

NEWS RELEASE

Canada Declares September FASD Awareness Month

(Ottawa, September 28, 2020) The Government of Canada has officially declared the month of September as [Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder \(FASD\) Awareness Month](#). FASD is a lifelong disability that affects the brain and body of someone exposed to alcohol during fetal development. There is no cure for FASD, but this disability is preventable if women and girls have access to the right supports.

“The addition of FASD Month to the government’s calendar of health promotion days is a huge step forward in encouraging support for this growing movement,” says Audrey McFarlane, Executive Director of the [Canada FASD Research Network](#) (CanFASD).

International FASD Awareness Day is held every year on September 9 to recognize the importance of going alcohol-free during the full nine months of pregnancy. Many FASD organizations across Canada host FASD awareness events throughout the month of September. CanFASD has now successfully petitioned the government to officially declare September as FASD Awareness Month on the [Calendar of Health Promotion Days](#).

FASD is the leading developmental disability in Canada, impacting 4% of the population. Despite it being more common than autism, cerebral palsy, and Down syndrome combined, FASD is not well understood by the majority of Canadians.

Increasing Canadians’ awareness and understanding of FASD in Canada is a key factor in improving FASD prevention, diagnosis, and interventions.

Quotes:

“The hope is with more understanding will come more action - action that will improve FASD prevention, intervention, and diagnosis in Canada.”

Audrey McFarlane, CanFASD Executive Director

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.

To speak with a CanFASD expert about FASD Month, contact:

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