 2025 Canada FASD Conference. Our program is broken out into seven concurrent sessions over 2.5 days. In each concurrent session, there are eight breakout sessions to choose from. Presentations from those with living experience are woven in throughout the program. They are indicated by a * symbol.

This program - including dates, times, and presentations - is subject to change. You can find details about each presentation (including presenter bios and presentations descriptions) on our website at www.canfasd.ca.

Presentation Formats

PANEL - One 60-minute in-depth presentation, usually given by a panel of presenters, on a specific topic, followed by a 30 minute question and answer period.

WORKSHOP - One 90-minute interactive learning workshop where presenters will lead a learning opportunity for attendees.

ORAL - Three 20-minute oral presentations on a similar topic, followed by a 30-minute question and answer period for all presenters. You must attend all three presentations.

POSTERS - Physical posters displayed at the conference that attendees can view at their leisure during break-times and meals.



Conference Schedule

Tuesday, October 21		Wednesday, October 22		Thursday, October 23		
	Morning		Morning		Morning	
7:30-8:30	Light Breakfast	7:30-8:30	Light Breakfast	7:30-8:30	Light Breakfast	
8:30-10:00	Opening Remarks & Plenary	8:30-10:00	Opening Remarks & Plenary	8:30-10:00	Concurrent Session G	
10:00-10:30	Coffee Break	10:00-10:30	Coffee Break	10:00-10:30	Coffee Break	
10:30-12:00	Concurrent Session A	10:30-12:00	Concurrent Session D	10:30-12:30	Plenary & Closing Remarks	
Afternoon			Afternoon			
12:00-13:15	Lunch	12:00-13:15	Lunch			
13:15-14:45	Concurrent Session B	13:15-14:45	Concurrent Session E]		
14:45-15:15	Coffee Break	14:45-15:15	Coffee Break			
15:15-16:45	Concurrent Session C	15:15-16:45	Concurrent Session F			
			Evening			
		17:00-19:00	Networking Event & Film Festival			



Concurrent Session A

Tuesday, October 21, 2025 from 10:30 to 12:00

Panel	Aging and FASD: What does the future hold? - Valerie Temple *Living as An Adult On The FASD Spectrum in 2025 - Reinier deSmit
Panel	Exposed: Examining the generational impact of maternal substance and alcohol use on family health and social outcomes Sarah Gander & Natalia Fana
Workshop	System neglect is neglecting children Peter Choate, Dorothy Badry, Jacquie Pei, Kimberly Spicer & Terri Pelton
Oral	FASD Awareness, Recognition, and Response: Developing a Toolkit for Multi-Disciplinary Professionals Supporting People in the Legal System Emma Jewell, Martina Faitakis & Kaitlyn McLachlan FASD and the Over-Incarceration of Indigenous Women: Psychological Perspectives Rina Asghar *Shaping support in the justice system Leesa Myers
Oral	TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION AND INDIGENOUS APPROACHES Manitoba's FASD Strategy Indigenous Elders Circle Jennifer Short Key Considerations for Using Self-Report Questionnaires to Research and Evaluate Community-based Parenting Programs in Indigenous Contexts Lakota Wood & Melissa Tremblay *Culturally Enhancing Resources through Indigenous Voices Jillian Nason & Courtney Fournier
Oral	SERVICE PROVISION Empowering Ontario Families: Building Knowledge, Mentorship, and Connections Through Innovative FASD Support Group Microgrants Marine Delage de Luget & Nancy Lockwood Staff Experiences of a Dedicated FASD Residential Summer Camp Jessica Rutherford *Growing Up, Growing Forward: An Occupational Therapist's Journey as a Parent of Youth with FASD Janet Carioni
Oral	HEALTH AND WELLBEING Pain in Individuals with FASD: Overlooked and Misunderstood Cara Nania A systematic review of the health needs of children and youth with FASD to inform their primary care needs across the lifespan Prabhjot Bedi & Ana Hanlon-Dearman *My Story: Thriving with FASD through Education, Employment and Health Challenges Jessica Fulmer
Oral	MENTAL HEALTH Untangling the Complex Associations Between Mental Health and Early Adversity in Youth with FASD Carly McMorris *The Impact of FASD in the Virtual World: Lessons from Living Experiences Joseph Munn & Pamela Belanger Improving Suicide Risk Assessment for People with FASD: Research Findings and Clinical Recommendations Stephanie Howe

