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MEDIA RELEASE

Saskatoon to host sold-out conference on fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD)

(August 8, 2023) The inaugural Canada FASD Conference, taking place at Saskatoon's TCU Place from November 7 – 9, 2023, sold out more than 100 days before the event.

The conference will bring together over 500 researchers, caregivers, individuals with FASD, policymakers, and professionals to share what they know about FASD. The demand for this event has exceeded its capacity. Those who are still interested can add their names to a growing waiting list in the event that more tickets become available.

The Canada FASD Conference is being held in partnership with the Alberta Government, the Canada Northwest FASD Partnership and the Saskatchewan Government.

This three-day event promises to be packed to the brim with opportunities for attendees to learn, connect, and create meaningful change for those with FASD. Program highlights include presentations from experts in the field as well as those with lived experience. Dr. Sterling Clarren, a pioneer in the field of FASD, will be one of several keynote speakers and Myles Himmelreich, an advocate with FASD, will be this year's Master of Ceremonies.

FASD is a complex disability that intersects with a lot of different fields. Presentations, posters and workshops will cover topics like FASD prevention, diagnosis and assessment, the continuum of care, intersections with child welfare, wellness, housing, justice and supporting at-risk populations.

Following the pandemic, an in-person conference will provide essential face-to-face connection for attendees and presenters. The beautiful city of Saskatoon provides the perfect location for this much-anticipated event.

The Canada FASD Conference is still open to sponsorship.

Quotes

Audrey McFarlane, B.CR, MBA, Executive Director, the Canada FASD Research Network said:

“CanFASD and our partners Alberta and Saskatchewan governments are thrilled with the response to this conference, clearly people are wanting to reconnect and to learn more about what is happening in the field of FASD.

This conference will bring together the voices of researchers, service providers and clinicians, and those with lived experience to provide the attendees with a broader understanding of the issues and opportunities in many areas such as complex youth, diagnosis and assessment, prevention, justice system, school based supports, health care, and so much more.”

Shana Mohr, FASD Network of Saskatchewan said: “As a caregiver and a professional working in the field of FASD here in Saskatoon, it is beyond exciting to have a conference of this calibre coming to Saskatoon. The conference will bring together caregivers, researchers, and service providers, from all over Canada.

It is going to be a fantastic opportunity to not only learn about the newest research in FASD, but it is also going to give attendees an opportunity to connect in person, inspire each other, and walk away with hope and motivation to continue working through a positive lens to improve the lives of individuals with FASD.”

About FASD:

FASD stands for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. It is a lifelong disability that affects the brain and body of people who were exposed to alcohol in the womb. Each person with FASD has both strengths and challenges and will need special supports to help them succeed with many different parts of their daily lives. [Find out more](#) about the disability on the CanFASD website.

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, please visit: <https://canfasd.ca/canada-fasd-conference/>