

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER

SUPPORT A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

WHAT IS A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK?

A National Framework is a **Canada-wide plan** to address FASD. It outlines the best **way to improve** FASD prevention, intervention, and diagnostic efforts across the country.

A National Framework should be created using **current evidence, best practices, and feedback** from key stakeholders.

WHY WE NEED A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK?

FASD is a **complex disability** that intersects with a number of other issues. Right now, the FASD community relies heavily on formal and informal supports. These **supports are inconsistent**; the quality and availability of supports depends on where you live.

A National FASD Framework will make sure all people with FASD, their families, couples who are pregnant or parenting, and those who support them have **full and equitable access** to the resources they need.

YOU CAN HELP!

A federal election has been called. Talk to your political candidates about FASD and the need for a National FASD Framework and keep the conversation moving forward!

CONTACT YOUR CANDIDATES

You can find your candidates through the party websites and through Elections Canada.

Below are links to several major parties in Canada:

- [Liberal Party of Canada](#)
- [Conservative Party of Canada \(CPC\)](#)
- [New Democratic Party \(NDP\)](#)
- [Green Party of Canada](#)
- [Bloc Québécois](#)

Candidate nominations close April 7, 2025 and the full list of candidates will be available the [Elections Canada website](#) April 9, 2025.

LET US KNOWS WHAT HAPPENS!

Did you have a promising conversation with your local candidates about FASD? Send us an email at info@canfasd.ca and tell us about it! Tell us who you spoke to and what you talked about so we can keep track of the candidates that are interested in addressing FASD.

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KEY TALKING POINTS

When talking to your candidates about FASD it is important we are all asking candidates for the same thing: a National FASD Framework. But it's also important to make sure all candidates have a solid understanding of FASD. Here are some talking points:

- FASD is **one of the most common neurodevelopmental disabilities** in Canada.
- An estimated **4% of Canadians** have FASD, more than 1.6 million people
- People with FASD and their families across Canada are **struggling due to the lack of equitable support**.
- 90% of those with FASD will have **at least one mental health challenge**.
- In one study, 35% of teens with FASD reported suicidal ideation, with 13% reporting **at least one serious suicide attempt in the past year**;
- People with FASD are **20 times more likely** to face substance use challenges.
- The **cost per case of FASD** over a lifespan is estimated at **\$1.1 million**.
- FASD **can be prevented** when couples who are pregnant have the right support.
- Canada is a **world leader in FASD research**, but that research isn't being put into practice at a national level.

ASK THEM TO SUPPORT A NATIONAL FASD FRAMEWORK

Once your candidate has all the facts, ask them to commit their support. Here's what you can say:

- We need a National FASD Framework that **outlines a coordinated approach to addressing the complexities of FASD** in Canada.
- To improve FASD prevention, diagnosis, and support, this Framework should:
 - Outline means to address training and education of professionals;
 - Identify means to promote research and information-sharing within and between governments;
 - Set national standards for FASD prevention and diagnosis, and support for those impacted;
 - Outline a strategy to increase awareness of FASD and the risks of alcohol consumption in pregnancy; and
 - Identify any other measures to improving our response to FASD.
- We can look to other governments for direction. In response to a Senate Inquiry into FASD, the Government of Australia fully committed to addressing six of the 32 key recommendations, with others subject to further consultation, research, and collaboration.
- Will you **commit to implementing a National FASD Framework in Canada** to improve the health and wellbeing of the members of your community who are impacted by this disability?

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