

STATEMENT

The Future of FASD Supports in Ontario

(April 1, 2026) We are disheartened to hear that Health Nexus has closed its doors after more than three decades of service to communities across Ontario. Health Nexus has been a trusted partner and a key source of support, leadership, and connection for families, caregivers, and organizations across the province. Their contributions, particularly the FASD Ontario website, the Family and Caregiver Support Groups, and their bilingual health promotion work, have strengthened networks of care and improved access to vital information for thousands of Ontarians.

This is a significant loss. And it is not happening in isolation.

Ontario is in a period of [significant transition around alcohol policy and public health investment](#). While access to alcohol continues to expand, prevention infrastructure is shrinking. The discontinuation of funding for Health Nexus comes at a time when public education, awareness campaigns, early supports, and coordinated care efforts are needed more than ever.

One of the reasons we chose Toronto as the host city for the 2025 Canada FASD Conference was to engage Ontario policymakers directly about FASD. We hoped to highlight the scale and urgency of this issue and spark meaningful conversations about long-term investment in prevention, diagnosis, and support. We were disappointed by the limited engagement and reception from provincial representatives. The Ontario FASD community is deeply invested in addressing FASD. They showed up in large numbers at the Canada FASD Conference and were disheartened that their representatives didn't do the same.

In recent months, we have encouraged the Government of Ontario to consider becoming a jurisdictional member of CanFASD, a step that would provide Ontario residents with direct benefits like discounted access to our evidence-informed online courses, representation on national committees, and strengthened collaboration between researchers, decision-makers, and service providers. We believe this is an important opportunity for the province to show leadership and investment in FASD in Ontario.

Thankfully, the high-quality information and resources that Health Nexus produced will not be lost. FASD Ontario website and the Family and Caregiver Support Groups will transition to a

new home with Partners for Planning (P4P). We have connected with Health Nexus to ensure that other key resources they have created over the years to remain accessible to the public.

As alcohol becomes more widely available across Ontario, we need more public education, consistent messaging, and coordinated prevention efforts, not less. Reinvesting even a small portion of the profit that Ontario makes from alcohol sales into FASD prevention, awareness, early supports, and diagnostic capacity is not only responsible but necessary.

CanFASD will continue to advocate for evidence-informed policy, sustained investment, and a coordinated national framework for FASD so that Canadians with FASD have access to the information and support they deserve in Ontario and beyond.