

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **National Research Network thrilled to see progress for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder in the Senate of Canada**

*(June 2, 2023)* Yesterday, Bill S-253, an Act Respecting a National Framework for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder reached a milestone, being referred to the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology in the Senate.

Having worked closely with the Bill's sponsor, Senator Ravalia, in the development of this important piece of legislation, we are thrilled by this progress. We are hopeful that CanFASD and members of our Network will have an opportunity to participate in Committee hearings, and we are available to answer any questions that Senators may have about the invaluable support this legislation will bring to Canadians with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD), their families, and their caregivers.

If passed, this important legislation would provide for the development of a national framework on FASD, that would:

- **(a)** include measures to address the training, education and guidance needs of health care and other professionals regarding the prevention and diagnosis fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and support measures for those who are impacted by it;
- **(b)** identify measures to promote research and intergovernmental information-sharing in relation to the prevention and diagnosis of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and support measures for those who are impacted by it;
- **(c)** set out national standards for the prevention and diagnosis of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and for support measures for those who are impacted by it;
- **(d)** set out a strategy to increase awareness of the risks of alcohol consumption during pregnancy and the consequences of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, including by recommending changes to legislative and policy frameworks related to alcohol consumption and marketing; and
- **(e)** identify any other measures that the Minister of Health considers appropriate to prevent fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, ensure that individuals with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder are properly diagnosed, and promote better outcomes for those individuals, their families and their caregivers.

CanFASD would like to recognize the hard work and dedication of Senator Ravalia and Senator Duncan for co-sponsoring this Bill. We are encouraging all Senators to swiftly study this legislation

so that it can make its way through the House of Commons, and we look forward to following the progress of the Bill as it moves forward in Committee.

**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.*

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