Concurrent Session B

Tuesday, October 21, 2025 from 1:15 to 2:45

Panel	Shaping the Future – Australia's Evolving FASD Response and the Role of International Collaboration Sophie Harrington & Louise Gray
Panel	The association between self-esteem, compliance, acquiescence and suggestibility in individuals with FASD from an international study David Gilbert
Workshop	FASD Diagnostic and Assessment Clinic Team Training Workshop (Part 1) Lisa Swan, Amanda Lindholm, Hasu Rajani & Monty Nelson
Workshop	The Traveller's Guide to FASD Danna Ormstrup
Oral	PREVENTION AND WOMEN'S HEALTH The Power of Networking: The work of Canada's Network Action Team on FASD Prevention from a Women's Health Determinants Perspective (pNAT) Nancy Poole Impacts of relational FASD prevention with pregnant individuals using substances Kirstin Bonot Integrating Alcohol Use Reduction Counselling with a Person-Centred Guidebook David Brown & Wayne Skinner
Oral	Who Am I? Exploring identity experiences of individuals with FASD Vannesa Joly Who Gets to Be Neurodiverse? Understanding the Place for FASD in Neurodiversity Research Emily Cauduro & Devon Edwards *Navigating the Search for Identity in Individuals with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Dorothy Reid, Niall Schofield, Katy Flannigan & Lauren Richardson
Oral	*Healing through Understanding: Supporting Indigenous Families Impacted by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Marian Paul Qanuqtuurniq: Providing Innovative and Responsive FASD Services in Nunavut Jennifer Noah, Amanda Ishulutaq, Amber Miners & Shuvinai Mike *Welcome to my FASD Matthew Sinclair
Oral	LIFESPAN INTERVENTION Peers, Power, and Potential: Transforming FASD Support Through Strength-Based Interventions Melody Morton Ninomiya, Carl T & Robert MacDonald Transition from Care Experiences of Youth Aged 13 to 23 Living with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) in Canada: A Scoping Review Michele Palk & Christine Wekerle Exploring the Transition from Childhood to Adulthood for Adults with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Lauren Gnat & Melody Morton Ninomiya

NOTES:

The **FASD Diagnostic and Assessment Clinic Team Training Workshop** will be held over two sessions from 1:15 to 2:45 and from 3:15 to 4:45.

Concurrent Session C

Tuesday, October 21, 2025 from 3:15 to 4:45

Preparing BC Educators to Support Students with FASD: A Participatory POPFASD Program Trina Chivilo, Heather Braund & Stace Kelsh Workshop FASD Diagnostic and Assessment Clinic Team Training Workshop (Part 2) Lisa Swan, Amanda Lindholm, Hasu Rajani & Monty Nelson Oral CAREGIVING Wellness Strategies Among Caregivers of Individuals with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disords and Perceived Usefulness Mansfield Mela, Dorothy Reid & Katy Flannigan The experiences and needs of fathers of children with FASD Lindsay Morcom & Dane Mauer-Vakil *From Overwhelmed to Empowered: Parenting Through FASD with Confidence Michelle Hughes Oral TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION AND INDIGENOUS APPROACHES Leading Education and Healing Through TRC Courtney Farrow Lawrence & Yunn Wong *Honouring Strengths, Navigating Challenges: A Team-Based Approach to FASD Support nous School Deborah Maund & Christine Agnew *Supporting Indigenous individuals who can become pregnant in rural communities and Nation in Alberta Ashlynne Ball & Kelly Lepine Oral BUILDING CAPACITY Building Capacity to Support Families: An FASD Training Initiative for Frontline Children's Workers Kathy Unsworth & Celisse Bibr Evidence-based FASD prevention school-based program for urban, rural and First Nation Ontario, Canada: A pilot study	
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Ontario, Cariava. A priot study	
Svetlana Popova & Danijela Dozet	
*Living with FASD: A Youth's Perspective on Hope, Awareness, and Navigating Stigma	
Ben Walsh	
Oral HEALTH AND WELLBEING	
Māori Caregivers Experiences of Parenting a Person with FASD in Aotearoa New Zealand	
Anita Gibbs	
*Looking Back, Moving Forward	
Wanda Beland	\
Caregiver perspectives of the role of strengths and protective factors for youth with FASD criminal legal system involvement: A thematic analysis	and
Chantel Ritter	
Oral POLICY AND PRACTICE	
Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about the Canada Northwest FASD Partnership (CNI	
Melanie Muehling & Alexandra Taylor	FASDP)
Secure Treatment in the Province of Ontario: Opportunities for treatment of youth with FA	FASDP)
youth centric legislation	
Mitesh Patel & Jason Langer	
*Supporting System Change Through Community Partnerships	
Sue Brooks & Denise Kollee	

