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MEDIA RELEASE

Canadians unite to address Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder in Toronto

(October 1, 2025) The stage is set for the Canada FASD Conference, taking place October 21–23, 2025, at the Hilton Downtown in Toronto. The event will welcome more than 500 researchers, caregivers, individuals with lived experience, policymakers, and professionals from across Canada and abroad to share knowledge and perspectives on fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD).

The three-day program is designed to connect lived experience with leading research and practice, fostering collaboration across disciplines and sectors. Presentations will address a wide range of FASD-related topics, including justice, diagnosis, prevention, and policy development, while keynote panels will explore human rights and FASD, trauma and FASD, and the ‘pinkifying’ of alcohol marketing.

An estimated 4% of Canadians have FASD - more than autism, cerebral palsy, and Down syndrome combined. Despite its prevalence, FASD remains widely misunderstood and undersupported. The conference’s theme, *Shaping the Future of FASD: From Evidence to Action*, reflects its focus on translating research into real-world solutions.

Hosted in partnership with the Canada FASD Research Network (CanFASD) and the Canada Northwest FASD Partnership, the conference will unite participants from across Canada and internationally to strengthen understanding and improve supports for people with FASD.

Quotes

RJ Formanek, Conference Master of Ceremonies said: "The Canada FASD Conference is crucial to enabling a greater understanding of FASD and how it impacts so many people in so many different ways. I look forward to meeting not only friends I know, but people who are also on the same path, looking to expand not only our knowledge base, but also our personal connections. Those come best from face-to-face meetings such as the Canada FASD Conference, and those connections can save lives in the long run. Being a part of this conference is a huge honour, as an advocate and a person living on the FASD spectrum, and I look forward to seeing the cutting-edge research that once again shows how Canada leads the world in FASD understanding."

Conference Chair, Audrey McFarlane, B.CR, MBA said:

"The response to this conference has been incredible - people across the country are eager to reconnect, share knowledge, and learn from each other. By bringing together researchers, service providers, clinicians, and those with lived experience, we’re creating a space to explore the full spectrum of challenges and opportunities in FASD. From complex youth cases to prevention, justice, healthcare, and education, this conference will turn evidence into meaningful action that can improve lives."

About CanFASD:

CanFASD is Canada's first national Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder 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.

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For more information on the Canada FASD Conference, please visit: <https://canfasd.ca/canada-fasd-conference/>