

## February 20, 2024 For Immediate Release

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Ontario Network of Expertise (FASD ONE) proudly announces the release of 4 public service announcements dedicated to preventing Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. FASD ONE is committed to raising awareness about the dangers of alcohol consumption during pregnancy and empowering individuals to make informed choices.

"Our prevention efforts need to change because surprisingly, more people are acknowledging alcohol use during pregnancy now than a decade ago. Those early weeks really matter even before the pregnancy has been confirmed so let's keep these conversations going. Please Share these PSAs in your circles; personal and professional. It's up to all of us to support healthy pregnancies!" said Angela Geddes, representative of the FASD ONE Leads Committee. The four videos are available on the FASD ONE YouTube Channel.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is a diagnostic term used to describe the impact of prenatal alcohol exposure on the brain and body. FASD is a lifelong disability. Individuals with FASD will experience some degree of challenges in their daily living, and need support with motor skills, physical health, learning, memory, attention, communication, emotional regulation, and social skills to reach their full potential.

FASD is an invisible, life-long neurodevelopmental disorder that occurs in all cultures and levels of society. Based on the most current research, the estimated prevalence of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) in the general Canadian population is 4% (CanFASD).

FASD ONE is an unincorporated collaboration of diverse provincial and local stakeholder action groups working to promote, plan, facilitate, and support the coordination, enhancement, and expansion of services and initiatives to better serve children, youth, parents, pregnant women, and families affected by FASD in communities across Ontario.

FASD ONE believes Ontario has the capacity to meet many of the needs of those living with FASD and the capacity to reduce alcohol usage during pregnancy. We are advancing a strategy that focuses on the protective factors and risk factors, so that the existing system of care has information to allow effective program delivery.

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