Concurrent Session D

Wednesday, October 22, 2025 from 10:30 to 12:00

Panel	Sheltering Arms: Housing Program for Persons with FASD Wanda Beland
Panel	*Insights from Adults with FASD: Navigating Life and Advocacy Dorothy Reid & AFECT Committee
Workshop	Is Canada Ready for a New Consensus Statement on Legal Issues for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)? Christian Whalen & Nicole Leblanc
Workshop	Finding New Opportunities for Collaboration: Bridging Policy and Practice Efforts to Support Women at-risk of an Alcohol Exposed Pregnancy Lindsay Wolfson, Ashley Wettlaufer & Nancy Poole
Oral	WOMEN'S HEALTH AND PREVENTION The Good, The Bad, and The Contradictory: Consumption Consequences of Alcohol in Womanhood Kelly Harding An insight into the answers of Danish pregnant women and attitudes towards substance use screening, when asked anonymously - A pilot study Michela Wedel *Wicked: FASD through the lens of Elphaba Rhonda Konrad
Oral	ASSESSMENT AND DIAGNOSIS Prenatal Alcohol Collection and Confirmation: A Guide for FASD Diagnostic Clinics Lisa Swan & Amanda Lindholm An Innovative Model of FASD Assessment and Diagnostic Services through Partnership Olivia Ng, Marcella Blanchard, Sarah Balazs & Nidhi Luthra Clinic Collaboration as a Means to Producing Positive Access to Health Care Across the Life Span Emily Cotsomitis
Oral	FASD AWARD PRESENTATION Dr. Sterling Clarren FASD Research Award - 2025 Recipient Chantel Ritter Claudette Bradshaw FASD Innovation Award - 2024 Recipient Eastern Door Centre
Oral	*Demanding Better: integrating lived experience, research and practice to educate, train and empower in the New Zealand Criminal Justice System Anita Gibbs Trends in Sentencing Indigenous People who are Affected by FASD Jonathan Rudin Leveraging Artificial Intelligence to Support FASD diagnosed justice involved folks Shay Sharma, Angela Kemble & Jessica DeVries

Concurrent Session E

Wednesday, October 22, 2025 from 1:15 to 2:45

Panel	Honoring Tradition: Decolonizing FASD Assessments for First Nations Healing
	Nicole Leblanc & Noel Milliea
Panel	Templates for understanding common issues affecting patients with FASD Roderick Densmore
Workshop	Bridging Evidence and Action: Advancing Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment for Individuals
	with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)
	Lucy Digney, Jacqueline Pei, Jeremy Weleff & Tracey Marshall Craig
Workshop	Key Findings from a Canadian Assessment on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
	Peter Choate, Leigh Wincott & Lori Vitale Cox
	Sponsored by <u>Kids Brain Health Network (KBHN)</u>
Oral	BUILDING CAPACITY
	Increasing FASD Care Capacity with Advanced Practice Nurses: Current Status and Future
	<u>Opportunities</u>
	Lynn Cole, Erin Baylor, Kimberly Buholtz & Madeline Rockhold
	Building a cross-sectoral collaboration for inclusive and FASD-informed practices
	Taha Awan
	Manitoba's FASD Strategy: A collaborative, cross-departmental approach
	Melanie Muehling, Carly Moore, Ken Lamoureux
Oral	EDUCATION
	*From Training to Teaching: Assessing Ontario Preservice Teachers' Knowledge, Self-Efficacy, and Pre-
	paredness to Support Students with FASD Tanya Joseph
	The Animation Curriculum: An inclusive educational intervention to support those with FASD in main-
	stream classroom settings
	Jessica Rutherford
	Helping Educational Staff and Students with FASD reframe their views on the diagnosis
	Meredith Sewell
Oral	CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM
	Engaging Police Officers in FASD Prevention: Exploring the Synergies between Relational Policing and
	the FASD Prevention Conversation
	Lisa Whittingham & Jennifer Lavoie
	Bridging the Gap – Advancing Justice Reform for Youth with FASD
	Sophie Harrington & Louise Gray
	To Be Announced
	To Be Announced
Oral	PREVENTION AND WOMEN'S HEALTH
	#winemoms and #cannamoms: Motherhood and Substance Use Culture on Instagram
	Kelly Harding
	Expanding our understanding of the influences on alcohol use in pregnancy
	Nancy Poole
	Do alcohol tax changes reduce pre-pregnancy and pregnancy alcohol consumption? Evidence from
	the PRAMS Sarah Hamersma
	Janutrumeisina

Concurrent Session F

Wednesday, October 22, 2025 from 3:15 to 4:45

Panel	Flexing the Model for FASD Assessment: Improving Accessibility and Inclusivity for Clients		
	Kendra Toporowski & Hasmukhlal (Hasu) Rajani		
Panel	Let's Get Real about Sex and Drinking - A Prevention Conversation for Youth Korie Seibel		
Workshop	Development of a National Indigenous FASD Framework in Canada Melissa Tremblay & Jasmine Kowalewski		
Workshop	<u>*Vulnerability and finding strength</u> Sara Harrison & Lexie Chornoby		
Workshop			
	Melissa Dobson		
Oral	WOMEN'S HEALTH Provision of Indigenous cultural support services in the InSight Mentoring Program in Manitoba		
	Carly Moore, Merilee Sinclair & Jennifer Spence		
	To Be Announced		
	To Be Announced		
	*Women with FASD - What matters		
	Nancy Poole & Lauren Richardson		
Oral	HEALTH AND WELLBEING		
	The "Pebble in Your Shoe" Model of Effectiveness: Undergraduate Students' Perspectives on		
	Campaigns Regarding Alcohol Use During Pregnancy Celisse Bibr		
	The Impact of Prenatal Alcohol and Other Exposures on Growth: A Focus on Individuals with Fetal		
	Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)		
	Jocelynn Cook & Katy Flannigan		
	*Parenting Through Complexity: A Mother's Perspective on Raising a Child with FASD		
	Tanya Walsh		
Oral	SERVICE PROVISION		
	<u>Transformative Approaches in Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Support: A Two-Decade</u>		
	Journey with the Lakeland Centre		
	Lisa Murphy		
	Landscape of health of children and youth with Prenatal Alcohol Exposure (PAE) and Fetal Alcohol		
	Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Shae Mulvihill & Ana Hanlon-Dearman		
	Creative Solutions in Unique Populations: How One Diagnostic Assessment Centre Works		
	Collaboratively to Serve their Community		
	Lauren Ireland & Megan Quinn		
	-		

Concurrent Session G

Thursday, October 23, 2025 from 8:30 to 10:00

Panel	A Case Study of Trauma-Informed, Culturally Safer Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)
	Assessments in the Kitikmeot Region of Nunavut Kaitlynn Dewhirst, Kendal Aknavigak & Shayla Richards
Danal	
Panel	Reframing child protection for children and youth with FASD: Protective casework planning for children and youth with FASD
	Dorothy Badry, Peter Choate & Terri Pelton
Workshop	Beyond Awareness: Mobilizing Multi-Sectoral Action for FASD-informed Transformations
Workshop	Melody Morton Ninomiya, Annette Cormier, Jillian Nason, Lisa Gay-Taylor & Nicole LeBlanc
Workshop	Overcoming Barriers: Fostering Meaningful Community-Engaged Research Partnerships
Workshop	Emily Speybroeck, Christie Petrenko, Erika Makowecki, Jacqueline Pei
Oral	WOMEN'S HEALTH AND WELLBEING
	"Wine not make it a big glass!": Representations of Women, Alcohol, and Young Adulthood in a Pop-
	<u>ular Television Reboot</u>
	Kelly Harding & Kirsten Morrison
	*"Don't Let Go!"
	Maria Beland
	Birth Mothers Caring for Their Children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Wanda White, Karen Huber & Maureen Parkes
Oral	CAREGIVING AND CAREGIVER PERSPECTIVES
Orai	FASD across the lifespan: Exploring health and aging in adults with FASD
	Tamara Bondar
	*Through Our Eyes: The Realities of FASD
	Eddie Bunkowsky, Mary Ann Bunkowsky, Clementine MacKinnon, Neena MacKinnon, Matthew Pakozdy & Judy
	Pakozdy
	The path to FASD diagnosis: A retrospective study of healthcare resource utilization
	Erika Dugas & Nadia Bouhamdani
Oral	BUILDING CAPACITY FOR SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY
	*Building Capacity in those with FASD; a conversation with residents of Hope Terrace
	Diana van der Stoel, Floyd Gray, Mandi Waskahat & Nola Visser
	What We Have Learned: Improving Housing for Individuals with FASD
	Celisse Bibr, Lauren Richardson & Rod Densmore
	*FASD Mentors of Change Shannon Foster, Chris Fillion, Kaitlin Larabie
Oval	
Oral	TRENDS IN ASSESSMENT, DIAGNOSIS, AND SUPPORT Sex-related trends among people assessed for FASD in Canada
	Katy Flannigan, Jocelynn Cook, Nancy Poole & Kathy Unsworth
	Recommendations Following Clinical Assessment for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD): Trends
	by Age, Sex, Diagnostic Status, and Needs Class
	Ariella Gordon & Martina Faitakis
	Ten years of teaching service providers (and others) about supporting people diagnose with FASD:
	Lessons learned and future directions
	Jay Goddard, Marsha Wilson, Michele Bebault & Sharnelle Matthew

Posters

Overcoming Stigma: Navigating Systems as a caregiver and advocate

(Fatima) Natascha Lawrence, Chris Fillion & Twyla Gilroy

<u>Creating a Cohesive and Connected Community of Practice Model for FASD: A Manitoba Strategy</u>

Shannon Foster

Knowledges, attitudes, and practices of social workers related to alcohol and pregnancy, and FASD in New Brunswick

Lauren O'Neill

Exploring the Impact of Stigma on Mental Health in Individuals with FASD: A Qualitative Study

Kanzah Rabbani

<u>Bridging Sectors: Exploring the Role of Collaboration in Addressing FASD Across Health, Education, and Justice</u>
<u>Systems in New Brunswick</u>

Melody Morton Ninomiya

Exploring the context of vulnerability for those with FASD to become engaged in harmful sexual behaviours and/or sexual offending

Uzma Naseem

Building Capacity in an FASD Assessment and Diagnostic Service

Olivia Ng, Marcella Blanchard, Nidhi Luthra & Sarah Balazs

<u>Uncovering Systematic Barriers and Highlighting Pathways to Accessing Ethical Treatment for FASD Persons in the Criminal Justice System</u>

Mansfield Mela

Enhancing FASD Service Delivery: Lessons from a Rural Integrated Model

Katy Flannigan & Devon Edwards

Oculomotor Performance on a Novel Free-Viewing Eye Tracking Task in Justice-Involved Adults with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Pamela Gallego

Events and Activities

In addition to our lineup of incredible speakers, we have a number of fun events and activities where you can connect with other attendees and get inspired.

Networking Night

Join us on Wednesday, October 22 from 5:00 to 7:00pm in the Ballroom for some light refreshments. Explore our exhibitor booths, connect with speakers and conference attendees, and have some fun!



FASD Film Festival

New this year we are running a film festival to showcase the diversity of experience in FASD. Canadians are invited to submit a short film about FASD for consideration. We will choose a selection to showcase at our film festival on October 22nd during the Networking Night. Come out and celebrate!



Member Meet & Greet

Individual members of CanFASD are invited to a small meet and greet the night before the conference starts (Monday October 20, 2025). Join us for some light refreshments and connection. Meet with CanFASD staff, researchers, and other members before the conference kicks off. CanFASD members can RSVP to conference@canfasd.ca. Not a member? Sign up at www.canfasd.ca.





SHAPING THE FUTURE OF FASD:

FROMENCE EVIDENCE TO ACTION

canfasd.ca/canada-fasd-conference